



BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH
High Road South Benfleet SS7 5LH

Monthly Newsletter

FREE

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Visit the Church Website at www.benfleetmethodist.org.uk

JULY 2020

As you will be aware from the recent bulletin we will be re-opening the Church for Sunday morning worship as from Sunday 5th July and we look forward to welcoming you 'back home'. Our service and preaching schedule for **July and August** is as follows:-

JULY

5th	10.30am	"Action for Children" service lead by our Worship Leaders
12th	10.30am	Service lead by our Worship Leaders
*19th	11.00am	**Holy Communion service lead by Rev Chris Sandy
26th	10.30am	Service lead by Ms Susie King

AUGUST

2nd	10.30am	Service lead by Rev Clifford Newman
9th	10.30am	Service lead by Mrs Daniella Mayo
*16th	11.00am	** Holy Communion service lead by Rev Chris Sandy
23rd	10.30am	Details to be advised
30th	10.30am	Details to be advised

* the 'home' congregation for services lead by Rev Chris Sandy will include our friends from Thundersley and Trinity and for the purposes of continuity these services will commence at **11.00am**.

** The giving/receiving of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which would in any event be in a new non-contact format, is subject to the authority of the Methodist Church.

We give a warm welcome to visitors to our Church and we invite everyone to our Services of Worship. We ask visitors to introduce themselves to the Church Stewards

Your Stewards for these services are:

July 5 th : John and Vernon 12 th : Rosalind and Michael	19 th : Daisy and Vernon 26 th : John and Rosalind
August 2 nd : Michael and Daisy 9 th : Vernon and John	16 th : Rosalind and Michael 23 rd : Daisy and Vernon 30 th : John and Rosalind

OUR CHURCH HAS RE-OPENED FOR SERVICES

Our first service is on Sunday 5th July at 10.30am and in order that we can all feel confident in sharing worship together the management and property committees together with the stewards have, in line with current requirements, drawn up the following guidelines:-

- entry to and exit from the building will be via the front and rear automatic doors
- all internal doors will be open and remain open
- a one way system will operate for entry to and exit from the church itself
- entry will be via the Welcome Area
- exit will be via the single door to the corridor
- please aim to arrive 5/10 minutes before the commencement of the service ensuring that social distancing is maintained at all times
- seats in the church should be taken immediately on arrival
- the seating in the church has been set out to ensure social distancing
- provision has been made for couples/families to sit together
- seats should be occupied from the front first working back and a steward will direct you to your seat
- once the service is over please exit promptly starting with the front row with each successive row following at a safe distance

KINDLY NOTE

- for the safety of all, everyone is asked to wear a face mask/covering. Spare face masks will be available in case of need
- hand sanitizer will be available and should be used on entry to and exit from the church
- singing is not permitted during the service and there will be no organist
- all music/videos will be provided through the overhead projection system
- no water or other refreshments will be available but anyone who wishes can bring their own bottled water but must take it away with them afterwards
- access will be restricted to the church and the disabled toilets at the front and rear
- it is important that you try not to be late. Anyone arriving late might have to sit in the Welcome Area to avoid compromising social distancing.

These services will be live streamed through the church's Facebook page for those unable to attend in person. This will require you to open a Facebook account of your own if you don't already have one. You are merely required to have this facility; there is no need for you to build up a profile or be otherwise active on Facebook if

you don't want to; then all you need to do is click on the following link <https://www.facebook.com/715363898657469/posts> which will connect you.



Open for private prayer

Our Church re-opened its doors on Tuesday 16 June for anyone to come in for a time of private prayer or meditation. It was all very simple, peaceful and safe and it was good to see a few of our members, as was the case the following week.

But in addition to our own folk, it shows the Church is open to the outside world and who knows who will feel in need of going somewhere to be quiet and able to just sit and think?

It is every Tuesday from 10.00 am until 11.00 am.

SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Once we restart the Church Services there will not be an offertory as we have known in the past but there will be a plate by the exit for people to leave their regular envelopes in or to leave loose cash.

If you use the envelopes they will be processed in the normal way, if it's anonymous cash then it is suggested putting it in an envelope. If you Gift Aid you need to identify yourself. If you are not able to attend services just yet please hold on to the envelopes or cash until such time as you are able to come along, or give it to one of the stewards or church officers who will make sure it is dealt with.

We are very grateful for the continuing financial support for the Church during this period.



**Coffee Morning -
Saturday 11th July
11.00am - 1.00pm**



We are intending to resume coffee mornings on an occasional basis and will start off holding a BBQ on Saturday 11th July commencing at 11am. Weather permitting this will take place outside on the Church forecourt where we will have tables and chairs, socially distanced. It will be table service **ONLY**. In case of bad weather the coffee morning will be held in the Welcome Area but again it would be table service **ONLY**. On arrival please take a table and wait for your order to be taken. Please drop in for you lunch!



After being in hospital for two months Meg Parkyn's son, Ian, is now back in his own home. Ian would like to thank everybody for their prayers and good wishes. Meg and Linzi would also like to thank everybody for their support during this difficult and very worrying time. God Bless you all.

A very grateful thank you for all the cards and good wishes I received on my birthday in June. *Meg Parkyn*

WESLEY PRE-SCHOOL

We are open Monday and Tuesday from 9am to 1pm and Wednesday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. The entrance is via the rear Car Park in Hall Farm Road. We are inspected and approved by Ofsted. More details and information can be obtained by telephoning 07592 841634 during opening hours.



Some of you may remember joining us to see our granddaughter, Abbie, when she was a 'ballet girl' in Billy Elliot in the West End. During her 2 1/2 years in the show she was dropped by one of the miners and, although not evident at the time, suffered a lasting ankle injury. Abbie is now 22 and has just graduated from the Royal Academy of Dance in London with a 2:1 despite the fact that her injury prevented her from being able to perform one of the elements of her degree course. She will now remain at the RAD for a further year studying for a Post Graduate Certificate of Education. *Shelagh and John Stokes*



Having been delayed by the Coronavirus our move North to Tadcaster is fast becoming reality as we are now moving out on 24 June. We have really enjoyed our time at church as it's so friendly, so caring and the worship and singing so good. We have enjoyed the splendid Sunday meals and the great morning teas. We have met many lovely people and it has been a super experience to worship with you all. We have enjoyed the musical concerts, always very well sung and cheerfully performed. So we leave and head North with many very happy memories and wish you all everything of the best as we begin to emerge out of lockdown from this epidemic. Our new address is 19 Popple Well Springs, Leeds Road, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, LS24 9FG. God bless you all. **Fiona & Hugh Tucker.**

[Fiona and Hugh, we are very sorry indeed to see you go and wish you every happiness in your new home and surroundings. God bless you.]



Bob Howard is organising a '**SINGALONG**' every Monday at 1.30pm on ZOOM. If anyone would like to join him please would you let Marie Howard have your e-mail details so that she can send you the relevant link to join. Marie's e-mail address is: mariejessica@me.com . Have fun!



July Birthdays

Birthday wishes this month go to:
Diane Ubsdell (5th); Kikelomo Fadiya (13th); Mercy Banning (28th)
A very happy birthday to you all.



The June Circuit newsletter is now on the website:
There is lots of information and updates for everyone. To access the newsletter please use the following link:

<https://www.southendandleigh.org/circuit-newsletter.html>

BENFLEET HORTICULTURAL CENTENARY 2020

Did you see the local paper last week with a double page spread on the Benfleet Horticultural Society?

Do you recognise any of the people?

Answers below



Top left – Hazel Cade and Alice
Bottom left – Pat Delroyd
Top right – Val Windsor
Bottom right – Olive Budd

Answers

The Methodist Recorder, not always the most exciting journal in the world, ran a competition for the best limericks to be submitted. The results were announced and are shown below. I submitted three which came nowhere but I share them with you anyway!
Richard Reeves

FIRST PLACE

There was once a minister from Leeds
Who preached from a high-slung trapeze.
"The Gospel's profession
Requires Fresh Expression"
She opined as she swung in the breeze.

Mark Mallett, Nailsea

THIRD PLACE

The blossom has burst on the tree
I'm watching a visiting bee,
A butterfly settles
On pink and white petals,
This beauty God-given for me.

Susan Thornton, Steaford



SECOND PLACE

I've ambled through heather and gorse,
Picked my way over rough roads, of course;
Carried books in a pack
For the man on my back:
I'm John Wesley's long-suffering horse.

David Sharp, Nailsea



A hymn writer called Charlie Wesley
Wrote hymns in the style of Presley
Oh well, a-bless-a my soul what's wrong with me
I've written a hymn called "And can it be"
Ah-ha ha, ha ha – in the vestry.

(This is best sung in the style of Elvis)

A rather young Methodist Minister
Thought of ways he could use to administer
His churches you see
But he found CPD
Was a tome altogether too sinister?

A probationer at the beginning
Excited for souls to be winning
To bring them to God
But he found at Synod
There's rather more nodding than sinning



DESERT ISLAND DISCS
By Stella Holden

DESERT ISLAND DISCS COMES TO BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH!

Our thanks go to Stella who has shared with us her own personal Desert Island Discs with us, especially during the present climate when it is practically impossible to get away anywhere at the moment, never mind a personal desert island! Please do let me know if you would like to take part in this - just let Daisy know if you are interested and we can have a chat. We would love to hear from you. Thank you in advance – Ruth.

I have chosen particular pieces of music which somehow reflect different stages of my life from childhood to the present day.

1. 'Bless This House' Bryn Terfel

My Mum used to sing hymns and popular songs around the house. This reminds me of her.

2. 'This Is My Island in The Sun' Harry Belafonte

Dad had a collection of records which we listened to and this was one of his favourites. I accidentally dropped it and broke it!

3. 'The Girl with the Flaxen Hair' Claude Debussy

This was one of many classical pieces that I was introduced to when I went from primary to grammar school.

4. 'Bachelor Boy' Cliff Richard

I couldn't have a list of favourites without including dear old Cliff!

5. 'Lady In Red' Chris de Burgh

This is mine and Alan's song; it brings back memories of a lovely anniversary weekend in Windsor. We heard Chris de Burgh singing it at a concert in the Botanic Gardens on our first trip to Singapore.

6. 'When A Child Is Born' Johnny Mathis

September 1976 was when I first heard this song. I was in the back of the car, returning home from hospital with my new baby daughter, Anita, in my arms. It still makes me cry!

7. 'Empty Chairs at Empty Tables' Michael Ball, from 'Les Miserables'.

We love going to the theatre in London and 'Les Mis' is our favourite of the musicals. I always enjoy this particular song.

8. 'The Lord Bless You And Keep You' Ruth Dorrington and Janice Gray

This was played at both my Mum's and my sister's funerals; I love it.

Favourite book: I have always been an avid reader and have many favourites. Since I would rarely re-read a book I find it a challenge to choose; I would have to go back to one of the first novels I remember to have made an impression on me - 'A tale of two cities' by Charles Dickens

Favourite Bible passage: It would have to be from Psalm 23; I just love the reassurance of the words in verse 3 - "He restores my soul".

Luxury item: I have rekindled my love of jigsaws in the current lockdown; a large supply of them would keep me engrossed for a long time in lockdown on my desert island.

Past Desert Island Disc participants

2019 Feb – Ruth Dorrington, Mar – Shelagh Stokes, Apr– Doreen Bartlett, May – Vernon Murray, June – Diane Norton, July – John Stokes, Aug – Susan Downer, Sept – Richard Reeves, Oct – Christine Horton, Nov – Martine Stemerick and Dec – Julie Turner

2020 Feb – Joan Simpson, Mar – Janice Gray, Apr – Rosemarie Francis, May – Peter Wicken, June – Rob Gray



PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE
WHO ARE IN NEED OF YOUR
PRAYERS AT THIS TIME

- Ian Parkyn, Mary Hopkins and Russ Elliott for their continued recovery.
- All who continue to isolate or shield at home who may be experiencing loneliness.
- Let us also remember our own families, friends, church families and front-line services in our daily prayers. May God be with us all and guide us safely through this extremely difficult time. Amen.

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Here are the answers to last month's 'Body' quiz:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Dope (for smoking!) | - | Joint |
| 2. Red Indian trophy | - | Scalp |
| 3. Impertinence | - | Cheek |
| 4. Place to cry on | - | Shoulder |
| 5. Kiss and cuddle | - | Neck |
| 6. The top of a hill | - | Brow |
| 7. The way soldiers march | - | Instep |
| 8. Amusing bone | - | Humerus (or funny bone) |
| 9. Somewhat conceited | - | Vein |
| 10. Several university men | - | Tendons |
| 11. Used by an artist | - | Palate |
| 12. Path by a canal | - | Toe |
| 13. Place of worship | - | Temple |

- 14. Those not in favour - Nose
- 15. Small hollow - Dimple
- 16. Support - Back
- 17. Lentil or pea seed - Pulse
- 18. Found in hedgerows - Hips
- 19. Tease - Rib
- 20. Top of glass of beer - Head



No more after this one, I promise! ‘Guess the Sweets and Chocolates’ – for example: Puzzling questions in the Mall? Answer: Maltesers (Mmmm....not sure about that one!)

- 1. Wobbly infants.....
- 2. Fallen fruits.....
- 3. Wiseguys.....
- 4. Where refined people live.....
- 5. Nine, ten, eleven etc.....
- 6. Occult perhaps.....
- 7. Edible fasteners.....
- 8. Home for alcoholic teeth.....
- 9. Sport of princes.....
- 10. A carrier for dairy produce.....
- 11. Tartan granite.....
- 12. Seen at a racecourse.....
- 13. Mothers local.....
- 14. Like toast or autumn leaves.....
- 15. Bovine peepers.....
- 16. Royal herb.....
- 17. Single snowy deposit.....
- 18. All sorts of girls.....
- 19. Popular London transport.....
- 20. Big cats club.....
- 21. Lots of parties.....
- 22. Equip feline.....
- 23. Nutty punishment.....
- 24. Reward.....
- 25. Roadway to the stars.....
- 26. Members only.....
- 27. Eastern promise.....
- 28. 100% metal.....
- 29. Dogs banned.....

Our current Church Stewards are:

Vernon Murray	07850 673478 vernon.murray@charlesderby.com
John Stokes	01268 750532 johnstokes660@yahoo.com
Daisy Humphreys	01268 565452 daisy.osborne66@tiscali.co.uk
Michael Otchere	07950 955790 michaelotchere22@outlook.com
Peter Wicken	01268 964906 linwicken@gmail.com
Marie Howard	07753 609158 mariejessica@me.com
Rosalind Klass	07748 323832 rosalindk@healthandsafetyclick.net
Kike Fadiya	07545 268313 kikefadiya@yahoo.com

and can be contacted in the absence of the Minister

There are three telephone lines at the Church and the numbers are –
The Church Office (although it is not always manned) (01268) 750571
Pre-School 07592 841634
First floor facilities (Counselling Suite) (01268) 792083

**Car Parking at
Benfleet Methodist Church**

There are some spaces at the rear of the Church off Hall Farm Road, SS7 5JR.

There is also limited parking at the front of the Church primarily for 'blue badge' holders and those with mobility difficulties.

There is a large public car park off School Lane, SS7 1NS at the bottom of Essex Way. Parking is free in the evenings but daily charges apply from Monday to Sunday. Then it is a short walk along the High Road to the Church.

There are some parking bays in the High Road but watch the one hour restriction (except on Sundays). There is no street parking in the vicinity of the Church (Monday to Friday) between 11am and 12 noon.

The **August** edition of our Newsletter will be available by **Sunday 26th July**.

All material should be with the Editor by **Wednesday 15th July**, please.

Copy can be left in the letter rack or e-mailed to daisy.osborne66@tiscali.co.uk .

Remember that the Newsletter can be e-mailed to you so that you have your copy earlier than its general availability. Please let the Editor have your e-mail address and leave the rest to us.

And finally....I couldn't resist including this.....

Flight of fancy . . . Qantas Airlines: Repairs

(It takes a college degree to fly a plane but only a high school diploma to fix one)

After every flight, Qantas pilots fill out a form, called a 'Gripe Sheet' which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the Gripe Sheets before the next flight.

Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humour!

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Qantas pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded by maintenance engineers (marked with an S).

P: Left inside main tyre almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tyre.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what friction locks are for.

P: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.

S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny..... (I love this one!)

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.

S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed.

DATA PROTECTION

**TO COMPLY WITH CURRENT DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS WE WOULD ASK
THAT YOU PLEASE DISPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER RESPONSIBLY WHEN YOU
HAVE FINISHED WITH IT.
THANK YOU.**