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ROCHFORD

METHODIST

Church matters

These items were received after the October/November edition was published.

In view of the timescales involved in the requests for help, I decided to publish them as a Supplement rather than wait for the next edition.

**October /
November 2016
Supplement**

The Newsletter of
Rochford Methodist Church
77-79 North Street
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Rochford Methodist Church is a member of
Southend and Leigh Circuit, part of the **Beds,**
Essex & Herts District

www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk
Keep up to date with what's
happening on our Facebook pages.

A Message from the Manse

Last week I was invited to speak to the Wesley Guild at Rayleigh, reflecting on the youth work that I have been and continue to do. It made me realise that I've been doing it for quite some time now, 30 years ago I became a Boys Brigade Officer at one church, and I was also running a church youth group at our own church with Caroline.

While we were at conference in 2015, I walked towards Jessica, who was talking to Megan (the then Youth President) and I heard her say, "My dad will help at *3Generate*", and she turned to me and said "won't you dad?" So I did.

I think I have probably told you about the amazing experience I had working at *3Generate 2015*, and seeing all our amazing young people in the Methodist Church, all 600 of them. This year there will be 800 young people, with 11 going from Hockley and one leader, and Caroline Warrey and Pat Norman from Rayleigh. This year they have me running the stewarding team. So pray for us all over the weekend of 23rd-25th November, as we and 800 young people from the Methodist Church have a great time, thinking about the future of our church.

One recent weekend we had Tim Annan, the Methodist Youth President visiting our Circuit and staying with us in the Manse. This is the second visit we have hosted for a Youth President. On Friday evening, he visited the new *Fusion* children's group at Benfleet. Saturday lunch was at Highlands who were celebrating their 90th Anniversary. He even got interviewed by Peter Holmes from BBC Radio Essex. Following a quick tour of the highlights of Southend he joined the young people at Hockley Methodists for an evening of music, puppets, conversation and Pizza. Conversations were mainly around the *3Generate* Manifestos. Take a look at <http://tinyurl.com/j4whgzh>.

Sunday morning he joined me at Trinity where we were able to tell the congregation, the children and their children & youth workers about *3Generate* and try to encourage them to send some children next year. I do hope Rayleigh can send some children next year. Sunday afternoon was the main event at the *Megacentre* in Rayleigh, and Tim led a session for our young people, between fun and laser games on challenging them planning their own activities. It was great to spend the weekend with Tim, and we are very fortunate to have him as our Youth President.

One of the things I have been reflecting on recently is what my dream church would be like, and it's not all about the youth! My dream church would have all ages

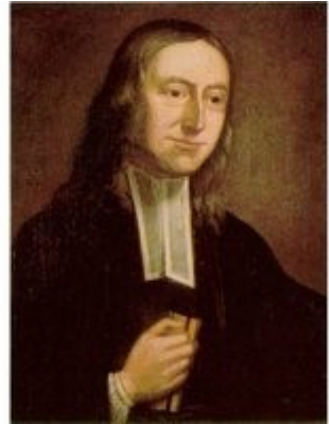
in it. From the babies in the crèche to the great, great, great grandmothers. I love our big events, parties and *Messy Church*, big services when we are all together. I love it when the young people take responsibility for things, and I love it when our older people help them. I still have a fond memory from Rayleigh of our Joan sitting on the same table as the toddlers and enjoying the colouring in. One church family all working together – my dream of a church.

Paul writes in Ephesians 5:1-2: Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Let's keep working on becoming this big church family all working together. Our church families are many and varied, from mums and toddlers to pre-schools, a community church, scouts and guiding; we just need to find the best ways and the best times to connect and have fun and learn together, work together and worship together. To do this let us imitate God, let us love and let us forgive, let us sacrifice our lives for a better life, a life as a child of God, a life as one of his Kingdom Builders, a Kingdom Builder.

As one of these Kingdom Builders in the Methodist church let us try and follow John Wesley's advice:

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.”



Winter Night Shelter

We have been asked if we can provide teams to cook and a team to look after the residents on the following dates:

- 17th December
- 21st January
- 18th February
- 18th March.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Please can you let Gail know on admin@rayleighmethodistchurch.org.uk if you may be available to be part of our teams on those nights. We will need to know as soon as possible, especially if we think we may not be able to fulfil our responsibility. I am also circulating this to Rochford folks

We need:-

Cook Team – around **four** people to prepare and service a meal to 20-25 people, prepare drinks, and wash up etc. Cost of the food materials will be reimbursed from the Night Shelter account. Cook Team would be needed say 6pm to 10pm.

Hosting/Sleeping – **Three** people to stay overnight, *at least* one male to ensure the safety of the guests. Hosting teams need to be present till 7:30am in the morning. (Camp beds are provided, and you should get some sleep during the night). There is training available.

The Night Shelter is being hosted again at United Methodist Church, Whittingham Avenue.

Again we are being asked to provide Towels on our evening, and this year also to bring the “spare clothes”.

I am planning on being there for each of these evenings as the “Chaplain”.

Rev Phil

Churches Night Shelter

From Rayleigh Methodist Church:

Last year you gave most generously for the Night Shelter.

The Churches Night Shelter will be opening again soon and one of the things we will be doing is to make toiletries and clothing available for our guests.

The United Methodist Church (Whittingham Avenue) will be supplying toiletries, underwear, socks and scarves.

However, there will be a need for items like **jeans, tops, sweatshirts and similar clothing** as well as **towels** (so that our guests can take a shower).

There will be a box in the Welcome Area at Rayleigh and we will be very grateful for any of the above items that you can donate. **Combs, hair brushes and mini shampoos** would also be very welcome.

If anybody from Rochford wishes to contribute, please pass donations any one of our stewards - Carole, Mike or Val