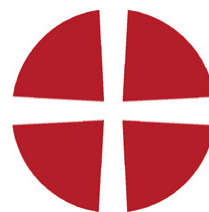


Upminster
Methodist Church



Newsletter
April 2019

About the Methodist Church



The Methodist Church is one of the largest Christian churches serving Great Britain, with nearly 209,000 members and regular contact with 800,000 people.

It has 4,812 churches in Great Britain, and also maintains links with other Methodist churches with a worldwide total membership of over 80 million.

Its activities, both alone and with ecumenical and secular partners, are based on four aims known as ***Our Calling:***

To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

To help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care

To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

To make more followers of Jesus Christ

Easter Prayer

This prayer has been written by the Revd Michaela Youngson.

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.



Contemplative Worship

Upminster Methodist Church

Are you seeking to explore your spirituality and an alternative way to worship?

At Upminster Methodist church Revd. Jason Vinyard will be leading Christian Contemplative Worship on the third Sunday evening of each month from 6.30pm

This is a forty five minute Contemplative Service, with tea, coffee or hot chocolate served afterwards, for those wanting to stay and reflect



If you are interested and would like to find out more please have a look at the website www.upminstermethodistchurch.org or contact Revd. Jason Vinyard by phone 01708 223568 or by email revjcvinyard@gmail.com



So there I was, a young horticultural student, standing next to a plant identification bench in a horticultural college. I had to identify 40 different twigs – giving their full names: the ‘common’ English **and** the Latin names – and in the Latin, to include their family genus and cultivar! It was February.

Therefore, the ‘twigs’ had no leaves. [Just so you know, it is often *much easier* to identify a tree using its buds, the colouring, marking and texture of the bark, rather than its leaves].

I knew them all – but not quite how to pronounce the ‘Latin’. I stood by the ‘Hornbeam’ and said, “Carpinus Betulus - Hornbeam”. Unfortunately for me, but to the amusement of those with me, I had phonetically pronounced it “Car- Penis Bet-u-less – Horn-beam”.

Whoops – and if you read last month’s letter – that’s whoops again!

At first I wasn’t sure why fellow students began to giggle nor why some even had red faces! So, I repeated it! “Car-penis Bet-u – less – it’s a common Horn-beam!!

Afterwards, John, my tutor – [formerly the manager of the glasshouses at the Royal Edinburgh Botanical Gardens], gave me a little book titled, ‘PLANT NAMES SIMPLIFIED. Their Pronunciation Derivation & Meaning’. It proved invaluable!! I turned the pages to look up ‘Car-penis’, only to discover the ‘proper’ pronunciation was ‘Carpinus, kar –pine – us: ancient Latin name for Hornbeam. *If only I’d had that book beforehand!!* I pored over the whole book and learnt my pronunciations!

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As I reflected, I came to understand more and more, that having an Italian Mother, who lived in Germany for many years and taught me to 'speak' and 'write' 'English' [and with a very 'German' style of sentence construction that does not work with English grammar, coupled with an 'Italian's' enthusiasm in expression] well, let's just say, it's certainly had its joys and frustrations over the years!

I am sure you will be heartened to know that in Suffolk, over the years, I built a 'fearsome' reputation as one of the best landscapers, competent plantsman and trusted nurseryman with a second to none knowledge of Latin plant pronunciations! I even designed, built from scratch and managed a 10-acre garden nursery. All the ordering had to be in Latin. This is not 'snobbery'. It's because, for example, a *Crataegus Monogyma* [Kra-te-gus mon-o-jin-a] can be called a 'Hawthorn' down south, or 'Quickthorn' or 'Mayflower' up north. So in the industry, we ALL stick to the Latin, especially when ordering from the Netherlands as they call a 'Hawthorn' something else! We all sing from the same hymn sheet as it were – sticking to the Latin means you get the trees you actually ordered! [There's actually a whole lot more to it, but I won't bore you with that here!]

My point? This is my final letter before my Sabbatical in May, June and July. My brother seems to think 'Sabbatical' means that I will drink lots of coffee, sleep loads, rest and sit in the garden for three months doing nothing [Sabbath?]. 'Sabbatical', however, in Methodist Connexional nuance, isn't quite that! I will be taking a 'creative writing' course; travelling to and fro between the UK and Italy discovering my roots and my cousin's 'sacred art' in many churches in Rome; working with my Spiritual Director; attending retreats; creating a 'piece of garden art' for either the Chelsea Flower Show or a Methodist premises and journaling the whole three months [okay, I hear you, sounds like a holiday!].

We may not all have the same name for a 'Hawthorn' or, pronounce plant names with unified phrasing & accent. Nor will we all agree as to what a 'Sabbatical' is. However, at a time when climate change really is having a noticeable impact; politicians argue over what leaving the European Union actually means; and cutbacks really are impacting on our social fabric and public services, as people of faith we **do** have a common language and understanding. For no matter what accent or dialect we speak with we are united in living and proclaiming the message spoken by Jesus '*Love your neighbour as yourself*'

My love and prayers. See you in August!!

CHURCH KEYS

The security and safeguarding of our premises depends on good control of the access keys and fobs. We currently have 77 keys / fobs issued, which is more than at any time since the new system was installed.

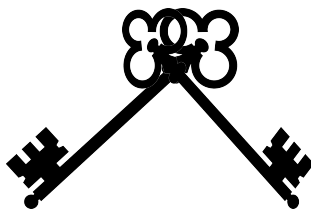
Whilst all keys were, and continue to be, issued only for valid reasons, unfortunately there is a tendency that when people relinquish the role for which the key was issued, they may not return them.

I have spoken to some people and know that they now have other justified reasons for having a key / fob and have amended the records accordingly.

However, if you have a church key and / or fob, please can you consider whether you still require this and if you no longer carry out the role for which it was issued, please either return the key, or speak to me to explain why you still need it.

Thank you.

Peter Caton



MESSY CHURCH – MARCH 2019

Another fun packed Messy Church was enjoyed by about 30 children and their parents with the theme this time being 'Creation'.

We started with the usual tables games and socialising, before a short reminder of the Creation story and then headed into the Wesley Hall for the most popular part of the morning the crafts and activities.

This month based on the theme the children could;

- decorate a plant pot and plant a sunflower seed to take home,
- decorate a jam jar and fill it with water, sand and a plastic fish,
- they could look at a world map and mark places they had visited or have family living, - using empty plastic bottles they started to create a greenhouse construction,
- they made a rainbow mobile with the sun, moon, stars,
- making a cookie was very popular and once cooked they didn't last long,
- an activity to make holes in a piece of black paper like the stars which was placed on a light box to show the light through the holes was very effective and popular with the older children,
- and the final activity was resting on the bean bags and chilling or reading a variety of different children's bible books that were available.

Most children take part in all activities and there is also a play mat available for younger siblings that attend.



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The morning then took us into the Church, for some singing, a more detailed recap of The Creation story in which all the children became involved holding the many props we had, followed by a prayer and more singing.

The end of the morning always involves sharing a meal together and this time we enjoyed sandwiches and fruit. This is a lovely time to chat and get to know the families that are attending, all the families had been to previous Messy Church events so we are gradually getting to know each other.

Thanks go to all the helpers who ran craft activities or helped prepare lunch. We are always looking for more helpers, maybe you just enjoy chatting with people in which case you would be welcome to come and share lunch with us after the morning service, or perhaps you would like to be part of a welcome group for the early part of the morning. Please speak to Sarah if you would like to help in any way - our next Messy Church takes place during the school Easter holidays on Monday 15 April at 10am.



*Thank
You*

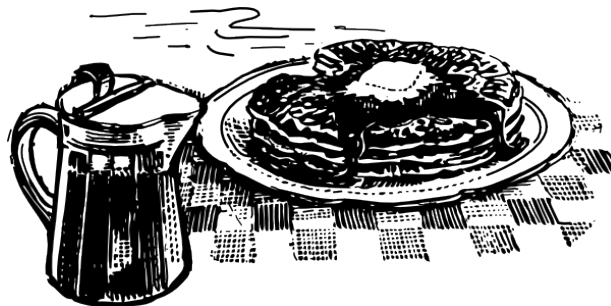
Pancake and Coffee Morning Day

The Ladies of the Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who supported us on Saturday 9th March.

We had a good morning which I think was enjoyed by all and raised £240.00 for Methodist Missions at the same time.

A very big thank you to all those ladies who both cooked and served the Pancakes made the Tea & Coffee did the washing up, made and sold cakes and Bria a Brac.

Without them we could not carry on.





UPMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH - EGG HUNT

Egg Hunt: Monday 8th April to Tuesday 23rd April

To join in the Egg hunt, all you have to do is find the numbered eggs that are in the shop windows and note down the information that is on them as you go around Upminster.

There are 14 eggs to look for, and each one has a different number and different letter

When you have worked out what the sentence is, you can write it at the bottom of the game sheet

Forms are available from our website or from the back of the Church

Example: - the egg will look like this and it will have a number at the top and letter below



Completed Egg hunt forms should be returned to Sarah Harris at Upminster Methodist Church and upon receipt you will receive a prize

Come and
join us for:



Activities

Songs

Food

Crafts

Games

Stories

Monday 15th April

10am-12.30pm

For children

AND parents/carers

Please sign up if possible

01708 222278

07511377351

sarahupminstermc@gmail.com

JMA COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday 11th May we will be holding a Coffee morning for JMA from 10.00am – 12 noon

We will be serving coffee, tea and cakes for £1. There will also be a cake stall, books and bric-a-brac.

Please keep this date in mind and come along. Any items towards the stalls would be appreciated.

Thank-you
Jenny Smy JMA Co-ordinator



LIFEPATH SCHOOLS EVENT

Lifepath is an ecumenical schools event hosted at Upminster Methodist Church and planned by all the Churches involved.

Lifepath is a local schools event running this year with 2 different schools on Wednesday 12th June and Thursday 13th June from 9am to 2.30pm. The children come to Church all day and take part in five different workshops finishing with a time of reflection before they make their way back to school.

It is usually attended by year 6 children and they have a great time exploring how famous Christians live.

Any help you are able to offer on any of the days would be gratefully received, we need a number of helpers for the day and it is always a great event working with other Churches in the area.

Sarah Harris
Children's and Family Worker

A VISIT TO A METHODIST HOME

I recently had an opportunity of visiting and being shown around a Methodist Home for the Aged. The home is in Dovercourt, Essex and comprised a residential home and a block of flats.

The present residential home was opened in 2011 and replaced an older building. The complex is situated on the sea front. The main building has two units – a dementia care unit and a residential unit.

The dementia care unit is situated on the ground floor and entry and exit is controlled by a digital lock on the front door of the building and a further digital lock to the actual unit.

There are 14 rooms in the unit. Each room is large and has a large bathroom, a bed, armchair and storage units. Residents may also bring small pieces of personal furniture from their homes. Each room has a large window overlooking the gardens which surround the building. A lovely touch is that each resident has his/her name and photograph on their door. It is the personal touches that matter here.

There are a further 35 similar rooms on the second and third floors for the other residents. On these floors there are large community rooms where residents can meet for social events, services etc. The dining room has tables for four or six persons serving three cooked meals each day; menus are varied and special diets are catered for.

There are also a number of smaller rooms if anybody wishes to play board games etc.

There were also two bathrooms with high tec baths and facilities for residents who are unable to use conventional baths/showers.

The whole building is centrally heated, the corridors are wide with high ceilings and decorated with pictures and prints of the 1960's and 1970's and painted in light colours. A lift connects all the upper floors.

I was very impressed with the accommodation and the facilities and the whole interior was bright, fresh and clean.

All the staff were cheerful, always smiling and attentive if anybody needed help. The home has a number of outside helpers. Music is a great therapy for those with dementia and a young woman comes in several days a week to work either with individuals or small groups. Another woman brings in her dogs for all the residents to make a fuss of. From the notice board there are many meetings, services and events for all to enjoy.

The old residential home has been converted into self contained flats which can be purchased or rented. The staff in the main building also 'keep an eye' on these residents, who can also take meals in the dining room and enjoy the socials in the main building.

Overall I was very impressed with everything I saw and I feel as Methodists we can be very proud that our church is providing such a marvellous service.

Frank Baker, Romford Circuit MHA representative

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

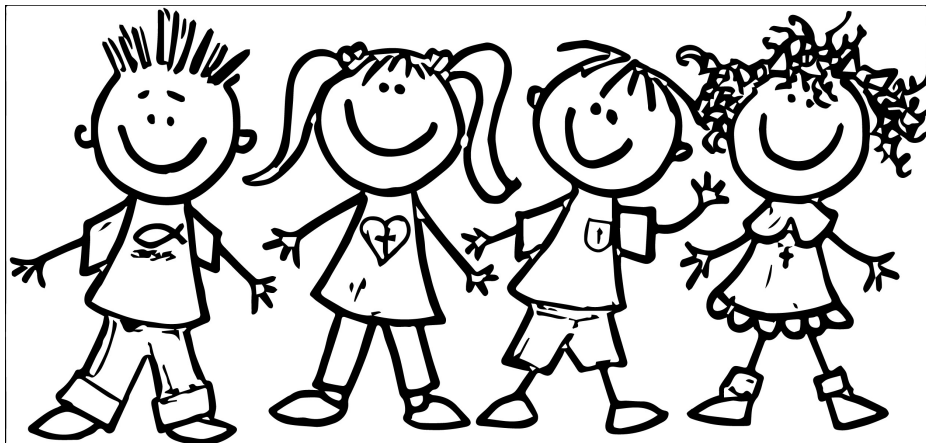
The stewards would like to thank Linda Milton and Judith Evans for offering to join the Stewards Team. They will be 'learning the ropes' alongside existing stewards over the next few months.

However, three of us (Peter, Judith R, Judith H,) are 'retiring', although we have agreed to continue until after Jason's sabbatical.

This means that we do still need volunteers for this role. Please consider whether this is something that you might be able to do.

The existing team has a range of time availability and talents, enabling us to share out tasks; Sunday service stewarding is on a rota basis, so you don't have to be present every week – nor be able to do everything that might come under our remit (which seems to vary from year to year anyway!).

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At the AGM, we thanked a number of people who have decided to stand down from roles which they have often held for a long time; we are very grateful for all they have done: Vera (Organist & Choir leader); Brian (Property Steward), Sylvia (Worship Consultation Secretary), Colin (Lead Communion Steward) and Mary (Church Council Secretary); June D (representative to the Circuit Meeting).

Mary has kindly agreed to become Secretary to the Worship Consultation group and Femi to the Church Council – thank you. Whilst others have agreed to take on different aspects of the Property Steward's role, we do not have one named person for this, nor anyone to become Treasurer when David finishes in August.

Further details of these roles can be found in the AGM Report which was circulated electronically and in paper form during March. As someone noted at the meeting 'I never realised that there was so much going on, involving so much'.

We want to be able to carry on and to expand the work of Upminster Methodist Church; the next few years will almost inevitably bring significant change and challenges and we need your involvement – please carefully consider how you can help.

The Stewards



The Wesley Players present

The 39 Steps

By John Buchan



Based on the classic novel by John Buchan and the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock thriller, the Wesley Players present “The 39 Steps”.

The plot finds our hero, Richard Hannay embroiled in espionage and a false accusation of murder. In a desperate attempt to prove his innocence, our hero escapes and finds himself on the run from dastardly murderers, double-crossing secret agents and a succession of hair raising escapades. The action includes an on stage plane crash, a death defying escape from the The Flying Scotsman over the Forth Bridge, handcuffs, missing fingers and some good old fashioned romance!

With only 4 actors playing multiple roles this is a fast paced and action packed adaption of one of the most famous spy novels ever written.

Prices: £7 for Adults, £5.50 for Concessions and £3.50 for Children (under 16). As usual, Senior Citizens are admitted free to the Thursday & Friday evening shows.

Tickets will be available on the door or may be booked in advance via the Box Office (text only) 07708 214742 or email tickets@wesley-players.co.uk.

Performances: are at 8.00pm on Thursday 16th, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May 2019.

Location: Wesley Hall, Upminster Methodist Church, Hall Lane (next to 10 Hall Lane Dental Practice), Upminster, Essex. RM14 1AE.

EASTER SERVICE DATES

14th April: Palm Sunday

18th April 8 pm at UMC Maundy Thursday Service

19th April Good Friday Procession & service at Corbets Tey road playing field. **Coffee at UMC from 9.30 am.**

21st April Easter Sunday

10.00 am Family & Communion Service

6.30 pm Lection Divina service.

(Please note that there will be no 8.00 a.m. service or Easter Breakfast this year)

More information will be publicised in the weekly Notices as and when available.



Newsletter – *The next newsletter will be the May issue. Please forward material to Allyson Hill by the 15th April.*

The newsletter email address is
upminster.newsletter@gmail.com

If you would like to receive the monthly Newsletter by email please place your request via the email address above.

The views expressed in articles in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editor, minister or officers of the church.

Weekly Notices - Items for the weekly Notices sheet should be sent to **upmethodistchurch@btinternet.com** or pass to Allyson Hill

If you would like the weekly Notice sheet emailed please email Allyson Hill

METHODIST BLOG

If you wish to read the President and Vice President's blog on a regular basis, please go to the Methodist Church website at **www.methodist.org.uk** and there you will be able to follow the links on a regular basis.

You may find other articles of interest too on a weekly/monthly basis.



Our Church Flowers



FLOWER ROTA

	Provider	Arranged by
April 7 th	Julie & Ian Leadley	Judith Hall
14 th	-	June Dutton
21 st	-	Sheila Toon
28 th	-	Jenny Smy

Thank you to Julie and Ian for providing flowers for the 7th.

You will see that we have only one Sunday this month where flowers are being provided. My plea is could you please consider donating to the flower fund. Not only have we spaces this month but also another ten Sundays for the rest of the year to date. Please, please could you consider this. I am in Church most Sundays or kindly speak with a Church Steward. Thank you very much.

Chris Hughes



Upminster Methodist Church Weekly Activities

If you have a date or activity you wish to add, please let the editor know at upminster.newsletter@gmail.com



Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.00am – 11.00am



Gateway Tea, coffee and chat

Monday and Wednesday 10.00am – 12 noon



Choir and Band Practice

Fridays and Saturdays as announced
7.30pm

Adult Badminton

Thursdays 8pm – 9.30pm

All abilities welcome



Wesley Players

Mondays 8.00pm



Patchwork Group

Mondays 1pm





Tots and Co

Tuesdays in term time
9.30am – 11.30am

Uniformed Groups

Mondays	5.00pm	Rainbows
	6.15pm	Brownies
	7.15pm	Guides and Rangers
Wednesdays	6.30pm	Cub Scouts
Thursdays	6.00pm	Beaver Scouts
Fridays	7.30pm	Scouts



SUNDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 2019

7th

10.00am: Penny Masters

6.30pm: Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion

14th

10.00am: Revd. Jason Vinyard – All Age Worship and Parade

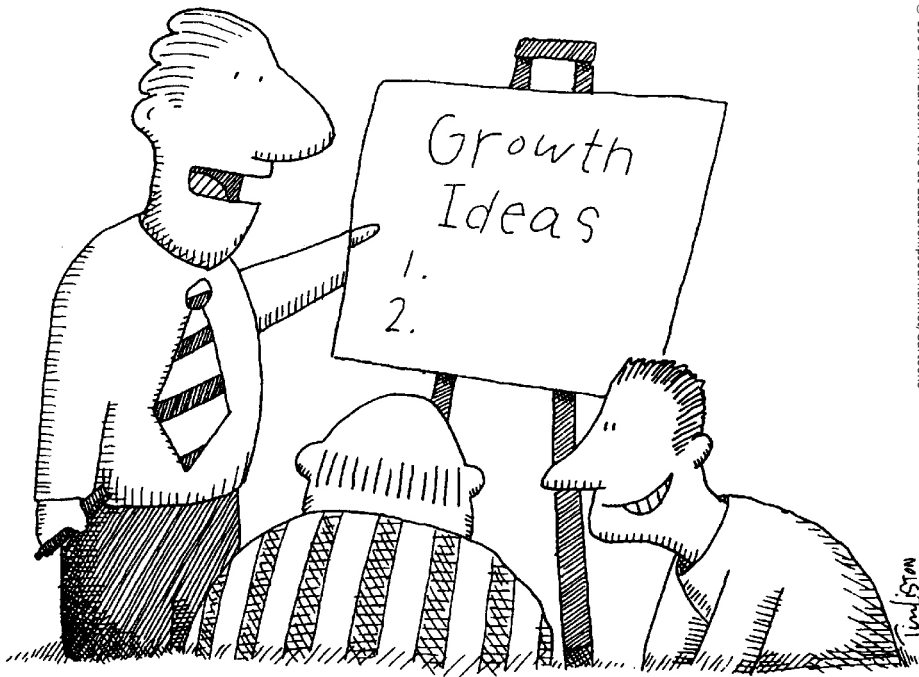
21st

10.00am: Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion and Baptism

6.30pm: Revd. Jason Vinyard – Lection Divina

28th

10.00am: Mrs Joan Pugsley



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"Besides calling every Sunday 'Easter,' does anyone else have ideas for improving church attendance?"