

# *Southend & Leigh* CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER



Summer 2022

*Third Quarter*

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## Welcome to our Circuit

We are a group of 15 Methodist Church fellowships, including a Zimbabwean fellowship, on 17 sites in the southeast corner of Essex. Our Circuit also incorporates 'Westerley', a Christian care home.

Our churches provide traditional services alongside an increasing number of contemporary and family-friendly expressions of worship.

We have a growing sense of service and mission to our communities, with a desire to love our Lord, and our neighbours.



## FOLLOW / CONTACT US



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[www.southendandleigh.org](http://www.southendandleigh.org)



# Message from a Supernumerary

*Dear Circuit friends,*

Just because I'm based at Chalkwell Park, it doesn't mean that I meet only people who worship there. Over the years I have been here, I have been happy to get know many folk around the area. I enjoy seeing and talking with fellow Methodists from around our fifteen churches whenever we get together for worship, meetings, for business or pleasure, and have felt the same in other circuits where I have lived.

We are so fortunate in Methodism that we have a wider fellowship with people, who worship in different places, rural chapels, 'city' churches and everything in between – and that's in just one circuit! I value the collegueship of circuit ministers as we meet regularly; none of us is alone in this part of God's church. When a person joins in circuit worship with its greater congregation, the singing, the warmth of meeting other Methodists, the joyous time can come as a surprise and give an uplifting experience of people praising our Lord together. The memory lives on.

Circuit meetings [you may groan!] can be really interesting and give us a wider view of God's work in our neighbour churches and give us another opportunity to meet Circuit friends. If you have never been to a Circuit event, do think again, it can be a pleasurable and even spiritual event – try it.....

When I have run membership classes, I always stress the Methodist way of working in church, Circuit, District and Connexion as it is our heritage and a blessing. A few years ago, I was asked to take a family funeral a long way across our District. When it came, I was unwell but knew I could find help. I contacted a minister in the other Circuit, sent all my preparation to him and could relax, assured that everything was well – and so it was; he took the service for me.

That's one instance of the beauty of our system – we are all connected. Conference is there to draw us all together in one people called Methodists, which is another strength.

Now we're planning a Circuit mission to involve all our churches. It's exciting to be at the very beginning of such a project, the future as yet undecided, endless ideas to be explored – all in God's hands as we pray for guidance. Our Lord may challenge us, force us to think anew, bring us together as we work further for God's great kingdom. We can be grateful we have the Circuit around us with ideas from many people, talents to be used, energy to be shared and the support we need from each other with God's almighty power within us.

Let's look forward with anticipation of what God has in store as we travel together.....

In Christ's love,

***Rev Margaret Deans***



*Methodist Conference*



# Circuit Calendar 2022

## JULY

Sat 2nd – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Tue 5th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 5th – Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), 7.30pm, Zoom

Wed 6th – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

Sun 10th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Wed 27th – Wellbeing and Wholeness Service, 7.45pm

## AUGUST

Tue 2nd – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 2nd – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

Sat 6th – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Sun 14th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

## SEPTEMBER

Sat 3rd – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Tue 6th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 6th – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

Sun 11th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Tue 13th – Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm, Zoom

Wed 28th – Wellbeing and Wholeness Service, 7.45pm

## OCTOBER

Sat 1st – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Tue 4th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 4th – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

Wed 5th – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

Sun 9th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Wed 26th – Wellbeing and Wholeness Service, 7.45pm

## NOVEMBER

Wed 2nd – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

Sat 5th – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Tue 8th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 8th – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

Sun 13th – Remembrance Sunday

Sun 13th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Wed 16th – Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm, Zoom

Wed 23rd – Wellbeing and Wholeness Service, 7.45pm

Sun 27th – Advent begins

## DECEMBER

Sat 3rd – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Tue 6th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 6th – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

Wed 7th – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

Sun 11th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Sat 24th – Christmas Eve

Sun 25th – Christmas Day



# Circuit Calendar 2023

## JANUARY

Tue 3rd – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 3rd – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

Sat 7th – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Sun 8th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Wed 25th – Wellbeing and Wholeness Service, 7.45pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

## FEBRUARY

Wed 1st – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

Sat 4th – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Tue 7th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 7th – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

Sun 12th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Wed 22nd – Wellbeing and Wholeness Service, 7.45pm, Shoeburyness Methodist Church

Wed 22nd – Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)

## MARCH

Wed 1st – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

Sat 4th – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Tue 7th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 7th – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

Sun 12th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Thu 16th – Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm, Zoom

Sun 19th – Mothering Sunday

Wed 22nd – Wellbeing and Wholeness Service, 7.45pm

## APRIL

Sat 1st – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom

Sun 2nd – Palm Sunday

Tue 4th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Tue 4th – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

Wed 5th – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

Thu 6th – Maundy Thursday

Fri 7th – Good Friday

Sun 9th – Easter Sunday

Wed 26th – Wellbeing and Wholeness Service, 7.45pm

# Circuit Prayer Diary July-September

*On the following Sundays and during the week  
we ask you to pray for:*

## JULY

Prayer for Sunday 3rd – Rev Dr David Chapman, District Chair  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 27 – Fishermen’s Chapel  
Prayer for Sunday 10th – Gospel Vespers  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 28 – Church Treasurers and Finance Co-ordinators  
Prayer for Sunday 17th – Southend City Council, Councillors and Leaders  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 29 – Coffee Mornings in our churches  
Prayer for Sunday 24th – Castle Point Section  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 30 – Toddler Groups, Preschools and Nurseries in our churches  
Prayer for Sunday 31st – Worship Leaders



## AUGUST

Mid-Week Prayer of Week 31 – President of Methodist Conference  
Prayer for Sunday 7th – Safeguarding Representatives  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 32 – All We Can  
Prayer for Sunday 14th – Church Volunteers  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 33 – Methodist Women in Britain  
Prayer for Sunday 21st – Thorpe Bay Methodist Church  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 34 – Memory Worship  
Prayer for Sunday 28th – Church Sunday Schools and Youth Groups  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 35 – Circuit Stewards



## SEPTEMBER

Prayer for Sunday 4th – Rev Agnes Sam and family  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 36 – Circuit Prayer Breakfast  
Prayer for Sunday 11th – Fellowship Groups and Home Groups  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 37 – Thundersley Methodist Church  
Prayer for Sunday 18th – For the Harvest and Farmers  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 38 – Mid-week Communions  
Prayer for Sunday 25th – Guiding, Scouting, Boys & Girls Brigade and Uniformed Organisations  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 39 – Wellbeing and Wholeness Services



ROCHFORD  
200

Celebrating 200 years of  
Methodism in Rochford

## Rochford Methodist Church – 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Wow what a weekend!

On May 28th /29th Rochford celebrated 200 years of Methodism in the town. From humble beginnings in a small property in the corner of the Market Square, the society moved round the corner to premises in North Street and finally, in 1880, to the present church at No 77.

Over the weekend the church was open and hosted the Rochford District Heritage Tapestry. On Saturday afternoon two key members of the team who were responsible for its creation and production told us its story. This had been stitched by many members of the community stretching over all the parishes that form Rochford District. Originally it was due to be displayed in 2020 to celebrate 1,000 years since the battle of Assandun in 1016. It was finished in time, but due to Covid, it has only recently begun to be shown around the local area. It is well worth going to see.

Anne Briant, from Shoebury Methodist Church also put work on display with a wonderful selection of modern artwork depicting life's journeys and challenges.

We found various pieces of memorabilia that were tucked away in various cupboards and lofts etc. There was a Circuit plan from 1851, when we were part of the Maldon Circuit and even some pieces of very ancient crockery similar in design to one produced in the late 1800s and early-1900s. This was used here by worshippers picnicking in the Vestry, who could then have attended afternoon and evening services without having to walk home in between. This may have been a considerable distance and more time-consuming than the buses and cars we use today. Photograph albums from our building's Centenary in 1980 were pored over with much amusement.



*Rev Calvin Samuel unveiling the new wall hanging by Rev Teresa Rutterford*

A second talk in the afternoon was about our own church history and notable people who had been related to us in many ways through the years.

Rev Calvin and Pastor Steve led an afternoon service on Sunday attended by representatives from Churches across the Circuit. It is many years since our church was so full of Methodists and the singing truly raised the roof. Despite poor health Rev Teresa Rutterford had made us a beautiful new wall hanging which was unveiled and dedicated during the service.

Afternoon tea followed. One of our members had baked a birthday cake topped with sparklers and Rev Calvin cut it as we sang Happy Birthday. Everyone went home full of sandwiches and cakes.

During the rest of this year, we will be welcoming back several of our more recent ministers to preach and are looking forward to many more years of a Methodist presence here in Rochford.





## United Methodist Church

Our Service was very well supported by the local community with many people dressed wearing a combination of red, white and blue! We enjoyed singing a range of hymns including some of the Queen's favourites and concluded the service by signing a medley of patriotic songs such as Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory.



## Trinity

We had 2 parties, one for the pensioners and one for adults with learning disabilities. Everyone in the Family Centre and Church designed a flag for the bunting that decorated the hall.



## Rochford



At Rochford we had a Jubilee Street Party and the council allowed and assisted by closing the road outside the church which is on the bus route in and out of the town. We had over 100 people attend and we served hot dogs, burgers with cheese, onions and chips. All of this before we had our new industrial dish washer, cooker and freezer fitted. All of these things (and more) come from our weekly prayer meetings. We ask God and things fall into line, the only trouble is we have to keep the faith as God's time is not always our time, like the man who asked God for a penny but that is another story...

## Highlands

On 5<sup>th</sup> June a Jubilee service and picnic lunch was held. The Community Day on 9<sup>th</sup> June was a joyful celebration with Mencap Showstoppers involving tap dancing, Punch & Judy, refreshments and singing the National Anthem outside the church. In July, community lunch days will commence.

What an incredible day we have had at our Jubilee Community Day. So many thank you's! Julie, Roz, Jean, Frank, Pastor Steve, Rev Norman and all at Highlands Methodist Church for absolutely everything. From planning to setting up, running the day and for a wonderful service, our Prayer tree and bear thank you. To Jackie our incredible chef and Nicci from Cook Leigh on Sea who donated the beautiful food and came in to prep, cook and serve too! To Georgie for our amazing hampers and for all your hard work today in and out of the kitchen. Karen who uttered the words is there anything I can do to help, she may regret that now 🤔🤔 but she worked so incredibly hard. Sonia thank you for your countless hours of volunteering with tap lessons, they certainly paid off today, so much emotion in the room. Lorraine for entertaining us over lunch with your beautiful voice. Joe for your incredible Punch and Judy show. After a couple of very difficult years hearing the laughter, interaction and spontaneous standing ovation was just perfect! And to all that came we thank you. You raised £360.00 which will go towards more events but most of all we hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did.

*Andrew, Tammy and Carol, Southend Mencap Showstoppers xxx*



## Canvey

The Celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee was marked by three events at Canvey Island Methodist Church. On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, a Family Fun Afternoon took place. The church was decorated with joyful red, white and blue bunting and visitors treated to games in the garden and crafts of various kinds. Culinary delights were also available, some of which guests could festively decorate themselves before consuming.

Then on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, our Sunday service celebrated both the festival of Pentecost and Platinum Jubilee themes.

Finally on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June, the Canvey Church Methodist Wives Club enjoyed a "Platinum Jubilee Party" with games in the garden followed by refreshments in the church hall.



## The Experience Project

At the Whittingham Mission Centre on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June the sun was shining, the weather glorious and God's presence was felt by all who attended the Jubilee Celebration. Over 200 families visited the Project throughout the afternoon, and a real sense of community was formed by those on the estate, with people from every age, background, nationality and faith.

A BBQ was served in the car park, and excellent cakes were provided by a local charity. Games and activities were participated in by old and young alike. A fantastic puppet show was put on for the children (and children at heart) which was the highlight of the day – the children who visit the Project now want their own puppets for Christmas!

After this, everyone moved onto the field opposite the church for a sports day involving tug of war and races. It is the first time in two years the neighbourhood has come together in fellowship, and you can see a church-community being birthed.



## Worship Academy 2022-2023

### Season 10 *DRAFT*



First Wednesday of the month except  
January, August and September,  
19:00-21:00 at Benfleet Methodist Church.

Worship Academy is a training programme particularly for leaders of worship in the Methodist Church but it is open to everyone.

If you are interested in joining the mailing list for an invite please contact: [southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com)

Outline of the Evening:

19:00 meal

20:00 worship led by the circuit

20:15 worship academy

c.21:15 depart

Any questions please feel free to contact Worship Academy Coordinator, Sanya Strachan.

Date	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Church Leading Worship
<b>Term One: Ministry</b>			
5 October	Major Conference theme?	Revd Dr David Chapman (BEH District Chair)	Highlands
2 November	Ministry?	TBC	Canvey
7 December	Children and Youth ministry	TBC	Benfleet
<i>January</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Term Two: Spirituality</b>			
1 February	Prayer in worship	Jane Fulford	Thundersley
1 March	Modern worship and modern worship songs	TBC	Hadleigh
5 April	How worship helps us with evangelism	Revd Emma Nash	Rayleigh
<b>Term Three: Inclusivity</b>			
3 May	Inclusivity piano presentation	Revd Ermal Kirby	Belfairs
7 June	On the margins, local community, how to craft worship for people unaffiliated with 'church'	TBC	Rochford
5 July	?	?	Thorpe Bay/UMC/Hockley

# "Sacrificial Dreams"

Cries from the heart, call to those around...

**From small beginnings dreams emerge.**

*Immerse us, envelope us, revolve us, develop us.*

Some are jewels, some flung at us, some flung across us...

Floating, grounded, overwhelming...

**Some shout loudly, clear cut and solid.**

*Some fleeting whispers!*

*Some flow from the Cross, others to the Cross*

**Some glimpses ,some recurring,**

**Some need repeating, some will become firm.**

*Some heard, some ignored and drift away*

*Some distorted, some change as they grow.*

Some we carry, some will hurt us,

Some expose us and ridicule us.

***Some will make us fearful!***

*Some we will not know or understand!*

Where will they take us ... ?

**Stay at the foot of the Cross, take strength!** A.Briant. 11/12/15



# Reimagining the Southend and Leigh Circuit

## *Some Dreams of our Circuit*

Churches where people with any disability are welcomed and catered for

Multi-age, truly inclusive churches

Work as one

Diversity in worship, different choirs bringing glory to God

No barriers to sharing Jesus' love

A place where everyone and anyone can feel at home

4 multicultural services per year from twice a month

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Cindy's Bar, Venue for music, interviews and conversation with refreshments (of course!)

Unite Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalist and The Free Church in UK

Union with other denominations

Unity

Companionship between yourselves and others

Where everyone works together in friendship and faith – a crossover of churches

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Everyone part of a 'small' group (class meeting)

A centre for teaching and discipleship for all ages

To see a centre for Wholeness and Healing, that runs courses and quiet days

Stability, stop moving our ministers around

Getting together and rediscover ourselves after Covid

Shared vision

One vision

Collaboration between churches for common circuit vision

Work together more

Work towards a common goal – together

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Honest open conversations

## Church outdoors

Money for a minister or lay worker for every church

One Minister to each church, how many churches?

More full time ministers

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Scrap alcohol prohibition

A place where no conversation is taboo and God's "love without strings" shines out

More support for Supernumeraries

A circuit that meets in fellowship more often, not just business

Big Church Day Out, circuit trips, New Wine, Spring Harvest

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People with passion to live entirely for Christ and confidence to talk of their faith with all

Together find a way of engaging with people where they are in life

Circuit arts centre, space for ? and creativity including workshops

A centre that enables creative arts as a means to growth and healing, spiritually/restoration of lives

People desperate to find God and develop a living relationship with him

Resources/ money shared across the circuit

Improve communications

Helping each other to solve problems

A circuit where all ages can come together or be able to worship and work apart ie. cross fertilisation

Sharing of resources (money)

Strategic reallocation of money/resources available in the circuit to circuit priorities

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Buy the bungalow next to our church for homeless or needy

Circuit roadshow to tour and put on productions with Christian message

Circuit service, modern, exciting, diverse

More circuit services (even in the morning, different days)

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That we had more young people in our memberships

Engagement with youth groups in a different way

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I want church to be a happy, fun, uplifting experience

An outward looking community energetically ready to meet local needs

Churches equipped to meet the needs of the communities

Church planting in areas of current need

More churches

That more of our members would engage in church activities

Looking forward to the future for all

To grow

That we could encourage more who use our buildings to join the church fellowship

People that use our halls and facilities come in to church services

Stable community with connexions with church users

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I want church members to embrace change instead of fearing it

IT classes (for) old people

An eight-step process for

# MISSION PLANNING

**1. DECIDE ON  
A PROCESS**

**2. DO A  
COMMUNITY  
AUDIT**

**3. CONDUCT  
A CHURCH  
REVIEW**

**4. DREAM  
TOGETHER**

**5. CHOOSE  
PRIORITIES**

**6. IDENTIFY  
ACTIONS**

**7. CONSIDER  
THE FRUIT**

**8. SET A DATE  
FOR A REVIEW**

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