

The **Methodist** Church



**Clocks back!
October 26th**

**Oct/Nov
2013**

The Newsletter of
Rochford Methodist Church
77-79 North Street
Rochford
SS4 1AD



www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk
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ROCHFORD

Methodist

***There is NO CHARGE
for this newsletter.
Feel free to distribute
copies to your friends.***

Rochford Methodist Church is a
member of **Southend and Leigh
Circuit**, part of the **Beds, Essex
& Herts District**

What do you mean “Family Day”?

We often have ‘Family’ Days, but what does it *really* mean?

We mean the Church Family—every member, visitor, attender, of any age and level of commitment. We also welcome your friends, not just on *Back to Church* Sunday but any time of the year, Family Day or not.

What we *don’t* mean is that the Day is intended only for parents with children (or children with adults!).

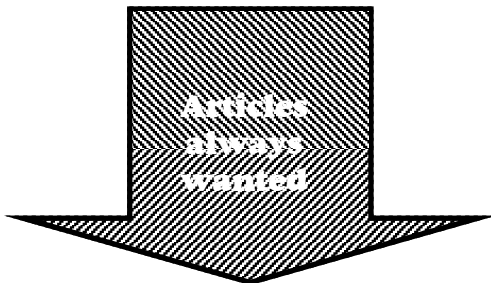
What you will find, though, is that we are likely to have a service and activity that can be understood and appreciated by anybody, regardless of the amount of time you have been coming to church, or your physical age. We also aim to limit the length of the service to about 45-50 minutes.

When’s the next one?

13th October at our usual service time of 10.55am.

This one will be fairly relaxed, but will go on longer than usual and will finish after a light lunch—but the actual finish time will depend on how things pan out.

If you can’t stay for lunch, don’t worry—but we would appreciate your involvement in the service (and we think you would get a lot out of it too!).



If you have an outlet (if only some of your friends) please feel free to take as many copies this newsletter as you wish.

The next planned publication date is **1st December 2013**. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 17th November please.

I prefer articles by email, floppy disc or typed with a good DARK original (because I can handle these without re-typing them!), but I am happy to receive them in any form – so long as I get *something*!

Emails can be sent to the address shown in this box.



The **Rochford Methodist** is published on behalf of Rochford Methodist Church. Opinions expressed in this newsletter may not be those of the Methodist Church.

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From our Minister

The news, as I write this, is all about the Kenyan shopping centre that has been attacked by Somalian terrorists. There has been speculation that some Britons are among the attackers possibly even a British woman. If this is the case it would appear that they have been radicalised by Muslim extremists possibly beginning in a mosque here in Britain. The speculation, even if it is true, can be very damaging to the fabric of our society because it fuels the inherent prejudices that that are within each of us, and it encourages us to question the fundamental commandment of the Christian faith to love one another.

How can we love our neighbour if they believe different things to us and even want to destroy us?

If we start to go down that road we have allowed the terrorists to win - or at least to begin to change the way that we should live our lives. We must not do that.

The very basis of our Christian faith is that we are all God's children. We are all made in the image of God and God loves us all equally. Jesus showed us that the only way to defeat evil is through love. He was willing to die so that everyone could have the chance of eternal life. That includes those who do not think and act in the same way that we do as well as those who do.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is probably the best illustration that we have. Let's look at it again. A man goes down from Jerusalem to Jericho. Jerusalem is a city full of tension between rival faiths. It was taken over by Israel in the 1967 war. Jericho is in the Israeli occupied West Bank which is claimed by both Israel and the Palestinians and is the contentious issue at the heart of a lasting peace solution. The journey between those 2 cities today would be fraught with danger even worse than that in Jesus' time so people would not be surprised that a traveller might be set upon by robbers.

We could change the occupations of priest and Levite to being two religious officials who passed by the injured man on the other side of the road. The modern equivalent of the Samaritan would be a Palestinian. Samaritans lived cheek by jowl with the Jews of Jesus time just as the Palestinians do with the Israelis today. The Samaritans worshipped God in a different way to the Jews just as the Palestinians do today. A Jew in Jesus' time would not expect help from a Samaritan neither would a modern day Israeli expect help from a Palestinian.

Jesus gives an example that seemed unlikely at the time and the modern

equivalent seems just as unlikely because of our preconceptions of how people act in that part of the world. Jesus asked the lawyer who originally questioned him “which of these three do you think was neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” He replied “the one who had mercy on him” - not being able to admit that a Samaritan could be good. How much more difficult would that be today if the person was a Palestinian?

Jesus challenges our prejudices and calls us to treat everyone the same.

What is happening in the world today in the name of religion is appalling but we must not allow it to affect the way that we live our lives because Jesus has shown us that love is a better way.

God bless



Previous messages can be found on our
website at
www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk

Thought for the month

Do you attend your local church or perhaps you go somewhere further afield? If you do attend a church regularly, are you faithful in attendance and support or are you a Sundays only member?

A Minister of a large church was asked what was the outstanding need in his congregation. He replied that faithfulness and fidelity was needed. He continued, “50% of church members are hangers on, getting a free ride, contribution nothing from purse or person; 25% promise to do something and then after a few stabs at it drop out. They lack fidelity. The life of the church is carried on by the remaining 25%.

I hope and pray that you are in that final group, giving your time and a fit proportion of your money to your local church – for both items are always lacking.

Let’s look at it from another angle. The Lord Jesus Christ has done immeasurably more for us than we could ever do for Him by dying on the cross for our sins. However, we can show our heartfelt thanks, in part, by being regular and faithful members of a church – in other words the group of believers who meet in a building we call a church. Don’t be a Sundays only member but give your support to other activities within the church- bible studies, men’s and ladies’ meetings, youth fellowships etc. I’m sure you’ll gain a great deal through your faithfulness in attendance and think what an encouragement you will be to other members of your church.

Mike Sims

Women's Fellowship

Plans for the next couple of months are as follows:

October	7th	Tea and Chat
	14th	Margaret Rayner
	21st	Tea and Chat
	28th	Jennifer Mundy
November	4th	Tea and Chat
	11th	Pastor Brian Gibson
	18th	Carole Glendenning
December	25th	Tea and Chat
	2nd	Christmas Lunch.
	16th	Rev Bryan Tolhurst. <i>Carol Service</i>

If you want something to do on Monday afternoons, come along for 2.30 pm at the church. You don't have to be a member of our (or any) church and you are welcome to bring a friend with you.



This picture of our church (possibly taken before the First World War) was 'grabbed' (with permission) from the Facebook Group *Ros Southend Past in photos*, which was set up to share historic photos and memories of Southend, Rochford and Castle Point.

Dementia Connections

Do you know someone suffering from Dementia? Are you suffering from it yourself?

Dementia Connections is a new free service funded by Essex County Council and delivered by *Age UK Essex* and *The Alzheimers Society* in a joint venture which is available for people recently diagnosed with dementia which is currently on the rise

Lisa Swallow is the South-East Essex Coordinator for this service and she is asking for help. Lisa wants to spread the word about this service and also to appeal for volunteers to support the project. Can you help her?

When first diagnosed dementia can be scary and people often lose their confidence. Sufferers can get together at dementia cafés and similar services but these are experiencing low turn outs, often due to people who have been diagnosed with dementia feeling nervous and lacking confidence to go out and access these local groups, which is where Lisa steps in.

Dementia Connections will match volunteers with someone in their local area that needs some short term support to regain their confidence and re-enable them to access their community, local groups and events. By keeping the mind and body active and stimulated they believe that people can live well with dementia and of course community support and friendship is invaluable.

The *Alzheimers Society* will be referring people recently diagnosed with dementia and in need of some support to access an activity or group of their choice. This will be something of interest, perhaps an old hobby, or something social, or even a dementia-specific support group like the groups run by the *Alzheimers Society*. Each person referred (client) will receive 12 hours of free support from their volunteer which will be spread across 4-8 weeks and then the volunteer will either have a break or be matched with another client. The hope is that after 12 hours of support the client is then confident enough to continue to access their chosen activity for on-going support and engagement.

The service has only just launched and Lisa is filling her diary with all the local community groups and clubs who would like to hear her talk about the service. It may be of interest to someone you know, their families and friends, perhaps you know of an organisation that would like her to speak

Of course, Lisa is hoping to spread the word that *Dementia Connections* needs committed volunteers who want to make a difference to someone suffering with Dementia in their local area. All volunteers will be offered training, on-going support and travel expenses and will be part of something really beneficial to local people.

Lisa would really appreciate your time and support; once up and running the *Dementia Connections* service will be reaching out to so many people in our local community who are currently isolated and suffering with a real lack of confidence.

You can contact Lisa at:
Lisa Swallow
SE Essex Coordinator - *Dementia Connections*
Age UK Essex
The White House
Kiln Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS1 1TF

T: 01268 751531
E: lisa.swallow@ageukessex.org.uk
W: www.ageukessex.org.uk

Night Shelter, Night Shelter -er - er

Winter may seem a long way off; even Autumn hasn't quite yet arrived. However the churches in the Southend & Leigh Circuit have committed themselves to providing overnight hospitality to the homeless in the Southend area on Saturday nights/Sunday mornings at our Chalkwell Park church. (Other churches in Southend will be providing similar hospitality on the other days in the week.)

Although providing shelter begins in the beginning of November a lot of work needs to be done beforehand to make sure that everything is in place and runs smoothly. We can be thankful that Chalkwell Park is where the homeless will be given accommodation because they did the same last year and so we can build on what we learned then. We also have a little team of volunteers who coordinate the different jobs.

This is the first of regular monthly bulletins which will keep you in touch with how the work progresses. We hope it will inspire you to remember our need for donations, financial support, prayers and above all volunteers.

With our prayers and best wishes for you all,

Christopher Reeve (overall coordinator)

It is important to understand that this is not a **Chalkwell** project, it is a **Circuit** project and all the Methodist churches in the Circuit are asked to make a contribution—preferably of time by ordinary members of the churches

Your prayers are asked

We remember in our thoughts and prayers -

Jack Law
Hugh Beehag
Ida Hearn
Marie Denny

Wyn Hodges
Sandra Hull
Gwenda Andrews

We continue to pray for all we know who are housebound or in Residential care, feeling unwell, lonely or depressed or recovering from operations.

May God's Blessings rest upon each one. Amen

Stewards' Corner

For this article I thought I would remind myself of the basic principles of being a Church Steward and so I had another look at the booklet "It's More Than Counting the Collection – Being a Church Steward" by Malcolm L Braddy (Methodist Publishing) © 2001.

Immediately it states that the book is not only for existing stewards to enable them to review and develop their work, but also for potential stewards, as they consider offering to serve and the gifts and graces that they could bring to the role. The Church Steward is a representative of the whole church, which is borne out by the fact the appointment is made at the General Church meeting where everyone can attend and contribute/vote, rather than at a Church Council meeting.

We adhere to the principle that a Steward should serve for a *maximum* of 6 years, **but** they can offer to serve for a shorter period, if they wish, An example of this is Sue who has agreed to reprise the role for a 2 year period on this occasion, which is absolutely fine. This is helpful for the other Stewards and Minister as it allows for more targeted succession planning.

The important attribute for any Church Steward is the ability to work within the team. No one is expected to do *everything*. Indeed, we have tried very hard to ensure that no job becomes the preserve of any one individual, but they are fairly assigned on a rota basis. For example, it is my turn to write this Steward's Corner article. But then for the next *Rochford Methodist* edition the job will pass to someone else on the team. Also, you will not be expected to count and bank the weekly collections all the time – there is a monthly rota for this, too.

Going back to the booklet it makes it clear that there must be the opportunity for the newly appointed Steward to talk with others about the job and begin to carry out the duties a little at time. No one becomes fully effective overnight and we all make mistakes, but we learn from these and move on.

It is a privilege to serve God's church as a Steward and as Sue's current tenure ceases next year, please prayerfully consider if you are being called into this role. Bryan or any of the current Stewards (Carole, Val, Sue and Mike) will be delighted to chat about this with you.

Mike Sims

Easy Bible Quiz - Matthew

1. Who is generally accepted to be the author of the gospel of Matthew?
2. Who told Joseph not to fear taking Mary as his wife?
3. Which ruler wanted the baby Jesus killed?
4. Who baptised Jesus?
5. What does Jesus say that the meek shall inherit?
6. What does Jesus say to do if your right hand causes you to sin?
7. What was Jesus talking about when he said you can't make one hair on your head black or white?
8. How should we practise charitable works, prayers and fasting?
9. Where was Matthew sitting when Jesus called him?
10. Which prophet did Jesus refer to when some of the Scribes and Pharisees asked for a sign?
11. What was the fate of the tares in the parable of the tares?
12. How many measures of flour were used to hide the leaven in the parable of the leaven?
13. Which disciple was told to catch a fish that would hold a coin in its mouth?
14. In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, why were some of the labourers unhappy with being paid only one penny?
15. What objects did the ten virgins take with them in the parable?
16. At the judgement, Jesus will separate the people like a shepherd separates the sheep and which other animals?
17. What did Judas do with the 30 pieces of silver that he was given to betray Jesus?
18. Other than putting a stone in front of Jesus' tomb, what measure was taken to guard the tomb?
19. What story were the soldiers told to tell to explain how Jesus disappeared from the tomb?
20. How many woes did Jesus pronounce on the Scribes and Pharisees in Matthew's gospel?

(Answers on Page 14)

HARP update

As a church, our members regularly donate food, clothing, and sometimes money to HARP to help them in their task of giving the homeless people in the area a helping hand to re-integrate with society. We know that what we give each week or two is gratefully received and used properly.

But HARP are about to expand their work and to integrate the Night Shelter side of their work with their Day Centre side in new premises. They have managed to raise enough funds to buy the old Darnley Hotel and, after conversion, it should open for business in December this year.

Renamed the 'Bradbury Centre' in recognition of a large donation from the Bradbury Trust, the building will provide 18 individual bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and a 'home' they can now access all day - with staff on hand to offer any help they need.

The accommodation will also provide more-private rooms for interviews, training facilities, good outdoor space and room for more engagement in communal activities. The larger dining room will enable HARP to increase the number of meals they can provide to feed 80 people a day.

If you want to be a part of this by donating items, even on an occasional basis, have a word with Val and she will be able to tell you what they need. With winter on its way, not only will they need food, but they will also need warm clothing and bedding, for example. It need not cost too much - for example, Aldi and Lidl have occasional 'specials' on good quality socks, underwear and outerwear which won't break the bank. Or if you have a budget in mind, you would be to give, say, twice as much clothing, for the same cost.

If you do not feel you can contribute in this way, please just pray.

Pray for:

- the building work at Darnley Hotel, that it finishes in time for it to open as the Bradbury Centre in December;
- the staff, both those being trained and those doing the training;
- and the homeless themselves as we approach winter.

Pray also for the Southend and Leigh Methodist Circuit participation in the overnight winter shelter at our Chalkwell Park church, for the cooks providing the hot meals and drinks, for the 'night watchmen' making sure the guests come to no harm, for those who just talk to the guests and show friendship. And pray for the people doing the same jobs in the other six churches (of all religions) on the other six nights of the week.

And pray for ourselves, thankful that we have homes we can call our own, that we have an income that allows us to clothe and feed ourselves, and that we have friends and families around us when we need help and support.

Have you seen your membership ticket?

Every year your pastoral visitor (or class leader) will give you your membership ticket. Signed by our minister at the time, and your class leader, it confirms that your membership of the Methodist Church of Great Britain is still recognised, not just in Rochford but across the whole of Methodism in Britain and abroad. The quote on the inside, by the way, is chosen by the current President of the Methodist Conference.

But have you ever looked inside it?

Have you ever bothered to read what it means to *be* a Methodist?

It's so easy to say thank you for this piece of folded card and then put it in a drawer, or on the side 'for later', or even (heaven forbid) throw it straight in the bin.

So, in case you don't have your card to hand, this article lists the points made—take note as we *will* be asking questions later!

The membership card says:

As a member of the Methodist Church I am called to:

worship within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer

learning and caring, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship

service, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world

evangelism, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

Quite a tough call!

And now the questions:

What, as a community within the Methodist Church in Rochford, can we all do to carry out our obligations of membership? Are we doing enough? Can we do better?

What if God had Voice Mail?

We have all learned to live with “voice mail” as a necessary (but frustrating) part of modern life. But have you wondered what would happen if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing this:

Thank you for calling My Father’s House. Please select one of the following options:

- Press 1 for Requests
- Press 2 for Thanksgiving
- Press 3 for Complaints
- Press 4 for All Other Enquiries.

I’m sorry, all of our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

- God, Press 1
- Jesus, Press 2
- The Holy Spirit, Press 3.

If you would like to hear King David sing a psalm while you are holding, please press 4.

To find out if a loved one has been assigned to Heaven, Press 5, enter his or her social security number, and then press the hash key. (If you get a negative response, try area code 666.)

For reservations at “My Father’s House,” please enter J-O-H-N followed by 3-1-6. For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and where Noah’s ark is, please wait until you arrive here.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow. This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again on Monday after 9:30am. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local pastor.

Thank God He doesn’t have voice mail and that He listens when we pray!



October

- 6 Win
- 13 Carole Glendenning
- 20 Val Dobbin
- 27 available

November

- 3 Sonia Worthington
- 10 available
- 17 Maureen Whalley
- 24 Judy Garner

You can see there are still a few gaps on the rota for these two months. If you wish to join in, please have a word with Margaret Rayner as soon as possible.



CLEANING ROTA



October

- 7 Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson,
- 14 Judy Garner, Rosie, Martin, Maureen Whalley, Sheila Webber
- 21 Dave & Val Dobbin,, Colin & Margaret Rayner
- 28 Bruce & Carole Glendenning, Sonia Worthington

November

- 2 Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson
- 9 Judy Garner, Rosie, Martin, Maureen Whalley, Sheila Webber
- 16 Dave & Val Dobbin,, Colin & Margaret Rayner
- 23 Bruce & Carole Glendenning, Sonia Worthington
- 30 Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson

It's up to each group to arrange how they organise themselves and some areas can be cleaned on Fridays, for example.

Bible Quiz Answers

(Quiz on page 9)

1. Matthew
Some scholars think it was an unknown author, using the gospel of Mark and other sources as a basis for the gospel of Matthew.
2. Angel of the Lord *Matt 1:20*
3. Herod *Matt 2:16*
4. John the Baptist *Matt 3:14*
5. The earth *Matt 5:5*
6. Cut it off *Matt 5:30*
7. Oaths *Matt 5:36*
- 8.. In secret *Matt 6:1-18*
Not like the Pharisees who made sure everyone knew what good works they were doing
9. In a tax booth *Matt 9:9*
'Receipt of custom' in the KJV
10. Jonah *Matt 12:38-39*
Referring to the three days and nights that Jonah has spent in the belly of the great fish.
11. Burnt *Matt 13:30*
12. Three *Matt 13:33*
13. Peter *Matt 17:24-27*
14. Some had worked less hours for the same pay *Matt 20:1-16*
'Such is the kingdom of heaven. Some may labour in the Lord's vineyard for longer, but the reward is the same.'
15. Lamps *Matt 25:1*
16. Goats *Matt 25:32*
17. Gave them back *Matt 27:3-4*
He threw them down in front of the chief priests and elders, and being tainted money they decided they couldn't put it in the treasury and so bought a field instead in which to bury strangers
18. Set a guard to watch *.Matt 27:65-66*
19. The disciples stole him *Matt 28:11-5*
20. Seven *Matt 23*
In Luke there are only six, but they do not occur at the same point in the narrative.

What goes on at Rochford Methodist Church?

Sunday

10.55 am	FJ Club
10.55 am	Morning Service
6.30 pm	Evening Service

Monday

2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship (Sept - May)
4.30 - 5.30 pm	<i>Urban Street 2</i>
7.00 - 9.00 pm	<i>Blossom on the Oasis.</i>

Tuesday

3.00 - 7.30 pm	Hildale School of Dancing **
8.00 pm	Wesley Guild (Oct-Apr)
8.00 - 9.00 pm	<i>Urban Street Dance</i> (Not when Guild or <i>Café Church</i> running)

Wednesday

4.30 - 6.30 pm	<i>Urban Street Dance</i>
7.00 - 10.00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous

Thursday

9.30 - 11.30	<i>Music Dreams</i> (for 0-2 years) **
3.45 - 7.30 pm	Hildale School of Dancing**
7.30 - 9.30 pm	Table Tennis

Friday

9.45 - 10.45am	<i>Diddi Dance</i> (pre-school dance classes for boys and girls)
6.45 - 7.45 pm	<i>Urban Street Dance</i>

Saturday

9.00 am - 2.00 pm	Hildale School of Dancing **
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The premises are available for use outside the above times. Contact Margaret Rayner on 544252 for more information.

**** Term time only**

And in addition . .

Two House Groups meet each month in a different place each time. One usually meets on the first Wednesday of the month and the other on the third. Look in the weekly notices for confirmation of the dates and venues.

Sunday Services

October

- 6th Jane Fulford (Parade Service)
No evening service
- 13th Rev Bryan Tolhurst
Family Day
- 20th Worship Leader (Theme: God's Creation)
Rev Bryan Tolhurst
- 27th **Guild Anniversary**
Brenda Gutberlet
Rev Diane Smith

November

- 3rd Rev Brian Gameson (S)
No evening service
- 10th **Remembrance Sunday**
(10.45) Val Windsor
Rev Diane Smith
- 17th Pam Smith (Café church)
No evening service
- 24th Kathy McCullough
Rev Bryan Tolhurst

Some of the preaching appointments above have been changed from the last Circuit Plan and are correct as at 25th September. Some appointments are still provisional.

Dates for your diary:

October

- 2 *Worship Academy*, Benfleet
- 6 6th Rochford Scouts church parade
- 13 *Pilgrims Way* Review
- 19 Circuit Prayer breakfast, *The Elms*, Leigh, 8.30am
- 26 Guild Supper
- 27 Guild Anniversary, with Rev Brenda.

November

- 6 *Worship Academy*, Benfleet
- 9 Church open for coffee and chat, 9-12
- 14 Church visit to SODS production of *Guys and Dolls*, Cliffs Pavilion
- 16 Church open for coffee and chat, 9-12
- 17 *Café Church* with Pam Smith, bring a friend!
- 23 *Church Bazaar*, in the church.

December

- 1 Advent service at St Andrew Ashingdon?
- 1 Gift Service for HARP
- 4 *Worship Academy*, Benfleet
- 15 Carol Service, 4pm
- 24 Christingle Service, 4pm
- 25 Christmas Morning service, Worship Leaders, 10.30

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(See Matthew 14:24-33)

08-05-2013

YOU'VE PROVEN YOU WON'T DROWN, JESUS,
BUT YOU STILL NEED TO SUIT UP AND
COMPLETE THE REQUESTED DRILLS BEFORE I
CAN PASS YOU

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Thanks to Janice Harrison

09-20-2013