

Southend & Leigh CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER



Autumn Edition 2024

Fourth 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



[Southend and Leigh Circuit Facebook Page](#)

[Southend and Leigh Circuit Website](#)





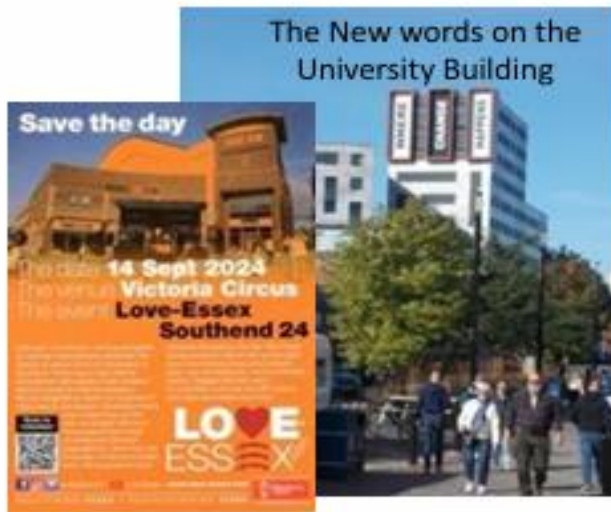
2nd September 2024



Welcome to
the Reverend Stephen Mayo!



Photos from the Love - Essex outreach event in the City of Southend on Sea. 14/09/24
Anne & Bob Briant



The New words on the University Building

It was a glorious day for this event, an early start though, setting up at 8am near the Odeon! I had been invited as the Guest Artist to share my work in a Gazebo, near 'New Look' store.



There was a main stage for speakers and musicians, the Christian Bikers parked up along with Street pastors, The Good News for everyone Gazebo and other stalls around the etched pavement area.

A Graffiti Artist painted live on the day.

What a great day of witness in our City and the 'Hug team' were there if anyone wanted a free hug! You missed a good day! Look out for next years event!



The 'Holy Spirit inspired Art' - Gazebo.



14 pieces to respond to by touch or viewing.

Each piece had an accompanying Bible text and questions for people to reflect on when looking at the pieces. They could take away postcards of the art pieces showing both the image and text. I had some conversations with people as they looked, and I heard personal stories which the art had reminded them of, needing peace, or the challenges in their lives. A real blessing to hear part of their story.



Crowds gathering /chatted to by the team



Flash mob Choir revealed



Circuit Calendar 2024/2025

OCTOBER

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

Sat 5th – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

Fri 11th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Sun 13th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7.30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Sat 26th – Matt Boulter concert at The Fishermen's Chapel, 7.30pm (part of our fundraising mini-concert series)

(<https://wegottickets.com/event/632299>)

Sat 26th – 7.30 pm, Elvis (Michael Glaysher) performs at Highlands Methodist Church. £10 (£5 students and Showstoppers).

(<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/michael-glaysher-as-elvis-tickets-1013443224967?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>)

NOVEMBER

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

Sun 3rd – UMC Shoeburyness Service of Farewell and Thanksgiving, 3pm, UMC Shoeburyness

Mon 4th – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

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

Sat 9th – West Weston Blues Band at The Fishermen's Chapel (part of our fundraising mini-concert series)

(<https://www.facebook.com/thefishermenschapel>)

Sun 10th – Remembrance Sunday

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

Mon 11th – Westerley Care Home 75th Anniversary, 11am-4pm

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

Fri 15th – Darren Jones concert at The Fishermen's Chapel (part of our fundraising mini-concert series)

(<https://www.facebook.com/thefishermenschapel>)

Mon 18th – Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm, Zoom

Mon 25th – Local Preachers Meeting, 7.30pm, Rayleigh Methodist Church

Wed 27th – Advent course beginning for 4 weeks at 2pm on Wednesdays Rev Heather and our interfaith minister Clive Johnson, Highlands Methodist Church.

DECEMBER

Wed 4th – Worship Academy, 7pm, Benfleet Methodist Church

Sat 7th – Circuit Prayer Breakfast, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

Sun 8th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7.30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Wed 11th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm

Sat 14th – “Crackers and Carols”, 3pm-5pm come and make crackers and sing some carols round the piano by candlelight (all age), The Fisherman's Chapel

Sun 15th – Carol Concert, 4pm, Highlands Methodist Church

Sun 22nd – Midwinter Carols with The Famous Potatoes and friends followed by Mulled “wine” and mince pies, 5pm, The Fisherman's Chapel

Tue 24th – Christmas Eve

Wed 25th – Christmas Day

JANUARY

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

Mon 6th – Epiphany

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

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

Tue 14th – CLT, 7.30pm, Zoom

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 - Tuesdays, 8pm
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 on Zoom - Tuesdays, 9am-10am
Toddlers - Mondays, 9.30am-11.30am



ROCHFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Cake and Kindness (Tea and homemade cakes) - Mondays, 2pm-3.30pm
Bible Studies - Tuesdays, 7pm
Prayer time on Zoom - Wednesdays, 7pm
Housegroup - 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, 12pm
(lunch afterward – booking required with office@tbmchurch.org)
Bible Study & Soup - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month
(booking required with office@tbmchurch.org)
Community Cafe - Wednesday, 10am-12pm



THUNDERSLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee Morning - Wednesdays (term-time), 9am-12noon
Coffee Morning - second Saturday of the month, 10am-12noon
Afternoon Club - Tuesday fortnightly, 2.30pm



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'Brew, Chew, Renew' (Bible Study with refreshments) - Fortnightly on Monday, 10.30am
Funtime Toddlers – Tuesday 12.30-2.30pm & Wednesday 9-11.30am (term time)
(at UMC Great Wakering site)
Home Group – Tuesdays, 7.30pm (contact office@umcsouthend.org.uk)



Circuit Prayer Diary October-December

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

OCTOBER

Mid-Week Prayer of Week 40 – Rev Agnes Sam and family
Prayer for Sunday 6th – Trinity Family Centre
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 41 – South Essex Circuit
Prayer for Sunday 13th – Church Treasurers and Finance Co-ordinators
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 42 – Anchored at Fishermen’s Chapel
Prayer for Sunday 20th – Action for Children
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 43 – Inspire at Wesley
Prayer for Sunday 27th – UMC Great Waking



NOVEMBER

Mid-Week Prayer of Week 44 – MIST Methodist Independent Schools Trust
Prayer for Sunday 3rd – UMC Shoeburyness
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 45 – Music Mentors
Prayer for Sunday 10th – Circuit Leadership Team
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 46 – Rev Heather Simmons and family
Prayer for Sunday 17th – Southend City Council, Councillors and Leaders
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 47 – Advent Courses
Prayer for Sunday 24th – Lettings Officers
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 48 – Circuit Officers



DECEMBER

Prayer for Sunday 1st – Circuit Finance Officer
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 49 – Southend Section
Prayer for Sunday 8th – Wesley Methodist Church
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 50 – Mindfulness at Fishermen’s Chapel
Prayer for Sunday 15th – Church Musicians and Organists
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 51 – Property and Maintenance Co-ordinators and Committees
Prayer for Sunday 22nd – Hospital Chaplains
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 52 – The Kindness Kitchens at Short Street / SVP
Prayer for Sunday 29th – Whittingham Mission Centre



Activities & Events at Wesley Methodist

Wesley Methodist Church 

Afternoon Tea, Cakes & Biscuits

2024 dates
Thursdays 2pm-4pm

25th April
30th May
27th June
25th July
August - Holiday
26th September
31st October
&
12th December



All are Welcome
Canteen Room | Wesley Methodist Church
Elm Road | Leigh-on-Sea

FUSION Youth & Kids



Help save our youth club for the local children!

We are in desperate need of volunteers to stay open.

Can you spare a couple of hours once a month?

We do not want to close but we may not have a choice without enough volunteers.

Please get in touch if you can help or want to know more
fusionyouth@btinternet.com
Judy 07504 492470 or Emma 07766 588877

Hello Friend,

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

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!

HOUSE GROUPS

A RANGE OF MIDWEEK MEETINGS
DAYTIME AND EVENING

Explore faith and Christianity in these informal groups.

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.

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP

MONDAYS
8PM

Welcoming all who love acting and/or working backstage.

MUSIC GROUP

SUNDAYS
DURING WORSHIP

Singers and musicians of all abilities welcome!

TALKING POETRY

WEDNESDAYS (FORTNIGHTLY)
2.30PM

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

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

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



Hope and Care in Essex Trinity Family Centre



For over a quarter of a century, Trinity Family Centre in Westcliff has been improving the quality of life for people of all ages, cultures and abilities. The centre reduces social isolation in this part of South Essex by building community and providing affordable facilities in a safe, friendly environment with a Christian ethos. Now a charity in its own right, the Trinity Family Centre remains a part of the Trinity Methodist Church that founded it.

The centre is located in a three-story building adjacent to the church. On the ground floor, the centre contains a catering kitchen, an activity space and community fridge along with a foodbank. The first floor contains an IT suite with computers and games, while the top floor offers an indoor sports space with room for drama and dance classes, basketball and even five-a-side football. The synergy of facilities at the Trinity Family Centre allows it to provide support for whatever stage of life visitors are at.

'POP In' (People on Pensions) is the group for older people to enjoy a home-cooked meal and find some company along with activities and a weekly quiz. 'Welcome In' is the parent and carer baby-and-toddler group that operates three mornings a week, while 'The Family Club' provides an affordable opportunity for families to spend quality time together with access to a range of games and sports with internet access in the computer suite. On a Tuesday we have our community cafe, where people can get a very affordable home-cooked main course and dessert. There are also weekly activities for adults with learning disabilities.

On average, 250 people use the centre each week. These days Trinity has six members of part-time staff and around 25 volunteers, with the service costing around £90,000 a year to operate. Running the centre as a separate charity from the church makes it easier to receive funding. Jacky Walton is treasurer for both the Family Centre and the church, "If the Centre were to hit financial problems and the church was responsible for funding us, we could take the church down as well and that's why it's vital that we are financially independent. But we are totally connected; the Trinity Family Centre and the church are like a married couple."

The Trinity Family Centre came about after the church kitchen was condemned and £360,000 was raised to remodel and update the church buildings. Lifts were installed, along with a catering kitchen and many new facilities but nobody knew what to do with the place after it had been improved.

Viv Robson is senior steward for the church and a founding trustee for the Trinity Family Center. She explained how the Centre came into being, "Jacky and I went to a stewards' meeting and were sitting outside when she said, 'I've got an idea we should open this church for the local community.' We printed some leaflets and advertised for people to bring their families for £1. Nobody came. The second week, three mothers arrived. And that's 26 years ago. All we offered then were hotdogs and burgers with serviettes. Life changed when we started to offer chips!"



The Trinity Family Centre developed to alleviate some of the issues families had with housing in the area explained Jacky, “We had parents come in with their families and many of them were living in flats with no outside space. The kids didn't have anywhere to go, they were hanging around the streets. The young ones didn't want to go to a conventional nursery as their parents couldn't afford it so we opened up a couple of mornings a week which then expanded to include an afterschool club. We've still got one of the original parents who came in; she brings her grandchildren now.

“They might not come to a Sunday service, but Trinity is part of a church and the fact that they come in here, means they don't feel threatened and are relaxed. There are some people we've known over the years who've had issues with churches, yet even they have gradually become at home here.”

Viv was keen that the Trinity Centre remained affordable, “One of the things from day one was that it's got to be cheap, we didn't want anyone not to be able to afford to come here. It started off as £1 a night and now it's £1.50. We could justifiably put the prices up, and some of those who make grants have suggested that we could, but that the remit has always been that it was affordable.”

There is also a shop run by the charity which serves two purposes. It generates income which is then ploughed back into the services provided by the Family Centre but perhaps more importantly is also a source of quality, low cost clothing and other items for the families and residents living in the area.

The Family Centre has a positive impact on the wellbeing of those people it serves. Margret attends POP In for those who are older and comes most Mondays. “It gets me out of the house, I mix with people and they are very friendly here. It is the one time of the week, I know that I will be meeting people and I get a good meal.”

John's wife recently died and he comes to the centre to find friendship, “I was walking past one day and I chatted to the chap who welcomes people and he invited me in. It is an enjoyable place, we have a laugh. Without the centre I would be stuck at home watching the TV.”



The Family Centre works alongside local organisations to provide the widest support. SECH (South Essex Community Hub) and the Family Centre work in partnership to provide the HAF program (Holidays, Activities, Food) for children and young people up to the age of 16. The HAF program provides activities and food during the school holidays, with 15 children and young people being fed over the recent half term. The pilot program was such a success that the centre will be running it again for four weeks during the summer holidays. The Centre has also worked alongside other local agencies such as Southend Association of Voluntary Services, Trustlinks and Southend University in the last few years.



Every Christmas free meals are provided to anyone in the community who wants to come along. This includes homeless people, senior citizens, families with children and increasingly people who would otherwise have been spending Christmas alone.

Deacon Sarah McDowall is one of the ministers at the church and has pastoral responsibility for the centre, “My role is to support the staff and the volunteers, as well as the service users that come in,” says Sarah.

“Great people come to the Family Centre. Many don't have anybody to talk to and my role is just to listen but I never tell anyone what they should do. I'm a Christian minister. Sometimes the conversations we have are really deep, and at other times just silly when we have a laugh.

Clients say to me that they're happy about the Christian setting, it's not threatening, it's safe.

“It's not just the clients who have seen their lives changed by their involvement with Trinity Family Centre, it's also the staff and volunteers. That's a testimony to how God works. People grow, because they've got that example that they're loved and they've all grown as people in the time we've known them.”

With thanks to the Methodist Church

Michael Ivatt, Senior Media Officer, and all the staff and volunteers at Trinity Methodist Church and Trinity Family Centre

The Experience Project

Activities and Events



Visit to Care Home for games session and activities



Sensory Healing Rooms for spiritual and mental wellbeing



Local school visits above, donation of food below



Summer Outdoor Activities



The Southend and Leigh Circuit would like to express their gratitude to the Benefact Trust who have grant-funded our Experience Project at the Whittingham Mission Centre.

Benefact Trust is one of the UK's largest grant-making charities and awarded more than £23 million to churches, charities and communities in 2020. Its funds come from its ownership of the Benefact Group.



BENEFACT TRUST

United Methodist Church hosted a Quiz and Barbeque in September. It was a fantastic day; pictures of the events are below:





UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
SHOEBURYNESS

*Service of Farewell
and Thanksgiving*

SUNDAY 3RD
NOVEMBER, 3PM



CELEBRATING AFTER 100 YEARS OF
WORSHIP AND PRAISE IN THE
COMMUNITY

ST ANDREW'S ROAD,
SHOEBURYNESS, SS3 9HX

Westerley, 1 Winton Avenue
Westcliff on Sea SS0 7QU

Let's Celebrate



LWPHomes
75th Anniversary

We invite you to celebrate 75 years of Christian
Care at Westerley Westcliff



NOVEMBER

11

Monday

11am – 4pm



Including a service led by the Methodist President of Conference,
entertainment and refreshments.

For more information about LWPHomes or to
Donate through Just Giving please scan the QR code

Hadleigh Methodist Church

Line Dancing Evening
with Fish and Chip
Supper!



Saturday 26 Oct

Dinner served at 6:30 p.m. followed
by an evening of line dancing

£12.00 per person

Tickets must be booked in advance

Contact Mike on 01702 551786 or
email

hadleighmethodist@outlook.com

Model Railway Exhibition



SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER 2024
OPEN 10.00 To 15.00 Hours
THUNDERSLEY METHODIST CHURCH
KENNINGTON AVENUE BENFLEET SS7 4BS

Entrance: Adults £4 Seniors/Students £3
Children Free

Features: 6 layouts including 16mm N.G. Live Steam,
Trade support (Plus Daughters) and, light
Refreshments

Exhibition in aid of Church funds, and its Community &
Charities support, with help from friends, Local clubs and
Societies to whom our thanks.

The Methodist Church – Registered Charity No. 1134248

Trinity Family Centre Westcliff, Southend-on-Sea SS0 7HL



Opening Times:

Monday: 09.30-11.30am Welcome In, Baby and Toddler Group Admission £1.50 plus snacks

12.30 – 16.00pm POP IN (People on Pensions) Admission £1.50 plus lunches

Tuesday: 09.30-11.30am Welcome In, Baby and Toddler Group

11.50am-1.15pm Eat In, Community Cafe-low cost home cooked meals. £5 for 2 course lunch, with tea/coffee.

15.30-18.30pm Family Club Admission £1.50

Wednesday: 09.30 - 12.00 Trinity Gems, a group for over 18's with special needs.

Friday: 09.30 - 12.00 Welcome In, Baby and Toddler Group Admission £1.50

We are one Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?>

Worship Academy 2024-2025

Season 12

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST,
SEPTEMBER & JANUARY

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH SS7 5LH

7 PM FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

8 PM WORSHIP & LEARNING

The Christian Calendar and Christmas

2nd October - The Christian Calendar
PAUL WOOD and IAN WORSFOLD

6th November - What is the Methodist Connexion
offering for Christmas?
RICHARD ARMIGER

4th December - Planning for Christmas Services
COLIN and CATHY TURNER and WORSHIP ACADEMY
SUPPORTERS

Easter

5th February - Holy week Scripture
DAVID CHAPMAN

5th March - What is the Methodist Connexion offering
for Easter?
JONATHAN DEAN

2nd April - Planning for Easter Services
BOB and ANNE BRIANT and WORSHIP ACADEMY
SUPPORTERS

Remembrance

7th May - Remembrance Scripture
MOSES AGYEM

4th June - Planning for Remembrance Services
JANE FULFORD and WORSHIP ACADEMY SUPPORTERS

2nd July - Fellowship, Feedback and Future Planning

WORSHIP ACADEMY SPECIAL - SATURDAY 14TH JUNE
MICHAELA YOUNGSON

At Highlands Methodist Church

www.southendandleighcircuit.org