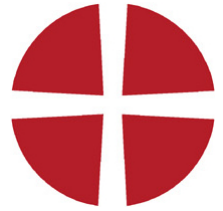


Upminster
Methodist Church



Newsletter
September 2016

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 800 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

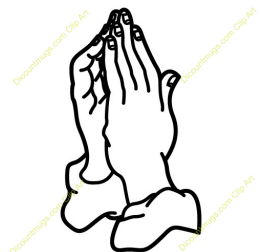
To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

To make more followers of Jesus Christ

Lord Jesus Christ, whether in the quietness of our resting place or in the busy storms of the day, amidst all the cares and joys of life, may we never feel forsaken or alone.

Of your grace draw us entirely to yourself, now and forever. Amen.

Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)



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



Happy New METHODIST Year!
Right, let's get on with it; *where's the next meeting?!*

On a day in August I was sitting down planning a Sunday service, giving some thought to the sanctuary part of a church building and what it is for a community.

I began thinking about what other spaces are available for gatherings; golf course, pub, gym, football ground and so on – after all, don't we find something of God, of our spirituality, within all people and within all places?

So what is a church sanctuary?

Essentially I guess it's a space set aside in which we gather to invite God into our lives; where we listen to scripture being read; read psalms and sing; break bread and proclaim a living embodied faith; trust God listens to us through prayer and proclaim resurrection. We hope that *ALL* are truly welcome in this place.

So much more can be said but in short, I thought, “we *practise* our faith to enable us to embody it in life”.

Why not sit for a few minutes and begin to define what it is for you - your children at Baptism; your questions at the Lord's Supper; a Wedding; that favourite hymn; a passage of scripture you heard read in such a way that allowed you to rethink a situation in your life; a prayer you made on your knees in hope? One could say more, so over to you.

family gathers to celebrate a Baptism, bringing with them all the hopes and dreams for that child; or a funeral service giving thanks for a life lived. It could be an annual Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, a Carol Service or one of many differing services in each year.

I've written in a recent letter that I hope we see beyond the image of the clothes a person wears; listen beyond their accent; hear their story and recognise the image of the God that resides within each person.

As we begin a New Methodist Year we pray for sanctuaries that offer meaningful worship and hospitality - something of the sacred - places to gather that articulate and celebrate life in all its fullness; places that give space and allow vision for a community.

We pray that we continue to *practise* our faith in the sanctuary and to live it in all we do, in all we are and wherever we are - on the golf course, down the gym, at the football ground and at all our church meetings!!

I invite you to meet in the sanctuary of Upminster Methodist Church on the 30th October at 4:30pm for the accreditation and admission service for Ricky Bull as a Methodist Local Preacher. We look forward to sharing this service with you. Revd David Jebb will lead the service and I understand there's a chance to hear a seriously good preacher!! I wonder who?

Please do be sure to check out Revd David's Super's Soap Box in this quarter's circuit newsletter – A healthy looking Circuit Vision 2020.

To begin this New Methodist Year together, for reflection, here's Psalm 84 from The Message – the Bible in contemporary language - by Eugene Peterson.

84 ¹⁻² What a beautiful home, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies!

I've always longed to live in a place like this,
Always dreamed of a room in your house,
where I could sing for joy to God-alive!

³⁻⁴ Birds find nooks and crannies in your house,
sparrows and swallows make nests there.

They lay their eggs and raise their young,
singing their songs in the place where we worship.

GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies! King! God!

How blessed they are to live and sing there!

⁵⁻⁷ And how blessed all those in whom you live,
whose lives become roads you travel;

They wind through lonesome valleys, come upon brooks,
discover cool springs and pools brimming with rain!

God-travelled, these roads curve up the mountain, and
at the last turn—Zion! God in full view!

⁸⁻⁹ GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, listen:

O God of Jacob, open your ears—I'm praying!
Look at our shields, glistening in the sun,
our faces, shining with your gracious anointing.

¹⁰⁻¹² One day spent in your house, this beautiful place of worship,

beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches.

I'd rather scrub floors in the house of my God

than be honoured as a guest in the palace of sin.

All sunshine and sovereign is GOD,

generous in gifts and glory.

He doesn't scrimp with his traveling companions.

It's smooth sailing all the way with GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies.

Be assured, for you are the dwelling place of God, and God is everywhere and within everything. How beautiful it is to live in this sanctuary.

Right, let's get on with it; *where's the next meeting?!*

Jason

STATEMENT FROM CONNEXION

The 2016 Annual conference of the Methodist Church passed a Resolution containing the following text:

The United Kingdom, as a result of the referendum on 23rd June 2016, has voted to leave the European Union. In this time of very significant change and uncertainty there is a need for leadership which seeks the common good and encourages people to work together, to respect one another and to uphold the dignity of all.

The Methodist conference believes that the British Isles are enriched by diversity and celebrates the contribution made by those who have come from other parts of the world.

The Christian tradition calls for respect, tolerance, love of neighbour and hospitality to the stranger. All bear the responsibility of speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

The Methodist Conference abhors and deeply regrets those actions and words which incite hatred and lead to the victimisation of groups within society and notes with concern that such actions and words have been normalised in recent public discourse. Believing that racism is a denial of the gospel and that to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division, the Methodist Conference calls:

- On the Methodist people to challenge racism and discrimination

cont'd

- For a political debate which neither demonises any nor leaves the vulnerable (the foreigner, the immigrant and refugee) in danger of victimisation
- On political leaders to work together for the good of the whole community putting the needs of the nation before party politics
- On all those in positions of power and authority to hear the voices of those who have been marginalised and alienated and to respond to them in ways which offer real hope for the future

This statement is also shared on our website

www.methodist.org.uk/nationallife

where it can be turned into an email which will be automatically sent to your local Member of Parliament.

The Conference also encouraged the Methodist people to join the campaign to wear an empty safety pin as a badge symbolising solidarity against racism

(please see www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36661097 for details

This article was taken from the Romford Methodist Church – Hopes and Dreams Newsletter – a copy of the Newsletter is available at the back of the Church and has many other interesting articles of the life of the Churches in the Circuit

MONTHLY SOCIAL

UPMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH FAMILY EVENT



**Everyone is invited to join us at
Belhus Country Park
on Sunday 4 September 2016
from 12 noon
(or directly after church)**

Don't forget to bring your picnic!

**Lots of fun – cricket, rounders, stroll around
the lake, chatting and no doubt lots of laughter.**

Please speak to Caroline Kinder or

Sarah Harris for more details.

TEA AT THE RITZ 25 JUNE 2016

A big thank you to all the ladies who worked so hard cooking, preparing and waiting at tables to ensure that we had a happy and friendly afternoon.

The food was delicious, the trolley came round constantly with tea etc., and the pretty china and table arrangements all helped to make it a really lovely occasion. Background music may have been nice, but could we have heard it above the laughter and chat?

I am sure that we all appreciate how much work the ladies put in behind the scenes to make it an enjoyable afternoon. Why travel to town when we have a “Ritz” afternoon in Upminster with friends?

**Friends of Upminster Mini Golf Quiz Night
Monday 10 October 2016**

7pm for 7.30pm start

at

**The Crumpled Horn, 33-37 Corbets Tey Road Upminster,
RM14 2AJ**

The Friends of Upminster Mini Golf are hosting a Quiz Night to raise funds to refurbish the hut and crazy golf, so why not come along and have a fun evening!

£5 per person

There will be a raffle and bar, just bring your own snacks.

Tables of 4, 6 or 8

Contact: Bernice Scott Phone: 01708 640167 or Email:

upminigolf@virginmedia.com

POEM FOR THE MONTH

Why are some churches derided,
And others decidedly odd?
Well, I've thought it through and decided
To put the blame squarely on God.
He could have built churches of stone, slate and pews,
With bell tower and chancel and steeple;
But with so much to choose, and so much to lose,
He went and made churches of people.

FAMILY COMMITTEE

Would Committee members please note that the next meeting is at 8 pm on Tuesday, 11 October, in the Scout Den



Dear friends of Upminster Methodist Church.

Many thanks for the lovely flowers and the get well cards which I received at home after my stay in Queen's hospital. It was most appreciated.

Once again, thanks for your kind thoughts.

Love in Christ.

Linda Milton.

WESLEY GUILD

We would like to express appreciation for all those who gave so much time and thought to arrange the Wesley Guild meetings over many years - including recently Jean Nicholls, Ian and Julie Leadley, Peter Jonas and Colin Weaver.

We have enjoyed many happy and friendly times with the wide variety of topics and speakers covering many aspects of the Guild's aims and also the hymn singing.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone involved.

Guild Members

The Wesley Players present

“Frankenstein” adapted by Tim Kelly

Frankenstein – we all know that name, the mad scientist who created life from body parts and electricity. What you may not know is that he abandoned his hideous creature to fend for itself in a cruel and prejudiced world. Now the creature seeks revenge on his creator and Victor Frankenstein must fight, to avert disaster and to protect the lives of those he holds most dear. This is a true Victorian melodrama infused with black humour, suitable for the whole family including those of a nervous disposition!

Performances at 8.00 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 22, 23 & 24 September 2016. Tickets available on the door or may be booked in advance via the Box Office (text or phone 07708 214742) or email tickets@wesley-players.co.uk (£7 adults; £5.50 concessions; £3.50 children). Senior citizens admitted free to the Thursday and Friday evening performances.

Venue: Wesley Hall, Upminster Methodist Church, 10 Hall Lane, Upminster RM14 1AE.



TRIBUTE TO MARGARET MARSH

It is always a privilege to write a tribute to a long standing Church member and with Margaret's death the Church lost a much loved member and Frank and I lost a friend we made when we first joined Upminster Church in 1975.

Margaret was born in Dagenham in 1933 and was the fourth of five sisters. She was six years old when war broke out and after a period of evacuation was back home at Dagenham. Margaret became a member of Wood Lane Baptist Church where she joined the Girls Life Brigade and had a very happy time.

The group became friendly with some lads from the Methodist Central Hall Barking where she met a certain young man called Trevor and the happy outcome was that Margaret and Trevor were married at the Baptist Church by a Methodist minister the Revd. Jimmy Watts.

Margaret and Trevor first lived in Barking and then in Basildon and within a few days of moving, were visited by the Minister of Trinity Methodist Church the Revd. Ronald Gibbins. They were very soon deeply involved in the development of that Church and Margaret, with her earlier experience of the Girls Life Brigade, helped with the introduction of a Company at Trinity and before long was appointed Company Captain.

The arrival of Andrew and Fiona brought further joy to the Marsh family.

In 1964 they moved to Upminster which was their home for the next 50 years. They soon became involved in Upminster Church where Margaret worked in the Sunday School having the young David Kinder, our present Church Treasurer, in the Primary Department.

Margaret enjoyed all aspects of Church life especially the Wesley Guild. She was an enthusiastic member of the Cranham Art Society and Frank and I were given a lovely painting by Margaret of Upminster Windmill.

Margaret was also a volunteer for 25 years at the Cranham Community Centre serving teas and coffees for the members of the various activities at the Centre.

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Margaret and Trevor enjoyed travelling and spent many holidays at the various Wesley Guild hotels and also on different river and sea cruises.

The arrival of two wonderful grandchildren, Ben and Aimee, brought them great joy.

In 1990 a small singing group of five people who just like singing was started and within a short time Trevor, bless him, agreed to become our Conductor. We called ourselves the AdHoc Singers. The Group increased in numbers and very soon on one occasion when we were short of singers and were due to sing to a group, Margaret agreed to sing with us to help us out and because of this we found to our delight that Margaret had a very sweet and accurate singing voice. She stayed with us, a loyal and important member of the group, for over twenty years until she became ill.

After Margaret's health deteriorated she still enjoyed her visits to the Gateway coffee mornings every week on Mondays with Trevor and daughter Fiona. It was while Margaret was in the Queens Hospital that she and Trevor celebrated their Diamond Wedding, thanking God for sixty years of happiness and receiving their signed card from the Queen.

Margaret died after suffering a serious stroke. She was a woman of faith. She was to be found in her usual place every Sunday morning. We didn't speak about our faith very often but when we did you knew that she was happy to leave things to God believing that all will be well in this life but especially in the next.

We thank God for Margaret's life. She will be remembered by us all for her kindness, so important in this often uncaring world, her serenity, her friendship and last but by no means least her lovely smile.

Sylvia Baker

Those who attended Margaret's funeral service on 6 June were invited to make a donation to the Stroke Association. I have received a letter from the Charity advising me that the eventual total sum exceeded £700 and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all friends who contributed so generously.

Trevor Marsh

TRIBUTE TO BERYL AMY COUSINS

Beryl's funeral service was conducted by Revd. Jason Vinyard on 16th June, including the hymn 'Who would true valour see', which was the one chosen by Beryl for Leslie's funeral.

Beryl was born in Grays in 1926, and then her family moved to Upminster where she was brought up with her brother, Alan, in Ingrebourne Gardens. As a child she travelled to Europe with her father, who had business contacts there, and when she left school she worked for the family company.

She was a very good scholar, winning a place at Palmers Grammar School in Grays, where she enjoyed, and was good at art, a subject which she always found interesting. She was also keen on sport, particularly tennis, and her eyes were glued to the TV during Wimbledon. She and Leslie played tennis together – Beryl was good at it, but whether or not Leslie ever won a game is unknown!

Beryl and Leslie met through church based activities and married St Laurence's Church, starting their married life in Acacia Drive and after that came to Grosvenor Gardens, firstly in a house then to their bungalow in 1965 – their garden was their pride and joy and they were fascinated by the many birds who also came to visit.

There were delighted on the arrival of their dearly loved son, Clive, and their devotion, care and concern for him was always apparent to everyone.

They enjoyed Upminster life and were often seen out and about (especially including their lunches in Rooms!) always impeccably dressed and pleased to meet up with the many people they know. The family enjoyed holidays together in sunny climes, the form Yugoslavia being a particular favourite for Beryl.

The Methodist Church was very much a big part of their Upminster life, with Beryl enjoying the singing and music. She knew hymns, prayers and Bible lessons off by heart and also remembered her old school hymns.

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Even last Christmas she was sitting in the day room at the Cranham Court Christmas party singing all the carols word for word, and visitors knew that much of their visit would include songs, one of which 'Just a Song at Twilight' being a firm favourite.

After Leslie passed away five years ago, Beryl initially coped better than had been expected, but after a year her health started to deteriorate and it was necessary for her to have round the clock care, hence the last three years she was resident at Cranham Court. She had many visitors, and would ask how everybody was keeping, where had they gone for their holidays, etc., and was still singing from her bed for the last few weeks.

Beryl died peacefully on 30th May, exactly five years to the day after Leslie.

We have very warm memories of an elegant lady, who was a devoted wife and Mother.

Our special thoughts and prayers are with Clive, who is keeping very well and enjoying life at Glebe House.

How can YOU help to bring the big build project to become MISSION POSSIBLE??

As reported in the July newsletter and following on from earlier discussions regarding the planned refurbishment of the church, a small group met together on 9th June to discuss a framework for raising the money that will be required for the future development of our church premises. Our target figure is £1.25million!

It was hoped that following on from earlier discussions, various strategies will be formulated which will be ready for implementation when the final costing and Quantity Surveyors report are received. At this stage applications will be prepared for selected Funding streams, together with specific initiatives to raise money in many different ways, enabling the target figure to be achieved within a realistic time-scale

Perhaps you may have an idea of how to run an event, a coffee morning, a table sale, games evening, tea party or run a marathon?? Can you spend time searching through the computer to select which Trusts might be interested in funding our project? Can you help write bids for funding? We need various skills to really get this scheme off the ground and to become a reality, rather than a plan on paper!



If you can help, then please let us know. We need as many ideas and suggestions as possible so that the plan is turned into reality as quickly as possible. It is hoped that all ages and Organisations within the life of our church will want to be involved in fund raising initiatives.

Areas discussed were:

Publicity and raising of community interest and support

Ideas to raise funds directly by organising events

Making applications to Grant-making institutions for larger sums

Production of regular news-sheets to keep the involvement of interested supporters

Time-scales and strategy for progressive income streams

The Chancel area of the church will be redesigned during August/September. This is the first part of the bigger refurbishment - the start of 'the big plan'.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 6th September at 7:30pm** and will be open to anyone who is interested in getting involved.

Please come along and help to turn the plan into reality - we need **YOUR SUPPORT NOW!**

Meanwhile if you have any questions please speak to Rev Jason or Gill Hare (223218) or Peter Hobbs (224981)



YOUTH ALPHA

From September we are looking at running a Youth Alpha course for anyone from year 6 upwards. Alpha is a Christian course for people to come together eat a meal and ask questions about all aspects of Christianity and faith. We are looking at starting on Tuesday 27th September meeting from 6pm to 7.30pm and will be running for 10 weeks, apart from at half term.

There are invitations at the back of the Church that you are free to give out to anyone that you think might be interested.

We are also appealing for help as Alpha is based around eating together so we will need people to cook each week so, if we can get a few people to take part, then helpers would not need to commit to the 10 weeks just when they can make it.

We will also want help with running and taking part in the evenings. If anyone is interested in helping, please let Sarah Harris know as soon as possible.

COME FLY TWO – SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

C = CIRCUIT/CHILDREN

O = OUTREACH

M = MISSION & MINISTRIES

E = EVANGELISM

F = FAMILIES

L = LUNCH

Y = YOUTH

The Circuit "Come Fly" team are holding their second event at Collier Row Methodist church from 9.30am -12.30pm followed by a bring and share lunch on an international theme.

It is open to everyone - the Circuit hopes that each church will send a **minimum of 5 people** to it with no maximum.

There will be short workshops on a variety of topics all focusing on mission and developing outreach.

There are fliers at the back of the church which have more details and a sign up list for anyone interested.

Please speak to a steward for more information.

PLEASE 'LIKE' OUR CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE

Our church Facebook page is now active. It is another way in which we can help others around us discover our community and the many varied activities we offer here. There is a way in which you can help too, if you could 'LIKE' our page when you next log into Facebook. One way to do this is to type into the search bar on the top of the Facebook screen "Upminster Methodist Church", then hit 'enter'. Then click on the first 'page' link that comes up. It looks like this. Once you click this link, you will be given the option to 'LIKE' the page. Thank you in advance for your help.



Pages



Upminster Methodist Church

Church/Religious Organisation

01708 222 278

21 like this



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

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

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.

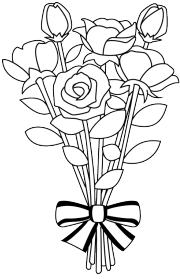
Weekly Notices - Items for the weekly Notices sheet should be sent to upmethdistchurch@btinternet.com or pass to Allyson Hill

METHODIST BLOG

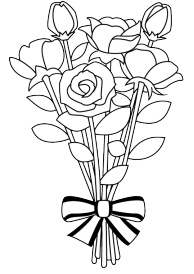
If you wish to read the President and Vice President's blog on a regular basis, please go to the Methodist Church website at www.methodist.org.uk and there you will be able to follow the links on a regular basis.

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





FLOWER ROTA



Very many thanks to both providers and arrangers:

	Provider	Arranged by
September 4 th	Sheila Toon	Sheila Toon
11 th	Valerie Kinder	Valerie Kinder
18 th	Anya & Adrian Dutton	Judith Hall
25 th	Eileen Larrington	June Dutton or 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



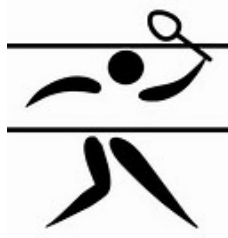
Choir and Band Practice

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



Children's Praise

We meet on the first Sunday of every month.

9.15am – 9.45am

Suitable for ages 2 – 10 years
split into two age groups

Games, story, craft and singing,
followed by drink and biscuit



Tots and Co

Tuesdays in term time
9.30am – 11.30am



Uniformed Groups

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



Sunday Worship

Dates for September

4th

Church Anniversary

9.15am
10.00am
6.30pm

Tots Praise
Members of the Congregation
Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion

11th

10.00am

Revd. Jason Vinyard – All Age and Parade

18th

10.00am
6.30pm

Revd. Peter Alexander
Revd. Jason Vinyard – Contemplative Worship

25th

10.00am

Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion

