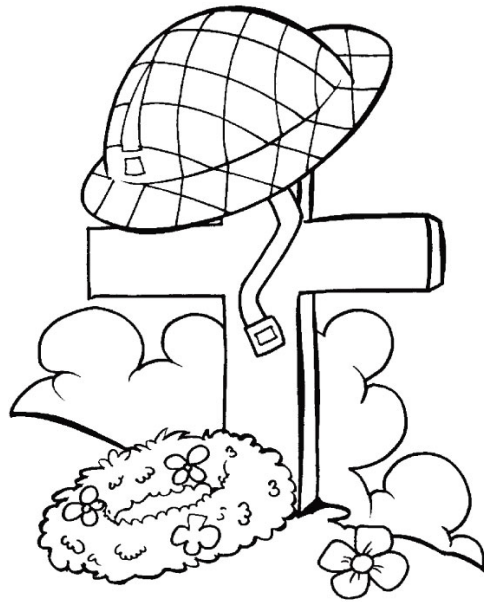
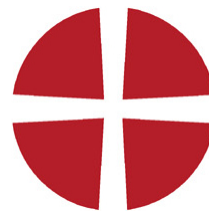


Upminster
Methodist Church



Newsletter
November 2017

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

Holy God of the morning: still our minds.

Holy God of creation: create through us new life and vitality today.

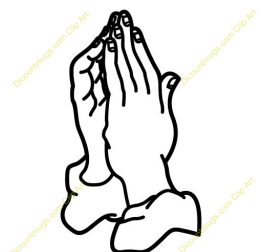
Holy God of whispering gentle breeze: come to us in sighs too deep for words.

Holy God of crashing thunder: break into our lives and into our complacency.

Holy God of sun and warmth: encourage us to reach out with love.

Holy God of the evening: fill the fading light of this day with your awesome presence that we might worship you, honour you, glorify you, bless you, praise and adore you as we take our rest. Amen.

Loraine Mellor, President, British Methodist Conference 2017/2018



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



Seasons to Remember

Hi! We are again in the season of All Saints' and All Souls'.

There is so much taking possession of our time and attention. There's the day to day running of a house; family situations, appointments, meetings, work, homework, studying. Then there are the demands on our time from many other sources: church events, other family arrangements, extra working hours, childcare. Thereafter come those things we wish to do with any 'spare' time; hobbies, gardening, the gym, golfing or perhaps swimming, volunteering, Bible study groups and such like. Somewhere in this comes the need to find time to sleep – let alone to take a Sabbath rest!

I was reminded this week of a comment made by John Wesley, '*I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it.*' I find, more and more, this is not just about engaging in a list of prayerful requests but primarily about *being* and so *getting* in tune with God's presence in the every day – and therefore *being and living in* God's Benevolence. It's from contemplation and prayer that we are led to what needs to be done and to what can be left for a time. We often feel, in all the expectations we place upon ourselves, those expectations on us from others, within a society that boasts of being switched on 24/7; of *being* in control and of *doing* more and more, tempted that to sit, be silent, listen, contemplate and pray isn't our priority or even worthy of our time; we feel those things taking possession need doing first. I believe it's the other way around.

cont'd...

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Please don't misunderstand what I am saying. I am not saying that we should refrain from asking for things in our prayers. I am saying that our requests become in tune with God's purpose in and through us and with those for whom we pray. I am not saying we shouldn't pray, for example, for a family situation, rather that we will be led purposefully and in tune with God's desire for fulfilment through contemplation and in prayer – for ourselves and those we pray for. I, like you no doubt, often pray about a situation – but it's the way I now ask that has changed. Prayers are answered. I repeat this, prayers are answered. I am not saying that there is no need for prayers of adoration, confession, petition, thanksgiving, intercession or anything like that. I am not saying that we do not ask in the name of Jesus Christ. I am saying that we need to 'be' with God and from this allow our prayers to flow.

This season of Remembrance, of All Saints' and All Souls', let us take a pause, contemplate and from contemplation pray. For those we love - giving thanks for those who have sojourned this beautiful earth and are now found within God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - in the Heavenly Realms. Let us pray too for the wisdom of all people and all nations to live at Peace in the world. In this, we seek and ask that God's will be done.

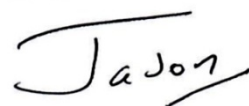
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Christ Jesus lived and spoke in Palestine – he breathed the air of a region in which conflict and invasion and the tussle of many empires were at work – and still are. He spoke peace. He remembered the Commandments and gave the greatest Commandment on which all others hang: (see Mt 22:34 - 40, Mk 12:28 - 34), and he prayed – even on his knees (see Lk 22:41 - 43). The will of God? Often and particularly when the most daunting time lay ahead of him, Jesus took time away in solitude and prayed (see Mk 1:35). His contemplation and prayer and his subsequent actions led him to Crucifixion. Jesus followed the eternal will of God; to do good, to act justly and to walk humbly with God; to love our neighbour as ourselves and to be a peacemaker. He healed, he forgave, he reconciled and offered Life – the systems of Empire and Institutions could not accept it. Jesus' actions were of the Father. This was and still is the will of God. At this time of Remembrance, let us take away the violence done to God's will, for God's will is for reconciliation, justice, healing, liberation from oppression, the release of debt, forgiveness, peace and so much more GOOD. I could write a book on this, but I can only scratch the surface in a short letter.

We are disciples of Christ Jesus, and so we need to be constantly in the way of contemplation and prayer. Jesus said 'Do this in Remembrance of me', and through this active remembering, by contemplation and prayer, Christian action naturally flows and works for good in our world.

God's will, for you, for ALL, be done.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason", with a stylized flourish at the end.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2017

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Harvest Festival such a joyful occasion - the organisations who decorated the windows, the flower arrangers, the maintenance team for moving furniture around, the musicians, Jason for the service, his IT assistants, the coffee makers and those who contributed to, organised and managed the lunch.

The overall theme related to 'Food from around the World' and friends brought along a truly international selection of dishes for us to enjoy.

During the service we saw a short video from 'All We Can' (the Methodist organisation responsible for overseas aid), showing how it is possible to transform lives through relatively simple, small scale project. In the clip shown, finance and training enabled a Zimbabwean family to set up a small chicken farm, thereby providing them with an income and independence.

We also learnt more of the work of the Whitechapel Mission, where, sadly, the need for help continues to grow, the number of homeless people in London having increased significantly in the last few years. For information on their work, and how to help them, visit their website.

We are very grateful for your generosity in bringing gifts of food , with fresh produce being taken to St Francis Hospice the next day, and the large quantity of tins, packets and boxes being collected by Tony Miles from the Whitechapel Mission later that morning.
Thank you.

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Sylvia (Baker) who reach the grand age of 80 on Monday 16th October. Love and Best Wishes from Frank and the Church congregation.



Congratulations to Sarah and Trevor Harris on the birth of their son, Morgan, brother to Jenson. We wish them all well on this wonderful occasion



From the Evans family:-

My mother, brother, the family and I are very grateful for all the kind messages, cards, thoughts and prayers following my father Bramwell's death. We have been blessed in many ways over recent weeks, not least by the love and support of so many. Heartfelt thanks to you all.

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT - 7th OCTOBER

Thank you to everyone who came to the Quiz Night on 7th October, which raised £372 for the Building Fund.

A special thank you to the scorers (Claudette Dixon, June and Colin Weaver), Linda Milton for organising the interval teas and coffees, Judith Evans for providing some of the rounds, and everyone who donated raffle prizes.

I couldn't do these quizzes without all of your help.

The next quiz will not have bird songs, honest!! If you didn't come, ask someone that did to explain!!

Don't forget to watch those ads!!!!

Peter.

DAME VERA LYN CONCERT

Many thanks to everyone who supported this event which raised the sum of £1,055.00 for the Church Building Fund.

Judging by the amount of donations (£159.54) following the concert and subsequent feedback, it would seem that everyone enjoyed a remarkable evening. My thanks to those who helped in this success, in particular Jason and Yvette who worked throughout the afternoon and evening on sound and lighting. Joanna and friends are to be congratulated on the content and professionalism which carried the day. Well done to them all!

SHOE BOXES

I am collecting goods as usual for the Shoeboxes so if on your travels you see odds and ends which are suitable for children aged 2 – 16 years please think of the little ones who receive nothing except our gifts

Please remember, no liquids and no war related toys.

Thank you

Jill Avis



5p's COLLECTION

So far this year we have sent £150 to the Whitechapel Mission
From our 5p collections.

Thank you very much.

Please keep collecting!

Jean Nicholls

THE REFORMATION

Diet of wörms meeting of the Diet (assembly) of the Holy Roman Empire held at Wörms, Germany, in 1521, made famous by Martin Luther's appearance before it to respond to charges of heresy.

Martin Luther, The Diet of Wörms and The Reformation: 500 Year Ago.

Some of you may recall history lessons where giggling broke out at the mention of the 'Diet of Wörms' - the assembly of The Holy Roman Empire held in the town of that name, where Martin Luther was tried for heresy. (Apologies to German speakers for our mispronunciation of 'Wörms'!).

This year marks the 500th anniversary of what proved to be a momentous historical occasion.

Thanks to Revd Jennifer Potter who write this article for the Wesley Chapel newsletter.

On 31 October 1517 Martin Luther pinned 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, protesting against the practice of indulgences and touching on questions of grace, repentance and forgiveness.



The Reformation was a culmination of events and circumstances that led to a seismic shift in the religious framework of Europe and of Britain.

For Britain it established the image of an island nation, separate and supreme, still resonant today. It triggered a religious and political redistribution of power. It led to renewal and reform but also to deep division, persecution and violence. And out of this turmoil were born concepts of state and church as we know them today.

In this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, many Christians will want to give thanks for its great blessings, including clear proclamation of the gospel of grace, the availability of the Bible to all in their own language, and the recognition of the calling of lay people to serve God in the world and in the church. Yet many will remember also the lasting damage done to the unity of the church. Those turbulent years saw Christians pitted against each other, such that many suffered persecution and even death at the hands of others claiming to know the same Lord. As Christianity spread around the world in the centuries that followed, it would carry with it that legacy of mistrust and competition.

The 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation provides the opportunity to explore and reflect upon issues of church, state, and religious and cultural diversity that are still at the centre of our national life: the conflicts that divide, and the convictions diverse parts of the Christian church hold sacred – the pillars on which their faith stands or falls. How are we called to be reformed by the Gospel? How do we build the unity Christ called for with those whose convictions are very different from our own? There are many events going on around London to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation – worship services, concerts and lectures. If you are interested to know more just 'google' Reformation 500.

HELP NEEDED PLEASE

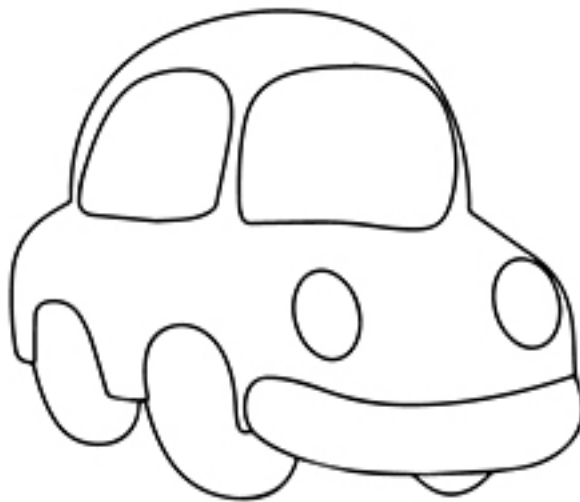
On Friday 24 November 12 young people and 4 adults will be heading to the national Methodist Youth weekend 3Generate in Southport.

We are travelling on the district coach but need to get to Edmonton by 4.30pm on the Friday afternoon.

If anyone would be able to help us out by driving some of us there we would be extremely grateful.

We plan to leave Upminster at 3pm.

Please speak to Caroline, Yvette or Jason if you can help.
Thank you.



SARAH – MATERNITY LEAVE

Please note that Sarah will be on maternity leave from 1st October 2017 until February 2018.

Any work related questions should be referred to Jason, Caroline, Judith Hall, Peter Hobbs or Chris Wheeler, thank you.



UPMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH WAR **MEMORIAL**

November is the month of Remembrance and a time in particular when the people of this country especially remember those who have died during the wars.

At the back of the church, between the two big windows, is our War Memorial recording the names of five young men who were associated in some way with this church who we will be remembering when we place our wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

The present church was, of course, only built in 1923 but because Methodism had a presence in Upminster from at least 1910, it is possible that some Upminster Methodists may have been killed during the course of the First World War.

If this was the case then their names will most probably have been recorded on the village war memorial that is down by the side of the Parish Church. Therefore, our church war memorial records has only the names of those young men who were attached in some way to this church, and who were killed, with one exception, while serving in one capacity, or another, in the defence of this country in the Second World War, during the period 1939 to 1945.

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None of the people whose names are recorded on the Memorial have relatives who were members, or were attached to the church in 1995, fifty years after the end of the Second World War. It was then that the older members of the church, at that time, as well as others, were asked for any details that they knew about the people on the list in order that we should all be able to appreciate them as people and not just names.

The following information was compiled from those sources.

Peter J Ellis:

Peter, who lived in Eversleigh Gardens, was a member of the scout troop attached to the church when he was killed, at the age of 16, in a road accident in 1938 while cycling home, one dark night, along the Southend Arterial Road. This was from an ARP post where he had been assisting with the issue of gas masks. As it was during the “Munich Crisis” and he was engaged in civil defence work at the time his death was counted as being “on active service” although it took place before the outbreak of hostilities.

Derek Goss:

Derek, who lived in Deyncourt Gardens, was a member of the Young People’s Fellowship, the youth club and of the Regnel League as well as being a former member of the scout troop. He served in the R.A.F. from 1941 – 1944 and died in Canada while involved in aircrew training.

Austin Hughes:

Unfortunately, we were not able to find out much about Austin, and it is only known that he was a former member of the Young Peoples Fellowship and the youth club before he was killed in action while serving with the R.A.F.

Donald McDonald:

Donald, who was killed while serving with the armed forces, does not appear to have been attached to the church himself. His mother, and his aunt, Mrs. Tillinghurst, were, however, active members of the church "Woman's Own" Fellowship, while his brother Ken was a member of the Young People's Fellowship as well as the youth club, and later became a well-known opera singer.

John Rees:

John was a personable and attractive young man; a member of a prominent Methodist family in Lincoln. He came to Essex to work at the Brentwood branch of the Midland Bank but spent most of his weekends here in Upminster where he stayed with the Warnes family in Champion Road and sang in the Church Choir. He served in the Royal Navy and was lost at sea in November 1941 when the battleship HMS Barham was sunk by a torpedo.

"At the going down of the Sun and in the morning we will remember them"

(First compiled by Keith Dutton in 1995)

PROPERTY MATTERS



The Methodist Church

Property Matters September 2017

Greetings and welcome to this issue of Property Matters.

As we move once more into a new connexional year, our thoughts turn to the changing of the seasons, towards Christmas and, for some, the excitement that is Strictly Come Dancing!

However, for the younger members, the mounting excitement is the approach of Christmas. Junior Mission for All was created so children could support and learn about the mission of the Church. Its roots can be traced back 200 years to the Juvenile Missionary Society started at City Road, London.

These young people will come after us to worship God, love Jesus, proclaim the faith and be the lifeblood of our Church in years to come. The Connexional Team will be doing some research in relation to JMA in the coming months, so, if you receive one of their questionnaires, please think about your answers and return it to help us, to help them, to help us all.

Whilst I am thinking about autumn, I cannot help but think of wind and rain. Now is the opportunity to look at your roofs (binoculars are good) and do any preventative maintenance before the wet, and possibly snowy, weather sets in.

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Putting the two things together, the UN tells us that about 16 million children across India, Bangladesh and Nepal are in urgent need of life-saving support due to the flooding caused by weeks of torrential monsoon rain. Even more recently, we have seen the devastation caused by hurricanes across parts of the Caribbean and the USA.

Please keep those affected in your prayers, and a watertight roof over your heads.

Best wishes

Richard Farmery, Facilities and Property Coordinator

Tel: 0207 467 5190 Email: fpc@methodistchurch.org.uk

'AN ADVENT RETREAT'

Rev Jason will lead an Advent Study Series from 7.30 – 9 pm on the following dates:

Wednesdays 29th November, 6, 13 and 20th December.

If you would like to come along on all or some of these evenings, please add your name to the list at the back of the church, in order to assist in the preparation of resources.

ATTENTION CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS TRUSTEES

It is recommended that all Church Council Members attend one of The Trustee sessions which are being held at Harold Wood on 28th November.

There are two session, one at 2.30pm and the other at 7.45pm.

Please confirm your attendance to David Jebb at:

djebb2003@gmail.com

Joke for newsletter

The preacher decided to start his children's address with an interactive story.

"Boys and girls do you know who I met on the way to Church this morning?"

Stony silence

"I will give you a clue – he was quite small, grey and furry".

More stony silence.

"Let me give you another clue – he loves eating nuts."

Still all the children were silent, so he tried again.

"Here is another clue – he lives in a tree. Surely you can work out who it is now?"

When there was still stony silence, and feeling a bit desperate by now, the preacher gave his final clue;

"And he has a bushy tail".

A boy in the back put his hand up. With a sigh of relief the preacher asked him who it was.

"Well sir" said the boy, "we know the answer is supposed to be Jesus, but it doesn't half sound like a squirrel to me".

Grateful thanks to Mark Avis who told me this – Mark it was good to see you visiting us the other week.

CAN YOU HELP with 'Key to Life'?

Churches Together has sponsored an excellent opportunity for the children of local Primary schools in Upminster to hear the story of Jesus through an exciting, state of the art presentation, involving an expanding van with floor-ceiling touch screens, interactive games, quizzes and discussion groups.

It will be parked in the Branfil Primary school playground school playground for 4 days, Mon - Thursday 4-7 December, and there's a training session on the afternoon or evening of 1st December.

Help is needed with the following:

1 person each day to present and lead the sessions

1 person each day to look after the I.T. part, using the computer.

2 strong people to set up the van on Friday 1st, and 2 to pack it away on the Thursday or Friday.

If you're considering helping, please see www.countiesuk.org/schools-work/key-to-life. Also phone Derek Moody (01708 400086), as soon as possible.

Christmas Mini Market
Saturday 2 December 2017
10am – 3pm

Plans for this year's Mini-Market are in full flow, we have more craft stalls than ever, and a team creating some games that all ages may enjoy, with all funds going towards our Church Building Fund.

Thank you to those who have been in touch as willing helpers or to run a stall.

We have lots of ideas of games that we would like to run, but can't run them all ourselves so are hoping that we will have some more willing volunteers – please spare us a few hours, it will be great fun and will help raise funds to further improve our church facilities.

We are also looking for donations for some of our stalls:

Items to create a Christmas hamper or two for the raffle

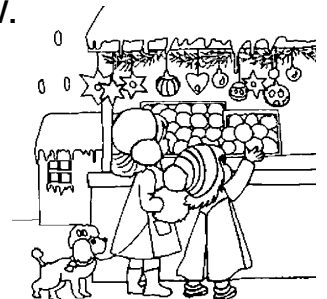
- Cakes
- Chocolate for the chocolate tombola – this was very popular last year.
- Bric-a-brac items – nothing too big please

If you would like to be involved please let us know.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Caroline Kinder 07941431091

Allison Winegarden 07905094983



BRIC-A-BRAC STALL

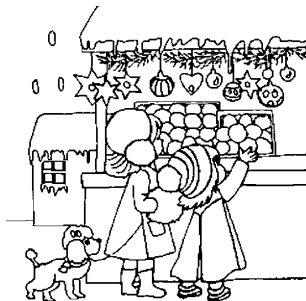
Do you have any small items at home which could be sold on the bric-a-brac stall at the Mini Market on 2 December?

Accessories, Cards and other paper items, Jewellery, Ornaments, Toiletries etc would all be very welcome on our stall.

But please, no large items more suitable for car boot sales, as they don't sell well at this sort of event.

Thank you

Mary Edmundson
Joyce Sarling



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

2nd December - 10th December

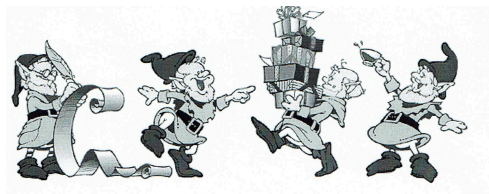
The festival will soon be upon us and organisations are busy thinking of great ideas to decorate their trees. We are very grateful for the sponsorship we have obtained from local businesses and members of the congregation. With the enthusiasm for the event so far, 2017 is going to be our best ever! Please spread the word in the community and invite your friends and neighbours to see the beautiful displays.

The Festival opens on Saturday 2nd December at 10:00am until 5:00pm and continues throughout the week until Sunday 10th December. During the week the festival will be open from 2pm-6pm.



Entrance to the event is free but we hope visitors will be generous in supporting First Step and Methodist Homes. Money raised on Saturday 2nd December at the Christmas market and in the church is going towards our church building fund.

HELPERS NEEDED!



We are asking for volunteers to act as stewards in the Church whilst the Festival is underway and for volunteers to help with tea and coffee for each day. Val Kinder is co-ordinating this and will be very pleased if you can offer to help.

Sponsorship of trees



For the past few years we have had a sponsorship scheme for the tree festival where members of the congregation sponsored a tree at the festival for £25, It will then be available for you to take home after the festival.

They are top quality 4ft Nordman Fir (needle retaining), locally farmed, freshly cut. There will be a list for you to register an interest at the back of the church .

We do hope that you will be able to support the Christmas Tree Festival and will be pleased to accept offers of help.

Any enquiries to:

Judith Hall, Gill Hare, Keith Nicholls and David Hill.

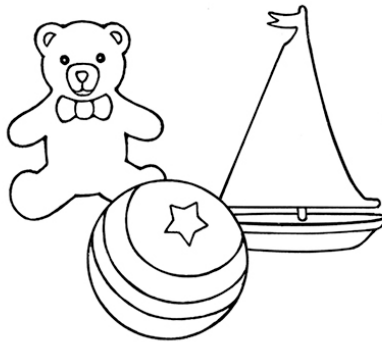
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TOY SERVICE AND ALL AGE WORSHIP

Our annual Toy Service will be held on 3 December 2017.

You are invited to donate good quality toys, and gift vouchers for older children.

We plan to take these to the Salvation Army centre in Romford, from where they will be distributed to children who would otherwise receive few Christmas presents.



Carol Service



Christmas Eve



All-Age Orchestra

If you play an instrument
and would like to play in the
orchestra at the Carol Service on
Sunday 24 December at 6.30pm,
please contact

Gill Cook – 07985480164

or

June Weaver – 07779729692

or

Vera Richards – 01708 222841

Musicians of ALL ages welcome



Newsletter – *The next newsletter will be the December/January issue. Please forward material to Allyson Hill by the 15th November .*

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

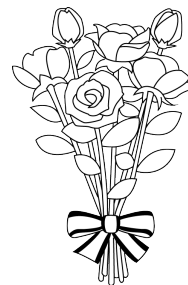
If you wish to read the President and Vice President's blog on a regular basis, please go to the Methodist Church website at **www.methodist.org.uk** and there you will be able to follow the links on a regular basis.

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





FLOWER ROTA



Very many thanks to both providers and arrangers:

Provider

Arranged by

November

5th	Sylvia & Frank Baker	Judith Hall
12th (Remembrance)	-	Chris Hughes
19th	Christine Jollye	Sheila Toon
26th	Vera Richards	June Dutton

Many thanks to Joyce Harries who provided the flowers for 1st October.

The Flower List for 2018 will be at the back of the Church from the first week in December.

Thank you very much for your continuing support to provide flowers each week to enhance our Church.

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



Sunday Worship

Dates for November

November

5th

10.00am: Penny Masters

6.30pm: Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion

12th

Remembrance Sunday

10.00am: Worship Leaders, Scouts – All Age Worship and Parade

19th

10.00am: Allan Ramsden's Fellowship Group

6.30pm: Revd. Jason Vinyard – Contemplative Worship

26th

10.00am: Stella Holland



Search: 07632124