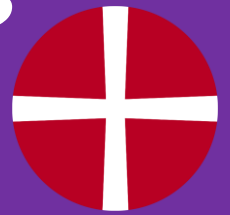


Southend & Leigh CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER



Summer Edition 2026

Third Quarter

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- Circuit Calendar
- Church Activities
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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.



FOLLOW / CONTACT US



[Southend and Leigh Circuit Facebook Page](#)

[Southend and Leigh Circuit Website](#)

[Southend and Leigh Circuit Instagram](#)



Circuit Calendar 2026

JULY

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

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

Sun 12th July Circuit Service with Anna Turner, 4pm Benfleet Methodist Church

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

AUGUST

Sat 1st Circuit Prayer Breakfast, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

Sun 9th Gospel Service, 7:30pm on Strand Wharf, Leigh on Sea. Please bring your own chair

SEPTEMBER

Sat 5th Circuit Prayer Breakfast, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

Sun 6th Welcome Service for Mark Waghorn, 4pm at Belfairs Methodist Church

Weds 9th Circuit Meeting, 7:30pm at Highlands Methodist Church

Sat 12th Circuit Music evening with Our Atlantic Roots, 7:30pm Highlands Methodist Church

Weds 23rd Wholeness & Wellbeing Service, 7:45pm at Benfleet Methodist Church

OCTOBER

Sat 3rd Circuit Prayer Breakfast (details available from Circuit Office)

Weds 7th Worship Academy, Interview with Rev Dr David Chapman

Sat 10th Circuit Quiet Day at Belfairs Methodist Church

Circuit Services

Lectio Divina on Whereby (details available from Circuit Office)

Wednesdays 7.30pm-8.15pm

with Rev Heather and Clive Johnson

All are welcome. Each session is standalone.



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, 12pm
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 12pm (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-12pm
Coffee Morning - Saturdays, 10.30am-12pm

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-12pm



Churches Mid-Week Activities / Events

HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee Morning - Saturdays, 10.00am-12pm

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

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

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

Prayers 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

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

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 Waking)

'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. In August we meet at the Bellairs Woodland Centre at the same times.

Gospel Choir Rehearsals (contact Rev Heather 07879 232231).

Gospel Service in August meets in Strand Wharf at 7.30pm. Please bring your own chair and drink. Cakes are provided!

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

On the 3rd Sunday of every month at 7.30pm, 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



The Burrell Wellbeing Centre



On Tuesday 12th May we held a Wellbeing Event to mark the first birthday of The Burrell Wellbeing Centre. Various therapists and wellbeing ambassadors from the area attended to showcase their treatments and products.



The event was attended by over 80 people and raised funds from donations for the centre. The evening closed with a sound bath that was enjoyed by all. Feedback from everyone was very positive and we hope to hold further wellbeing events like this in the future.



With thanks to
Jeanette Spenner

The Experience Project



We are delighted to have launched our new Creative Plates and Healthy Hearts programme, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund. The programme combines practical cooking activities, healthy eating education and family engagement. Through fun, hands-on sessions, children are encouraged to explore nutritious ingredients, build confidence in the kitchen and develop a greater understanding of how food choices can influence their health, wellbeing and energy levels.



The early response from families has been extremely positive, and we are excited about the impact this project is already beginning to have. Over the next 12 months, we hope to continue building the programme, supporting more children and families, and creating a positive space where healthy habits can grow through creativity, learning and shared experience.

With thanks to The Experience Project

Chalkwell Park Church Anniversary Exhibition 16th & 17th May 2026

At Chalkwell Park Methodist, on our Church Anniversary weekend we had an exhibition on the theme '**All Creatures Great and Small**' with organisations and individual members contributing some form of craft / photos. It filled our church lounge with a wide selection of crafts from painting, embroidery, tapestry, diamond painting, knitting, iris cards, photography and dioramas.



The Craft group who organised the event, created a garden with animals painted on pebbles. It included a ladybird crossing, as well as lots of other animals you would find in a garden.



The weekend was completed with a service led by Rev. Peter Perowne. He was our minister over 40 years ago and it was a delight to welcome him back for our anniversary service. It also included testimonies from two of our oldest members.



With thanks to
Gill Palmer

Testimony Service & Ordination of Rev Steve



It was a joy to gather, as a Circuit to share in the Testimony Service of Reverend Steve Mayo. Many thanks to the Circuit Band for their uplifting music, Keith for playing the organ and to Rayleigh Methodist Church for hosting this service.



Upcoming Events

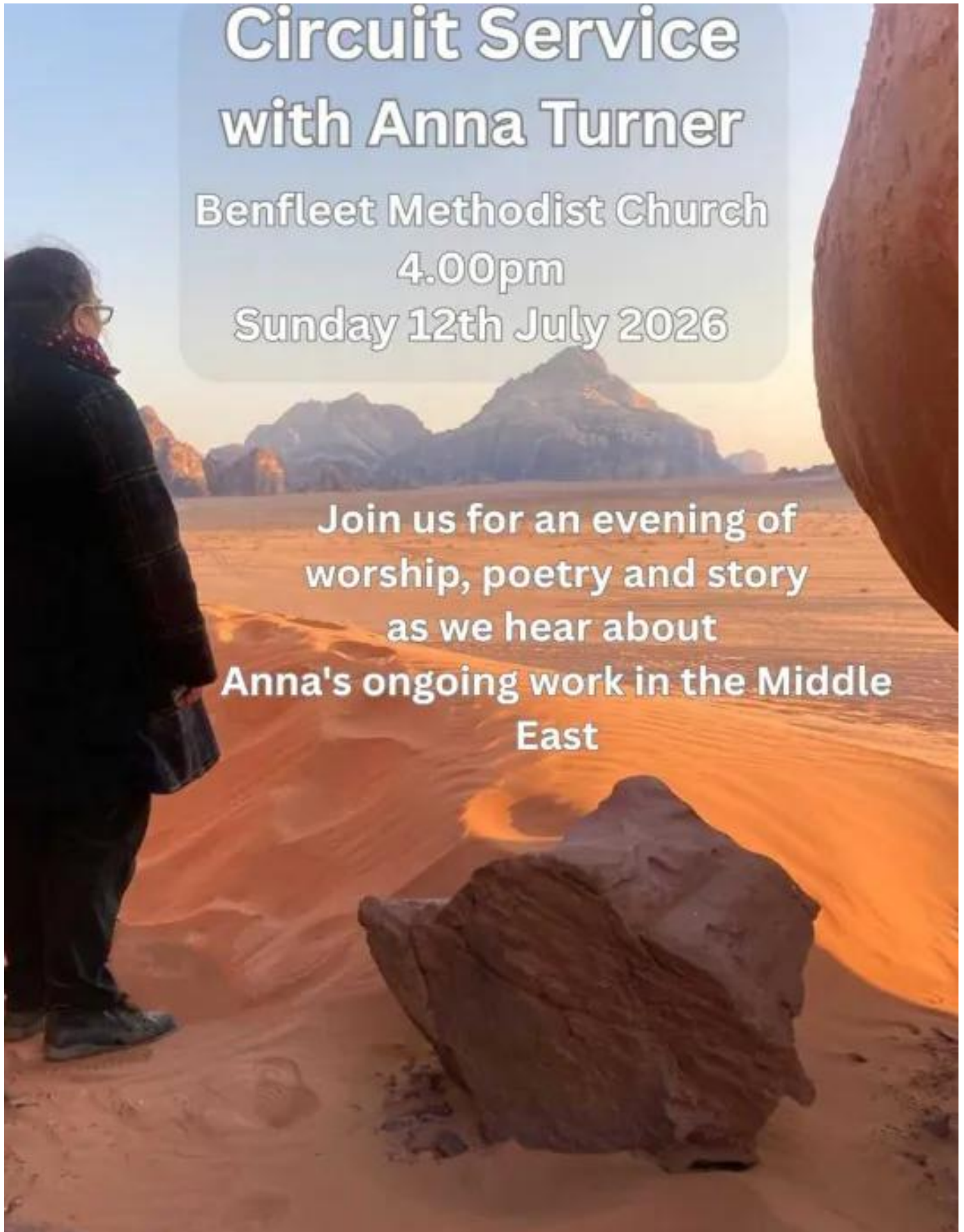
Circuit Service with Anna Turner

Benfleet Methodist Church

4.00pm

Sunday 12th July 2026

Join us for an evening of
worship, poetry and story
as we hear about
Anna's ongoing work in the Middle
East



**Southend & Leigh Methodist Churches
invite you to an evening with**

Laura & Mac 'OUR ATLANTIC ROOTS'
(Songs of Praise and BigChurchFestival)

**Saturday 12th September 2026 - 7.00p.m. onwards
at Highlands Methodist Church
(Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh on Sea, SS9 3PT.)**



Cornwall based transatlantic duo "Our Atlantic Roots" fuse together poetic lyrics and cinematic instrumentation, creatively presenting a blend of the cultures they are individually from, by merging genres characterised by their country and folk roots. Audiences consistently praise the duo for their tight vocal harmonies, honest storytelling and for Mac's impressive guitar performance.

This amazing concert is open to ALL, at a small cost

£5 per head. (profits for local charity 'Aspirations Southend')

Please book using <https://wegottickets.com/f/22011>

It's a great opportunity to enjoy an evening
full of inspirational music.

A 'dry bar' and ice creams will be available for all visitors.

Are you looking for fun playful worship for your little ones? Then please join us for Praise and Play at Leigh Wesley Methodist Church on

Friday 7 August at 9.15am!

Praise and Play is playful worship, for under 5s, with toys, singing, fun biblical storytelling and prayer activities. It's for 30 minutes followed by hot drinks, juice, snacks and yummy homemade cakes!

All are very welcome as we worship God and learn more about Jesus



PRAISE AND PLAY

Playful worship for under 5s

Fridays (once a quarter)

7 August 2026, 6 November 2026,
5 February 2027, 14 May 2027, 6 August 2027

09:15am–09:45am

Followed by refreshments in the cafe



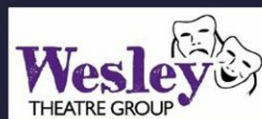
At Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ

www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

Leigh Wesley is an inclusive dementia friendly church. Proclaiming the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, by helping people in their search for God



WESLEY THEATRE GROUP
PRESENTS



MURDER *ON THE* OVERNIGHT EXPRESS

A Murder Mystery by Patricia Gay

SAT 18TH JULY

6.30PM

TICKETS: £10



WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
ELM ROAD | LEIGH-ON-SEA

BOOKING ESSENTIAL BY 16TH JULY

BOX OFFICE

07813 553080

BUY ONLINE

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK
/WESLEY-THEATRE-GROUP

BY KIND PERMISSION OF LAZY BEE SCRIPTS



Westerley Open Day

Saturday 25th July 2026!



11am – 3pm

- Card stall
- Cake stalls
- BBQ 12pm
- Tea's coffees and cold drinks
- Face painting
- Guess the sweets.
- Guess the bear's name.
- Guess the weight of the cake.
 - Raffle
 - Lucky dip
- Ploughman's lunch
- Jelly and ice cream
- Strawberries and cream
 - Homemade chutneys by Jayne
 - Handmade Gifts





Upcoming Events

2026**JUL
26**

The Music Man Project

As seen at the Royal Albert Hall and on TV, this brilliant group provides music education for people with learning disabilities. **3pm – 5pm**

**AUG
11**

Summer Fun Day

Games, competitions, bouncy castle and puppet shows! Free event, only pay for food bought. Drop in **1pm – 4pm, no booking required.**

**AUG
29**

Dog Show

Join us with your four-legged friend for a fun dog show on our field, with different classes to enter. More details to follow on our website + socials

**SEP
26**

Harvest Ceilidh

Join the fun with our ceilidh – sure to be a laugh and good fun for all. Buffet provided in the interval. **5pm – 7:30pm**

**NOV
21**

Winter Fayre

Come and enjoy entertainment, browse handmade crafts, visit Father Christmas and much more! **Drop in from 10am – 2pm.**

**NOV
29**

Big Sing Concert

Fun, festive singing brought to you with joy and enthusiasm by the amazing 'Big Sing' choir – as seen on BGT! **2:30pm – 4:30pm**

↖ More Info + More Events! ↗

↖ Get tickets! ↗

rayleighmethodistchurch.org.uk/events

THE FISHERMEN'S CHAPEL



LEIGH-ON-SEA

Autumn Concerts at The Fishermen's Chapel

19th September – Darren Jones and Hannah

The Songs of David Bowie – always a sold out gig at The Chapel when Darren visits!

(details will be available on [wegottickets](http://wegottickets.com) nearer the time)

16th October – C Level

(incredible jazz funk band all professional musicians)

This gig is part of The Southend Jazz Festival. Tickets now available on wegottickets.com

30th October – The Dusty Peddlers

Lively folk music, direct from the main stage at the Leigh Folk Festival

28th November – The Ondines supported by The Empty Bears

Lively local bands – a great night's entertainment



**SOUTHEND
AND
LEIGH
METHODIST
CIRCUIT**

Programme for 2026-2027

Insights into Faith

Personal Experiences and Insights

7th October 2026- Interview with Reverend David Chapman

4th November 2026- Telling our own stories- Jane Fulford

2nd December 2026- Using our own stories/testimonies in Worship- Colleen Weedon

3rd February 2027- Young peoples' stories/testimonies

Scripture Biblical Stories

3rd March 2027- Using Old Testament stories in Worship- Bob and Anne Briant

7th April 2027- Using New Testament stories in Worship- Peter Moorhouse

5th May 2027- Using Epistle journeys in Worship- Anna Williams

Reasoning

2nd June 2027- Book Review, more insights into faith- Heather Simmons

7th July 2027- Fun Fellowship and Feedback

**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST,
SEPTEMBER & JANUARY**

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH SS7 5LH

7 PM FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

8 PM WORSHIP & LEARNING

www.southendandleigh.org