

Southend & Leigh CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER



Spring Edition 2026

Second Quarter

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Welcome to our Circuit

We are a group of 14 Methodist Church fellowships, including a Zimbabwean fellowship, and 2 Mission Centres, 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.



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[Southend and Leigh Circuit Facebook Page](#)

[Southend and Leigh Circuit Website](#)

[Southend and Leigh Circuit Instagram](#)



Africa: My Home, My Future

Dear Circuit friends,

Too often, the story told about African youth is one of negativity or despair. Our journey to Nairobi revealed a very different narrative. In October 2025, we were blessed with the opportunity to represent the Methodist Church in Britain at the All-African Youth Congress in Nairobi, Kenya. It was a gathering unlike any other, with more than 500 young people from across the continent, from diverse church traditions, united in one space to wrestle with the issues and challenges that weigh heavily on our generation.

The congress opened with a vibrant parade with flags held high, music, dance, and joyful celebration marking our coming together. Like churches around the world, African churches face many of the same challenges as Europe, and these were addressed throughout the conference. We spoke boldly and honestly about active citizenship and the role of youth in shaping our nations, the reality of human trafficking and the urgent need to protect the vulnerable, the importance of human dignity and the call to honour every life, and the longing for social and economic justice and a fairer future. We also explored the growing impact of climate and environmental changes, especially the way unpredictable weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and soil degradation are affecting farmers and threatening food security across the continent.



Throughout the congress, we engaged with young people from Methodist churches across Africa. What struck us most was not only the seriousness of the conversations, but the passion that filled the room. Young people prayed together, shared their concerns, and imagined new possibilities. The energy was contagious, with diverse cultures, vibrant faith, and a shared determination to build something better.

Above all, one message rose above the rest and echoed the theme of the congress, “Africa: My Home, My Future.” This was more than a theme. It was a declaration of belonging, hope, and responsibility. It reminded us that Africa is not a place to escape from. It is a place to invest in, to cherish, and to transform.

As we left Nairobi, we carried with us a deep conviction that the future of Africa is not written in despair, but in the courage, creativity, and faith of its young people. That story deserves to be told. We are grateful for this opportunity, and we return with a renewed understanding of the importance of social justice in our own context and how it strengthens and enriches our church communities.

By Rev’d Agnes Sam and Kunashe Chidziya



Circuit Calendar 2026

APRIL

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

Thu 2nd – Maundy Thursday

Fri 3rd – Good Friday

Sat 4th – Circuit Prayer Meeting, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

Sun 5th – Easter Sunday

Sun 5th – Circuit Service Easter Prayer and Praise, 6.30pm, Belfairs Methodist Church

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

Sat 11th – The Famous Potatoes Concert, The Fishermen's Chapel (www.wegottickets.com)

Sun 12th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7.30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

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

MAY

Sat 2nd – Circuit Prayer Meeting, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

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

Sun 10th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7.30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Wed 13th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Wed 13th – CLT, 7.30pm, Highlands Methodist Church

Fri 15th – Darren Jones Concert, The Fishermen's Chapel (www.wegottickets.com)

Sun 24th – Pentecost

JUNE

Wed 3rd – Worship Academy, 7pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

Sat 6th – Circuit Prayer Meeting, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

Sun 7th – Revd Steve Mayo, Testimony Service, 4pm, Rayleigh Methodist Church

Wed 10th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Fri 12th – Anima and La De Da Concert, The Fishermen's Chapel (www.wegottickets.com)

Sun 14th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7.30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Tue 16th – Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm, Canvey Island Methodist Church

Thu 18th – Local Preachers Meeting, 7.30pm, Venue TBC

Wed 24th – Wholeness and Wellbeing Service, 7.45pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

JULY

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

Sat 4th – Circuit Prayer Meeting, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

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

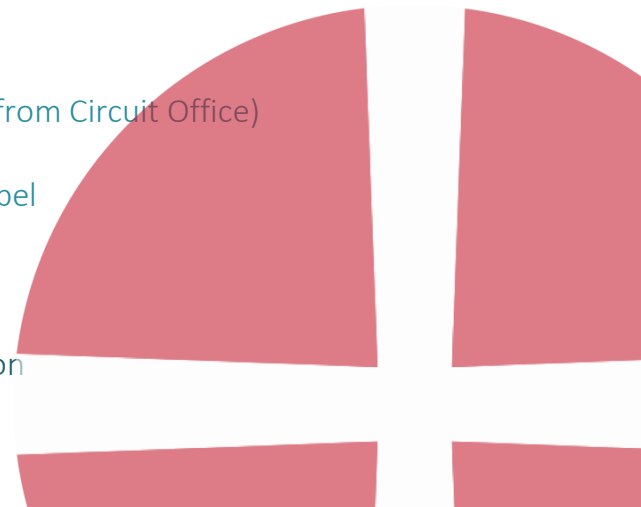
Sun 12th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7.30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Circuit Services

Lectio Divina on Whereby (details available from Circuit Office)

– Wednesdays 7.30pm-8.15pm with Rev Heather and Clive Johnson

All welcome. Each session is stand alone.



Churches Mid-Week Activities / Events

BELFAIRS METHODIST CHURCH

Boys Brigade - Mondays, Anchor 5:30pm, Junior 6:30pm, Company 7:30pm
Badminton - Tuesdays, 8pm
Parent & Toddlers - Wednesdays, 10am
Girls Brigade - Wednesdays, Explorers & Juniors 5:30pm, Seniors & Brigaders 7pm
Thirsty For? (Café Worship) - second Thursday of the month, 7pm
A.C.T.I.O.N. (Fellowship) - fourth Thursday of the month, 2pm



BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Bible Study - Thursdays, 3.30pm
Wesley Art Group - Mondays, 7.30pm in Wesley Hall
Light Worship - third Tuesday of the month, 12noon
Sunday Lunch - second Sunday of the month, 12.30pm (book in advance with John Stokes at johnstokes660@yahoo.com)
Coffee Mornings - Monday-Saturday, 10am to 12 noon (with a Beading Craft session on Wednesdays)
Ladies' Thursday Club - first Thursday of the month, 7.45pm
Women's Fellowship - first and third Wednesdays of the month, 2.30pm
Wives' Club - Tuesdays, 1.45pm
Benfleet Hope Group - Mondays, 10am-2pm
Messy Church - third Saturday of the month, 3.30pm-5.30pm
Little Bunnies (Mother & Toddler group) - Mondays, 9.30am-11.30am
Fusion Children Groups - Fridays, ages 5-11 yrs 5.30pm-7pm & 11+ yrs 7pm-8.30pm



CANVEY ISLAND METHODIST CHURCH

Bible Study - Mondays, 3pm-4.30pm
Wives Club - Thursdays, 2pm
Coffee Morning - Wednesdays, 10.30am-12noon
Coffee Morning - Saturdays, 10.30am-12noon
Wednesday Fellowship - first two Wednesdays of the month, 2.30pm
Midweek Communion - third Wednesday of the month, 10am



CHALKWELL PARK METHODIST CHURCH

Ladies Monday Club - 2nd & 4th Mondays (except BH & August), 2-4pm
Caterpillars Baby & Toddler group - Wednesdays, sch. term only, 9.30am-11.30am
Coffee Morning - 1st Friday of the month, 10am-12noon
Crafty Friday (for adults) - 2nd & 4th Fridays, sch. term only, 10am-12noon



Churches Mid-Week Activities / Events

HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee Morning - Saturdays, 10.00am-12noon

Lunch Club - second Tuesday of the month, 12noon (registration essential)

Chatter (Fellowship Group) - Tuesdays, 10am-12noon

Hobbies - first and third Thursdays of the month, 10am-12noon

Prayer Meeting in Church - Tuesdays, 9.15am-9.45am

Toddlers - Mondays, 9.30am-11.30am (term time only)

Bible Study / House Group - 3rd Tuesday of the month, 1pm-2pm

Evening House Group - 2nd Monday of the month, 7.30pm in the Snug

Classic Film afternoon with ice-cream - First Friday of every month, 2-4pm



ROCHFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Cake and Kindness (Tea and homemade cakes) - Mondays, 2pm-3.30pm

Prayer time on Zoom - Mondays, 7pm

Bible Studies on Zoom - Tuesdays, 7.30pm

Housegroup - usually third Wednesday of the month, 8pm

'Happy Cup' Breakfast Club for children under 5 and carers - Fridays (term-time), 9.30am



THORPE BAY METHODIST CHURCH

Mid-week Communion - third Wednesday of the month, 10am

The Tuesday Café - first & third Tuesday, 2-4pm

CrackerJacks - first Monday of the month, 2-3.30pm

Coffee Morning - every Wednesday, 10am-12noon



BURRELL WELLBEING CENTRE - THUNDERSLEY

Coffee Morning - Wednesdays (term-time), 9am-11am

Chair Fit Session - Monday, 10-11am (cost is £2 includes refreshments)



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (Great Wakering)

'Brew, Chew, Renew' (Bible Study with refreshments) - Fortnightly on Monday, 10.30am

Funtime Toddlers - Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9.00-11.30am (term-time)

Home Group - Tuesdays, 7.30pm (contact office@umcsouthend.org.uk)



Churches Mid-Week Activities / Events

THE FISHERMEN'S CHAPEL

Coffee Morning - Wednesdays, 10.30-12.30pm.

Gospel Choir Rehearsals (contact Rev Heather 07879 232231)

Regular Music and Arts Events - please visit website: www.fishermenschapel.org.uk

On the 3rd Sunday of every month at 7.30pm the service content has changed from being a creative service to a reflective Taizé service.



RAYLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group - Mondays (term time), 1.15pm to 2.45pm (under 5 £2+50p parents/carers)

Townswomen Guild (Speaker, tea & cake) - Last Monday of the month, 10am to 12pm

Memory Worship (30mins service followed by Coffee & Craft) - First Tuesday of the month, 2pm

Free Drama Group Years 2 to 5 - Tuesdays (term time), 4pm to 5pm

Ladies Club (informal and fun All age tea, biscuit, speakers, outings, meals) - Wednesdays, 1.45pm to 3.15pm

Wesley Guild (Everyone welcome any age Women and Men varied program of Devotional, Christian Service, Cultural and Musical, Social events) - Thursdays, 2pm

Toys & Toast (Baby & Toddler) - Fridays (term time), 9.30am to 11am (£3 last 30 minutes is singing)

Trefoil Guild - Third Friday of the month (exc. Bank Hols), 1.30pm to 3.30pm (all 18+)

Coffee Morning - Third Sat of the month, 10am to 12pm

(each month in aid of community / church projects)

Messy Church - Last Sunday of the month except August and December, 4pm to 6pm



HOCKLEY & HAWKWELL METHODIST CHURCH

Sundays: Tea and Coffee from 10.30am followed by Morning Worship at 11.15am

Mondays: Brightstars Toddler Group, 9.00–11.30am

1st Hockley Rainbows, 4.15–5.30pm

Tuesdays: Messy Church (3rd Tuesday each Month), 4.00–5.30pm

Bible Studies on Zoom, 7.30pm

Wednesdays: Welcome Wednesday (Tea, Coffee & Cake), 10.00am-12noon

2nd Hockley Brownie Pack, 5.30-7.00 pm

Thursdays: 1st Hockley Beaver Colony, 5.15-6.15 pm

Thursday Social Club, 2.30pm



Lent

is a spiritual reboot.

A journey of pausing, breathing and making **s p a c e** for God.



Curious?

Sign up to receive reflections through Lent

It's a way of life.

Circuit Prayer Diary April-June

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

APRIL

Mid-Week Prayer of Week 14 – Children's and Youth Workers
Prayer for Sunday 5th – Hadleigh Methodist Church
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 15 – Hospital Chaplains
Prayer for Sunday 12th – Church Councils and Committees
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 16 – Deacon Sarah McDowall and family
Prayer for Sunday 19th – Parade Services and Leaders of Uniformed Organisations
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 17 – Music Mentors
Prayer for Sunday 26th – World Mission
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 18 – Highlands Methodist Church



MAY

Prayer for Sunday 3rd – Leigh Section
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 19 – Pastoral Leaders, Carers and Class Leaders
Prayer for Sunday 10th – Rev Steve Mayo and family
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 20 – Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church
Prayer for Sunday 17th – Methodist Church Zimbabwe Fellowship
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 21 – Church Council Secretaries
Prayer for Sunday 24th – Church Cleaners and Caretakers
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 22 – Safeguarding Representatives
Prayer for Sunday 31st – Chelmsford Circuit



JUNE

Mid-Week Prayer of Week 23 – Rochford District Council, Councillors and Leaders
Prayer for Sunday 7th – Memory Worship
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 24 – Church Flower Arrangers
Prayer for Sunday 14th – Rayleigh Methodist Church
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 25 – Circuit Meeting
Prayer for Sunday 21st – Church Stewards
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 26 – Circuit Stewards
Prayer for Sunday 28th – Action for Children



Rayleigh Methodist Church
Testimony Service for

REV STEVE MAYO

Preacher

Deacon Sarah McDowall

Sunday 7th June 4PM

Rayleigh Methodist Church
78a Eastwood Road
Rayleigh SS6 7JP

Car parking is available at the Church



From Jess in the Circuit Office

In April, I will be taking part in the London Landmarks Half Marathon to raise funds for The One Love Project in Southend. The project supports homeless & vulnerable communities in the local area. I've volunteered with the project for the last five years so see first hand how a little kindness goes a long way.

Any donations or messages of support would be greatly appreciated.
Thank you!

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/jessica-ellis>



Jess's fundraiser for The One Love Project

A fundraiser organised by Jessica Ellis for The One Love Project

In April 2026, I will be taking on the challenge of running the London Landmarks Half Marathon for The One Love Project. Thank you so much in advance for donating whatever you can, it really will make a massive difference.



Scan to donate

Help us reach our £500 target!

Make a donation with **JustGiving**

ECO CHURCH



Eco Circuit

Bronze Award

This is to certify that

Southend and Leigh Circuit

has achieved a Bronze Eco Circuit Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in their work across the Circuit.

Find out more at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/eco-circuit

Signed Andy Atkin Date 20/01/2026
CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk



**Southend & Leigh
Methodist Circuit**



City of Southend: A Potted History by Ian Yearsley (Amberley Publishing, 2025)

This is a delightful little book that manages to compress centuries of history into just under 100 pages, taking readers on a journey from the Iron Age, through Roman settlements and Saxon origins, right up to the 21st century when Southend achieved city status. It's remarkable how much history exists in this corner of Essex, and even more impressive how Yearsley has captured such a wealth of information with precisely the right level of detail.

The book is structured thematically, with each chapter exploring aspects of Southend's development and transformation into the place it is today. Throughout these chapters, it becomes evident that Southend has been shaped fundamentally by its people, who have continually added character and breathed new life into areas that might otherwise have lost their potential. Numerous individuals have contributed to the area's evolution, most notably Richard Rich in the 17th century, who strategically acquired vast portions of the region, capitalizing on its advantageous location and the political climate of his era.

What makes this Potted History particularly valuable is its inclusion of the historic villages that now comprise greater Southend: Prittlewell, Milton, Southchurch, Leigh, Eastwood, South and North Shoebury, Shopland, and Great Wakering. I was genuinely surprised to discover these areas belonged to Southend, as many of these locations were already familiar to me through my own family history research.

The chapter dedicated to Southend itself proved especially enlightening, offering concise accounts of key landmarks including the pier, the grand hotels, and the Kursaal. Each section provides just enough information to spark curiosity, inviting readers to delve deeper through other sources if they wish.

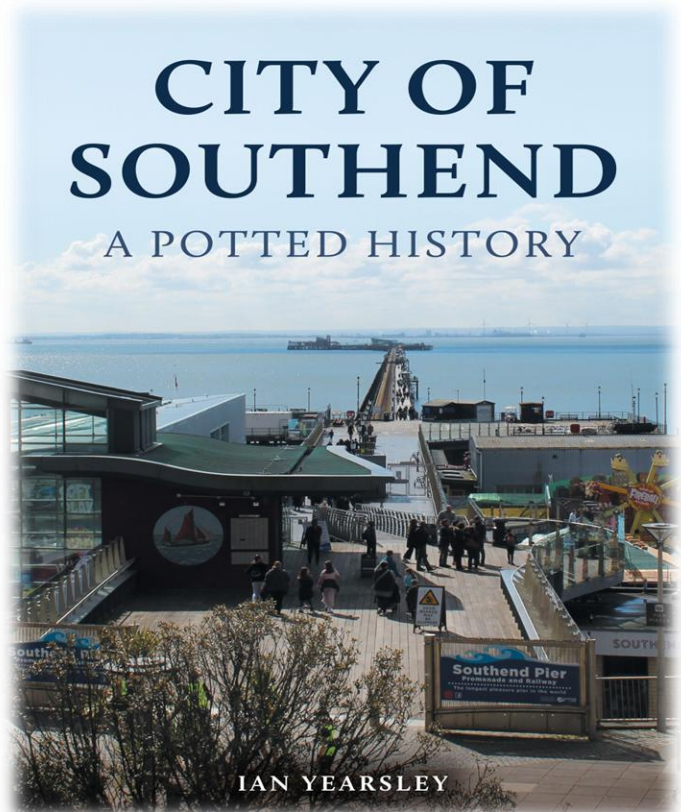
I thoroughly enjoyed this book. My father's family hails from many of these places, which I now understand to be part of Southend's broader tapestry. Reading this has given me a much clearer understanding of how these locations interconnect, and I will certainly use it as a guide for further exploration, particularly of areas within the modern Southend boundary.

This book is absolutely worth reading for anyone interested in the region. It provides an excellent foundation of knowledge and serves as a perfect jumping-off point for bringing to life an area with deep historical roots and family connections.

The book is available to purchase for £14.39 at the below website:

[City of Southend: A Potted History - Amberley Publishing](#)

With grateful thanks to Fiona Harvey and the Essex Family History Society for permission to reproduce this article



Thirsty For?? Cafe Style Worship

Belfairs Methodist Church

20 years ago in March 2006, Belfairs started their first 'cafe style' worship.

This all started following a conversation with Rev Colin Frampton, who was a retired member of the Belfairs congregation, when Colin suggested to me that 'if it's Gods call, go for it', so I did. Along with the support of my wonderful wife, Sue, and good friend Phil Gladman, we held our first meeting which was open to anyone who fancied a 'relaxing' time together, along with Tea, coffee, cakes and of course informal worship as a part of the usual menu.



Over the years we have had many varied themes, investigated Songs of Fellowship books 1 through to 6, looked at various songwriters over the years, quizzes to keep the mind active, information about various Christian festivals in the UK, some awesome Christmas events including dressing up to perform the nativity play and video the event for prosperity, a Christmas dinner which included 'shepherds pie' and 'angel delight'. As you can appreciate with approximately 450 meetings under our belts the list goes on.

We were fortunate to have friends from other churches come along some evenings and that is still happening today.

We're only a large handful nowadays but still so many enjoy the time we share together and I have promised to the group that this will continue until such a time comes when there is no further demand for our meetings.

A very special thanks to Sue for the wonderful cakes freshly cooked every month, to Phil for his patience running the laptop (even though I change the order without any notice!). Thanks also to Belfairs for letting me host our cafe worship, it may not be everyone's cup of tea but I believe we are still serving our loving God in all that we do. Fancy a Thursday evening out, come and give us a try, 2nd Thursday of the month from 7p.m.

Mike Spaul
Worship Leader



UMC
Crafty Easter 2026
Saturday 14th March
 Held from 2pm–4pm



About 55 young people of all ages came with their Adults and there was a real buzz in the room as the young people and adults moved around the activities deciding which activity to choose. The afternoon was well appreciated with people coming from around the area.



Once again, UMC hosted our 'no charge' Easter Activities afternoon, with 13 activities including a colouring competition, jeweled polystyrene eggs, shell decorating, scratch art Bookmarks, Sticky spot crosses, Easter card making, Iced Biscuits, Mini Easter gardens, Straw woven wristbands, crocheted bracelets led by two year 7 children, along with decorating their 'Freebie Bag' which was filled at the end with an Easter comic, Easter booklet, bookmark to colour, coloured pencils chocolate lolly, a small chocolate egg and...free crisps.



Resources for decorating an Easter hat ready for the Hat Parade at 3.40pm! (see the results above)



People kindly donated Easter Eggs for the Shoebury Ark Project

UMC
Crafty Easter 2026
Saturday 14th March



The straw woven wristbands proved a big hit, with adults and young people alike, with one parent thinking of trying it for her daughter's hair plaits! Hmmm!

Oyster shells from the local beach, cleaned and with a coat of white acrylic paint provided a hand-held item to be decorated with sharpie pens, some created the Easter empty tomb, others made Spring scenes



Hello Just wanted to message to say what a lovely time my daughter well and myself had Saturday at the crafts, I'm so impressed with her bonnet, I look forward to your next event such a lovely place thank you x

We chatted with those who came inviting them to suggest other events / activities they'd like to see another time.

We made Easter gardens with empty Gu jars filled with moss and decorated with rabbits Chicks and flowers, using Washi tape to border the jar... a VERY popular activity.



Sun Catcher Crosses were another favourite activity as they could be hung at home wherever the youngsters wanted to place them.



We provided scrummy cakes and drinks and people kindly donated towards the Refreshments. £69 for Church funds.

A BIG THANKS to all who helped on the day. WELL DONE!
Next one?.... Crafty Christmas!

Thought:

If any church would like advice as to how to run an event like this, please contact Anne & Bob and we would be more than happy to give suggestions 😊

Mother's Day at Westerley



THE WHITTINGHAM
EXPERIENCE PROJECT

Family Easter Party

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH
11AM-1:30PM
ENTRANCE £3.00 PER ADULT
INCLUDES FREE RAFFLE DRAW ENTRY
CHILDREN FREE

A colorful poster for a Family Easter Party. The background is pink and yellow with a banner of yellow and red triangles at the top. There are several balloons in yellow, red, and orange. Three cartoon bunnies are featured: one on the left holding a yellow and white patterned egg, one in the center wearing a yellow flower crown, and one on the right holding a red and yellow patterned egg. At the bottom, there are several colorful Easter eggs in yellow, red, and orange, some with patterns like stars, hearts, and swirls, sitting on green grass.

Celebrating 100 Years of the Highlands Methodist Church

(Tuesday to Friday)

PORTRAIT BOOTH

Try drawing a friend

Sunday 12th 10.30am

COMMUNION SERVICE

Saturday 18th 10am - 2pm

ARTBASH

Creative arty fun for all

A collection of local art
comprised of
"Community Art" & "Artist Art"

12th - 19th April 2026

Highlands ART WEEK

Church Open 10am - 4pm



Profits raised go to
Little Havens

FILLING OUR HALLS & WALLS WITH THE LOVE OF ART

Saturday 18th 10am - 2pm

LIVE PORTRAIT SESSION

With Local Artist:

Susan Allen

Sunday 19th 2.30pm - 3.30pm

CHARITY AUCTION

Sunday 19th 4pm - 4.30pm

CELEBRATION SERVICE

The Experience Project

Activities and Events



Whittingham held its annual Christmas Projection Mapping Spectacular on Wed 17th December. For the second year they took things to a whole new level. With upgraded production and more intricate projection mapping, they turned the architecture into a festive masterpiece. It was a night of magic, music, and holiday spirit, that drew hundreds of people from the local community and beyond!

The show wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of our local partners and helpers:

- Alex & Local Businesses for sponsoring the show and making this high-level production a reality.
- The Staff & Volunteers who gave their time behind the scenes - thank you for your hard work and dedication.
- Thank you to McDonald's of Southend and all the other local businesses and charities who donated presents and children's toys for the community.
- A special thank you to Chris of Captain Stonefish Productions who made all the visuals and projection mapping possible.
- Special thanks to Lee Clark (Kursaal Confelicity) - for co-hosting the event. His dedication and enthusiasm to help at every stage played a massive part in making the night run so smoothly.

You can watch the full Light Show here: [The Experience Project Christmas Light Show](#)



Follow / Contact Us

[The Whittingham Experience Project Facebook](#)

[The Whittingham Experience Project Website](#)



The Southend and Leigh Circuit and The Experience Project at the Whittingham Mission Centre would like to acknowledge and offer sincere thanks to the Essex Community Foundation for their support in awarding us a grant for the work we do in Southend. The fund provided will enable us to continue the vital work amongst our communities.



Pop-Up at Southend University Hospital to staff in all capacities and wards



Donated children's books at our Pop-Up Charity Shop



Thank you to Aspirations Program - Carrie's Outreach for your certificate of appreciation



The Burrell Wellbeing Centre



Burrell Wellbeing Centre



Wednesday coffee morning at Burrell Wellbeing Centre (formerly Thundersley Methodist Church). Stephen Sedge from Carers First held a Christmas Get-together with non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone seemed to enjoy the festive spirit and ended with a Christmas quiz set by one of the carers.

STRM (Send the Right Message) who are a charity run by parents, to support parents of children with neurodivergent and disabled children held their monthly meeting on 9th December. This was attended by the Deputy Mayor who joined in with the Christmas celebrations.



Ellie Mae Florists came into the centre to show us how to make Christmas wreaths. The ladies enjoyed the afternoon of festivities with a cuppa, mince pies, stollen and of course some Christmas songs.





Wednesday 21st January, PCSO Lamb attended the Women's Wellbeing Support Group.

On Tuesday 17th February the Afternoon Club ladies celebrated the clubs 60th Birthday. The afternoon started with afternoon tea followed by a quiz and raffle.



Food Bank Items

Morgan Sindall construction service group arranged with TPG painting solutions to give their time and Dulux donated the paint to complete the painting of the sanctuary at the Burrell Wellbeing Centre. Morgan Sindall are working on a project in the area and like to give something back to the community. A big thank you to all involved.





Burrell Wellbeing Centre

GENTLE CHAIR BASED EXERCISE CLASS – ALL WELCOME

Mondays 10am-11am
Thundersley Methodist Church
Kennington Avenue
Benfleet SS7 4BS
£2.00 entry includes refreshments
Every Monday

Contact Jeanette 07956290221 for more information

Follow / Contact Us

[The Burrell Wellbeing Centre Website](#)

THUNDERSLEY COMMUNITY GROUP



Are you lonely?
At a loose end?
A parent or carer
with children?
Whatever the
reason - come
along to our coffee
morning for a chat
– you are very
welcome.

Every Wednesday - 9 am to 11 am
Social prescribers will be here
every week except

The first Wednesday of the month
when Stephen Sedge from Carer's First
(carersfirst.org.uk) attends from 9.30 am.

Thundersley Methodist Church
Kennington Avenue, Benfleet SS7 4BS

LOCATED AND SUPPORTED
BY THUNDERSLEY
METHODIST CHURCH.



FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP

A space for shared experiences and ongoing connection for
those diagnosed with Fibromyalgia.

Fortnightly Thursday's
10am to 12PM drop or pop
including
Guest Speakers!

You are not alone, Call Em
on 07762945928 or
emma.holmes41@nhs.net
more details!

BENFLEET FIBRO WARRIORS - THE POWER IS NOW!



DONATIONS WELCOME FOR REFRESHMENTS.

FOR PATIENTS
REGISTERED WITH A
CASTLPOINT GP.

**CIRCUIT EASTER
“PRAYER & PRAISE”
CELEBRATION.**

**EASTER SUNDAY
EVENING**

5th April 2026.

@ 6.30 P.M.

BELFAIRS METHODIST CHURCH

**(Eastwood Road North,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4NG)**

**Led by the ‘Worship Band’
and others from the circuit.**

**Come and share with us in the joy
of Christ’s Resurrection.**

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Southend & Leigh Circuit invites you
to our**



**Wholeness &
Wellbeing
Services
2026**

28th January
Zoom

22nd April
Benfleet Methodist
Church

24th June
Benfleet Methodist
Church

All dates are on Wednesdays and services begin at 7:45pm

For more details contact southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com

REFLECTIVE
WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS
ONCE A QUARTER
6.30PM

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA
SS9 1SJ

REFLECTIVE
WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS - ONCE A QUARTER
6.30PM - 7.30PM



Reflective Worship focuses on quiet, more contemplative and meditative styles of worship, in an informal and relaxed setting.

29th October
18th February

27th May
22nd July

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP 2025-2026

INSPIRE 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
5.30PM - 6.30PM

Inspire is our monthly service dedicated to contemporary worship; modern worship songs, prayer, activities and reflections.

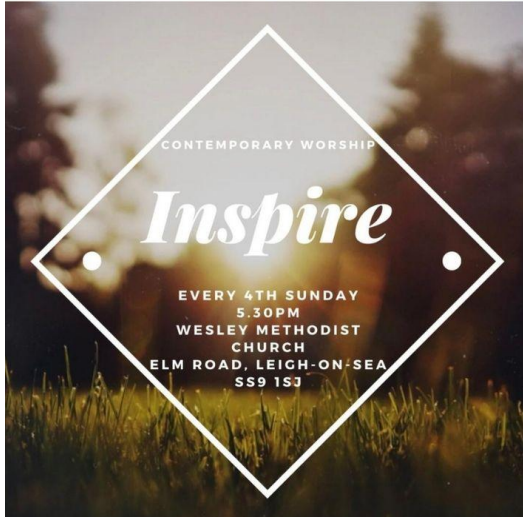
28th September
26th October
23rd November
No service in December
25th January
22nd February

22nd March
26th April
24th May
28th June
26th July
No service in August



www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

Wesley Methodist Church



MEMORY
WORSHIP

Worship for those
with & without
Dementia



2PM - 4PM
3RD MONDAY
OF THE MONTH

MEMORY WORSHIP

3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH
2PM - 4PM



Worship for those with and without dementia. Our 'dementia friend' team are on hand with tea, cake and fellowship.

15th September
20th October
17th November
15th December
19th January
16th February

16th March
20th April
18th May
15th June
20th July
17th August

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP 2025-2026

MIDWEEK COMMUNION
&
TIME FOR PRAYER



2ND WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH
9AM & 9.30AM

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA
SS9 1SJ

MIDWEEK COMMUNION
& TIME FOR PRAYER

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
9AM & 9.30AM

Midweek Communion service at 9am, with Time for Prayer at 9.30am for private & group prayer.

10th September
8th October
12th November
10th December
14th January
11th February

11th March
8th April
13th May
10th June
8th July
No meeting in August



www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

Wesley Methodist Church

Hello Friend,

Wesley **Methodist** Church 

We are so excited to tell you about Worship at Wesley and to invite you to join us for worship, fellowship, friendship and community! We look forward to welcoming you.

Leigh Wesley Methodist Church

ALL AGE WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

11AM

A mixture of traditional and modern worship, with monthly Holy Communion. Play area and activities for children and young people.

PRAISE & PLAY

FRIDAYS ONCE A QUARTER

9.15AM-9.45AM

Playful worship for under 5s.

INSPIRE

4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

5.30PM-6.30PM

Our monthly service dedicated to contemporary worship; modern worship songs, prayer, activities and reflections.

REFLECTIVE WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS ONCE A QUARTER

6.30PM-7.30PM

Focusing on quiet, more contemplative and meditative styles of worship, in an informal and relaxed setting.

MEMORY WORSHIP

3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

2PM-4PM

Worship for those with and without dementia. A 30 minute service followed by games and craft. Our 'dementia friend' team are on hand with tea, cake and fellowship.

FUSION YOUTH & KIDS

2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

6PM-7.30PM (TERM TIME ONLY)

Youth Club for primary school aged children – school years 1 to 6. £1.50 entrance. Each night ends with a short talk, song and fun group games.

MIDWEEK COMMUNION

& TIME FOR PRAYER

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

9AM & 9.30AM

Midweek service of Holy Communion at 9am, with Time for Prayer at 9.30am for private and group prayer.

LEIGH WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH IS AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH
AND DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY



Hello Friend,

Wesley **Methodist** Church 

We are so excited to tell you about all the community activities taking place at Wesley and to invite you to join us for fun activities, fellowship, friendship and community! We look forward to welcoming you.

Leigh Wesley Methodist Church

THE SANCTUARY CAFÉ

FRIDAYS 10AM-12PM

SATURDAYS 10AM-1PM

Join us for hot drinks, cake and a good chat in a safe space. A play area, buggy park and quiet space for prayer/reflection are available.

FUSION YOUTH & KIDS

2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

(TERM TIME ONLY)

6PM-7.30PM

Youth Club for children in school years 1 to 6. £1.50 entrance. Xbox's, craft, sports, circus skills, music, food and so much more!

TODDLER GROUP

WEDNESDAYS

10AM-12PM

Playgroup for ages 0-4 and their parents/carers (older siblings welcome in school holidays). Playtime, storytime, parachute, crafts. £2 entry and free tea/coffee and homemade cake.

TALKING POETRY

WEDNESDAYS (FORTNIGHTLY)

2.30PM

Choose, read & discuss a different poet or subject each session.

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP

MONDAYS

8PM

Welcoming all who love acting and/or working backstage.

MUSIC GROUP

OCCASIONAL SUNDAYS

DURING WORSHIP

Singers and musicians of all abilities welcome!

HOUSE GROUPS

A RANGE OF MIDWEEK MEETINGS

DAYTIME AND EVENING

Explore faith and Christianity in these informal groups.

Please get in touch or see our website for further details (including dates) & details of activities run by our hirers.

LEIGH WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH IS AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH
AND DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY



Worship Academy 2025/2026

Benfleet Methodist Church, SS7 5LH

Usually the first Wednesday of the month from 7pm – 9.15ish

We are in our twelfth year of Worship Academy, and we need to evolve. This evolution means an opening up of Worship Academy to EVERYBODY in this circuit and neighbouring circuits.

Originally, Worship academy was set up for Ministers, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders to learn and share ideas about enhancing worship for all. This meant thinking about:

- ❖ What types of hymns and why?
- ❖ What types of prayers and why?
- ❖ What types of sermons, reflections, dramatizations and why?
- ❖ What sorts of different services could we offer and why?
- ❖ We have learnt much but overtime we have realised that many of our stewards and members of the congregations may like to come along.

This is your INVITATION, look at the programme below and decide if anything or everything interests you.

The bonus is a MEAL before the workshop/talk – a fellowship of interesting Christians. The meal is prepared by excellent cooks Doreen, Shelagh and John. Some people have been known to ask for second helpings!

To book you have three possibilities. Contact:

- The circuit office by email on southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com and ask for the direct Eventbrite link
- To go straight to the Eventbrite site:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/southend-leigh-circuit-13804100001
- To contact me on fulford.family@btinternet.com

Do hope to see you there!

God Bless,

Jane

Worship
**WORSHIP
ACADEMY**
Academy

**SOUTHEND
AND
LEIGH
METHODIST
CIRCUIT**

Autumn

1st October - Language in Worship
HEATHER SIMMONS

5th November - Activities in Worship
SUE HOCKETT, STEVE HOCKETT & ANNE BRIANT

3rd December - Planning a Lectionary Service
RICHARD ARMIGER

Spring

4th February - Prayer & Healing
BOB BRIANT

4th March - Poetry & Drama in Worship
ANNA TURNER

1st April - Planning a Lectionary Service
PETER MOORHOUSE

Summer

6th May - All Age Worship | Senses in Worship
COLIN AND CATHY TURNER

3rd June - Small Group Devotions
MAUREEN SPINKS

1st July - Food, Fellowship, Feedback, A new approach
STAFF TEAM

**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST,
SEPTEMBER & JANUARY
BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH SS7 5LH**

www.southendandleigh.org

**7 PM FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
8 PM WORSHIP & LEARNING**