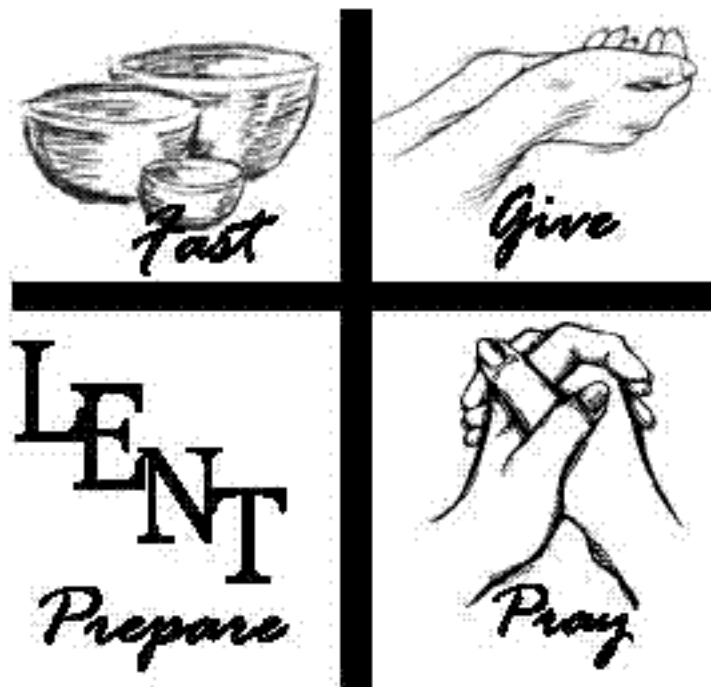
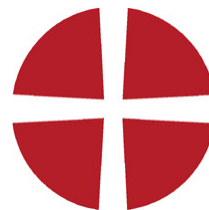


Upminster
Methodist Church



Newsletter
February 2018

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

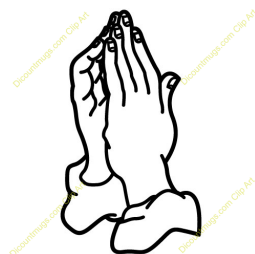
To make more followers of Jesus Christ

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. **Amen**



Contemplative Worship

Upminster Methodist Church

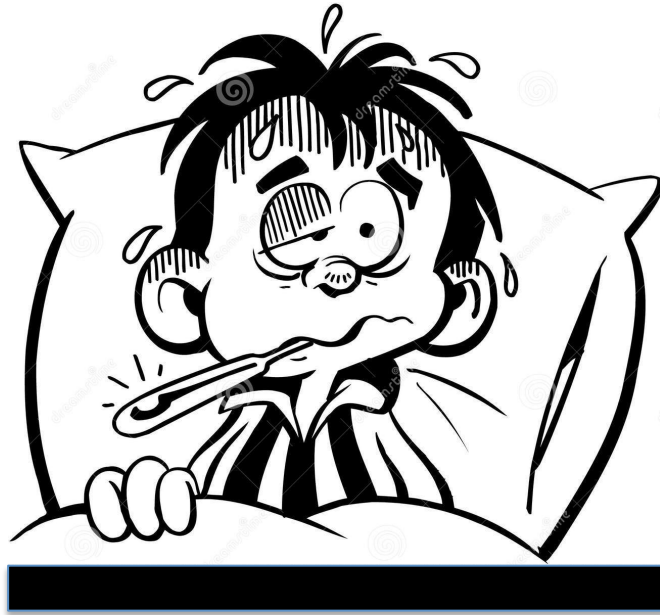
Are you seeking to explore your spirituality and an alternative way to worship?

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



Unfortunately, Jason is quite poorly at the moment and is not well enough to put together his article for this month.

We wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he will be up and about very soon.

God Bless you Jason

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant Jason., that his weakness may be banished and his strength restored; and that, his health being renewed, he may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FAMILY NEWS

We send our thoughts, good wishes and prayers to Keith Jefferies and family and wish Keith a speedy recovery from his illness.

Vera Richards, who is at present convalescing in King George's Hospital after her recent illness just before Christmas. We send our thoughts and prayers to her and her family.



To all of you, especially those I haven't spoken to personally, who have supported me and the family with cards, messages, prayers and offers of help since the passing of both Mum and Dad in the autumn: it is hard to find adequate words, but thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

- Judith Evans

THOUGHT PROVOKING....

If Jesus Christ knocked on your door
Do you know what you'd do for sure
Invite Him in, or keep Him out
The question is - are you in doubt?

The happiest people don't have the best of everything,
they make the best of everything.

WHITECHAPEL MISSION **5p's COLLECTION**

The 5p collection continues and thank you for all your previous donations, it helps a great deal with the work of the mission.

Jean Nicholls

CHRISTMAS MINI MARKET

Thank You

This year's market was certainly not mini!!

With over 30 stalls, the halls were full to bursting before it even opened. This year we even had a couple of games and mulled wine (non-alcoholic of course!) being served outside.

A special thank you must go to Michelle, Maddie and Sharon who all met on Thursday afternoons for about 6 weeks before the market to create the games which were both indoors and out – Poke a tree, Lucky Dip, Christmas Hat Hoopla etc etc. We had lots of fun doing it and enjoyed the day too.

It was also great to see so many new craft makers from our local area come along to sell their products and hopefully to show them a little of what we at Upminster Methodist Church have to offer.

With a wonderful refreshment team, great cakes, the huge raffle and an amazing bric a brac stall this all added up to make a great day and raise the fantastic sum of £1393.09!!

So a huge thank you to everyone involved on the day, before and at the end, it was a huge team effort and same time next year!!!

Caroline Kinder

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

A Big Thank You...

...to everyone who helped make the Christmas Tree Festival 2017 another great success. The theme this year was, "All Creatures Great and Small." The decorators really made great efforts with this theme, and it was very difficult to choose a favourite tree –they all deserved the trophy!

It was good to have recognition in the Upminster Residents Bulletin in January, which mentioned our festival as a highlight of community events at Christmas. We welcomed several new tree decorators from the Upminster community–Steward Ave Allotments, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oglethorpe Primary School and Springfield Playgroup and Upminster Childminders.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the Festival -The Monday Maintenance group who worked hard putting up the trees, climbing ladders to put up decorations in the church and the halls, and then taking the trees down and cleaning up the church after the event.

The people involved in making and serving refreshments for the Saturday market, the great team who approach the local businesses and shops for sponsorship and the group who acted as stewards during the week – your friendly smiles and warm welcome was noted by so many visitors.

Thanks to Amber Shotton's hard work, we had all the local Primary schools taking part in the event and on several afternoons some of the Primary school choirs came and sang in the church.

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“Stories under the Christmas tree,” organised by Judith Reed, were enjoyed by children who came after school to hear Christmas stories and do crafts- at one session we counted 23 children busy doing crafts and listening to stories at the front of the church.

The festival ended on Sunday 10th with a very informal closing service of “ Sing – along- a -Carols,” and once again we entered in to the spirit of the occasion with Christmas jumpers and hats – the lights on the trees were turned off and the Christmas Tree festival 2017 came to a close – it was a lovely ending to a great week.

The votes for the favourite tree were counted by Ian and Julie Leadley and the winners were St Joseph’s Catholic Primary school, “I went to the animal fair“, which won the Festival Cup. The Festival Organisers choice was “Noel in the Countryside” decorated by the French Group and this was awarded the "Best in the Festival" certificate.

A special thank you and recognition to those decorators who have been involved for the past seven years but have never won. Thank you for taking part so willingly each year.

Just over £1300 was raised this year, so £650 will be sent to each of the charities we have supported this year- First Step Opportunity Play Group and Methodist Homes.

Judith Hall

WHAT A CHRISTMAS!

Although by now, it seems to be rapidly disappearing into the past, it is worth recalling the wonderful events and spirit of Advent and Christmas 2017 at Upminster Methodist Church - and to thank all those who played a part in making it such an inspiring few weeks.

The Christmas Tree Festival and Fayre; the visits from school choirs and the story & craft sessions; the Christmas decorations and floral arrangements; the Advent Reflections; the Toy Service; the impromptu Nativity; the Christingle Service; the Carol Service; Midnight Communion and of course the Christmas Day service.

Hundreds of people were welcomed into the church over this period and for many it enabled them to spend time reflecting and remembering - a glance at the stars on the tree of memories and prayers gave a brief insight into some of life's sadness as well as joy.

Of course none of this would have been possible without a vast amount of effort - in planning, preparation, organisation, persuasion, publicity, physical labour (it's hard work setting up all those trees - and then taking them down two weeks later!), stewarding events, organising services, music, flowers, activities and refreshments ... and so on. In fact it's almost impossible not to omit some aspect - so just in case, thank you to **all** who made a contribution to making this such a wonderful Christmas season.

And if you too enjoyed it, please consider offering to get involved next time round!

Judith Reed

CHRISTMAS QUIZ SHEET

No answers this year (they were on the back of the sheet, in case you didn't find them).

We hope you enjoyed puzzling them all out – you will be pleased to know that we raised £50 for Richard House Children's Hospice, and as it was Gift Aided, they will benefit by £62.50.

Only 10 months to go till the next one !

Judith Evans



MESSY CHURCH – 18th FEBRUARY

We will be having a Messy Church on 18th February at 10am (a normal service will still be held in the Church) in the Wesley Hall, finishing at around 12.30.

It should be a lot of fun and all youngsters and their families are invited to take part which will involve some creativity, celebration and hospitality. Yes, there will be some food!!!

For more information about the day please speak to Caroline Kinder or one of the Stewards.

If you would like to learn more about Messy Church itself you can find details at www.messychurch.org.uk



MESSY CHURCH – HELP NEEDED

To provide choices and a variety of different activities we will be needing some volunteers to help with preparations and on the day.

If you are interested in helping please speak to either Caroline Kinder or Judith Hall.

SAFEGUARDING COURSE

ARE YOU A CHURCH STEWARD? **YES**
OR

DO YOU WORK WITH CHILDREN OR VULNERABLE
ADULTS IN OUR CHURCH? **YES**

HAVE YOU COMPLETED A METHODIST CHURCH
SAFEGUARDING COURSE? **NO**

THEN

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE NEXT COURSE
WHICH IS BEING HELD ON
SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY
9.30AM – 12.30PM

FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

AT
COLLIER ROW CIRCUIT
MISSION OUTREACH CENTRE
PLEASE SECURE YOUR PLACE BY EMAILING
HILARY BULL – ricky@fmail.co.uk

OR LET CAROLINE KINDER KNOW AND SHE CAN
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR YOU.

SCOUTS MAGIC NIGHT



A group of our scouts and leaders are planning another trip to Gambia this summer. Hopefully, finishing the Maternity unit in the hospital and moving the operating theatre nearer to the maternity unit because it has electricity.

With a little money we can have a big impact to the activities of the scouts and their families therefore the wider community.

To help us raise money three friends and I are holding a Magic Night on Saturday February 3rd in the Wesley Hall starting at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm. Ilford Magic Circle are providing the entertainment and it will definitely be a fantastic evening.

The magicians entertained at the church two years ago and those who attended then, are sure to recommend it.

Tickets are £15 including a light supper and are available from Anne Ling on 01708 225550 or Jan on 01708 222604

Thank you

Adam Ling , Dexter Gill, Jacob Lovell and Will Thompson

THANK YOU FROM THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

“I acknowledge with gratitude, the Clothing you donated for us to distribute to our homeless and disadvantaged clients. Please pass on our thanks to all the members of Upminster Methodist Church.

One of the Mission’s objectives is to help our service users regain their self-esteem. The provision of good quality clothing improves their appearance and therefore provides a much needed boost to their confidence.

Thank you for helping them in their journey to improve their lives and sense of wellbeing.

Together we are making a difference to the lives of people who are homeless. Thank you for the part you are playing to make our work possible”.

Tony Miller MBE
On behalf of The Whitechapel Mission



PANCAKES AND COFFEE

SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

The Ladies of The Mission Committee will be holding a Pancakes & Coffee morning in the Wesley Hall on Saturday 17th February from 10.00 am till 12.00 pm.

This has always proved very popular and we look forward to seeing you.

There will be activities for children, home made cakes, book sale and Bric a Brac stall

Come along and bring a friend.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- March 4 Church anniversary
- March 25 Church AGM



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

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

We would like to say a very big 'thank you' to all the kind folk who have provided flowers each Sunday over the past year, and to everyone who has arranged the flowers.

The Flower List for 2018 is on the noticeboard at the back of the Church. If you would like to provide flowers please add your name to the list next to the date, or dates, you would like. We are finding it more and more difficult as the years go by to fill every Sunday so would be very grateful if you could consider this. We have a large number of spaces still to fill. Thank you very much.

	Provider	Arranged by
January		
7th	Carole & David Jenkins	Chris Hughes
14th	June & Colin Weaver	Sheila Toon
21st	-	Flowers remain
28th	Jean Nicholls	Chris Hughes

February

4th	Grace Ababio	Grace Ababio
11th	Marilyn & Andrew Milne	Judith Hall
18th	Joyce Sarling	June Dutton
25th	Liz Wylie	Jenny Smy

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

February 2018

4th

10.00am Mrs Stella Holland

6.30pm Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion

11th

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

18th

10.00am Jonathan Coles and Debbie Freeman

25th

10.00am Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion



"'Fasting' doesn't mean
eating fast food!"