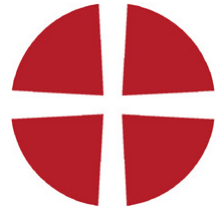


Upminster
Methodist Church



Newsletter
December 2016/January 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 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

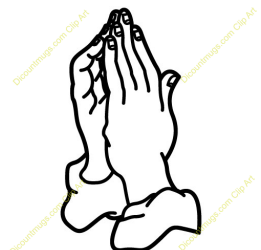
Four short prayers for Advent and Christmas - Lynne Newland

Jesus our Prince of Peace, we pray that every time a carol is sung, a Christmas greeting spoken, a nativity play performed, that your name be honoured and glorified and that hard hearts be melted to receive you afresh. **Amen**

Lord Jesus, from the repetitive muzak carols heard in every shop and supermarket to the frantic shopping for glitzy gifts, may we, your disciples, be ready to grasp every opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with others. **Amen**

Lord Jesus, as we await your coming, help us to look for you in the hoodie on our estate, the beggar on the street, the outcasts in our society and open our hearts to love others as you do. **Amen**

Lord, I pray that your Spirit of truth and love will fill the hearts of those for whom Christmas has no meaning. **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



In chapter two of Luke's Gospel we read:

“⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’”

Notice first of all that the ‘good news of great joy’ is for **YOU** but at the same moment for **ALL the people**.

Sunday 20th November marked the festival of ‘Christ the King’, the Sunday before Advent. A feast that, in the words of Methodist Minister Revd Dr Jane Leach on BBC Radio 4s Thought for the Day, is ‘a festival that focuses attention not on a tribal God but on a universal God who in becoming human chose solidarity with the whole human race. This feast reminds us that in the Kingdom of God there is no ‘us’ and ‘them’, rather the ethic is one of radical loyalty to the lasting interests of all people in which power is used not for domination but for service...’

We may feel quite insignificant, even helpless, in a time when those deemed to have power become almost tribal and polarise the political landscape to ‘us’ and ‘them’.

Are we afraid? Ultimately the question is ‘*who* is ruling *your heart?*’ I do believe the answer begins within each one of us on a daily basis. Every day we have choice in our thoughts, language, views, faith and actions. We are not insignificant and not helpless. We are called to trust the Angel:

“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

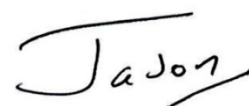
FOR YOU and for **ALL PEOPLE** a saviour is born. I believe it is about allowing ‘Christ’ to be born in us – in each thought, word, view, faith and action.

I believe it is beyond class, gender, sexuality, nationalism or globalisation - and you could continue to add to this list. I believe that it is most certainly beyond denomination and most definitely greater than ‘us’ and ‘them’ religious affiliations – for the message is **CLEAR: ‘FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.’** This is beyond any kind of labelling. God is with us. As Jane Leach states, ‘a universal God who in becoming human chose solidarity with the whole human race’.

We pray and we look; we think and we act for reconciliation, peace, love, joy and goodwill to all people of the world and in this God is with us:

“⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace...” Isaiah 9: 6-7

Yvette, Jasmine and I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

FAMILY SOCIAL – BOWLING

Twenty church friends joined together at Dagenham Bowling for a fun afternoon in November and I promised to announce the scores and winners in each category, Girls, Boys, Ladies and Men.

In the Girls section the scores were:

Emily - 135
Mufaro - 138.
Helen - 165.
Evie - 167.
Sophie - 169.
Calista - 196.

In the Ladies section the scores were:

Linda – 111
Allyson - 120
Jill - 144
Helen - 147
Caroline - 158
Alena - 163

In the Boys section the scores were:

Tobias - 67.
Munashe - 81.
Steven - 89.
Raphael - 105.

In the Men's section the scores were:

Bob - 68
Pete - 194
Conrad - 210
David H - 259
David K - 323

Firstly, I apologise to the boys as I only seem to have a record of the scores at the end of one of your games, so your results were just based on the one game, whereas everyone else's were the total of two games.

Secondly, our winners were Calista, Alena, Raphael and David K - congratulations to you all.

Thirdly, why not join us for our next monthly social - December - Christmas film in the Green room after church, January - New Years Walk - Monday 2 January (more details in the weekly notices nearer the time).

UPMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY SOCIAL

Christmas Movie
Sunday 4th December 2016



Come and join us for a Christmas movie from 12.30pm
in the Green Room

Please bring food, snack or drink to share although
some will be provided.

Please let Sarah Harris know if you can make it.

Sarah's contact details
sarahupminstermc@gmail.com
07511377351

WHITECHAPEL MISSION –*Thank you*

We are most grateful to the members of Upminster Methodist Church for their Harvest Gifts.

Your support is essential to the continuation of our work with the Homeless and vulnerable people.

Together we really are making a difference to those who are homeless and disadvantaged.

Thank you once again, Mr Tony Miller, Whitechapel Mission.



FAMILY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Committee is in the Scout den at 8 pm on Tuesday 21st February.

FAMILY NEWS

- GREETINGS from Clive Cousins, who wishes God's blessings on all at Church.
- We would like to wish all our well loved and well remembered friends at Upminster Methodist Church a very happy Christmas and good wishes for 2017.
Mike and Margaret Caton
- Christmas greetings to Church family, hope to be back soon,
Betty Barnes
- CONGRATULATIONS to our Guides Leader, Pat Gilbert, who is now appointed as Guides District Commissioner.
- We send our love and warmest congratulations to Graham Toon, eldest son of Sheila and Barry who is marrying Michelle Saittaon Saturday 3rd December 2pm at Kingston Road United Church in Toronto.
- I shall be moving, in the near future, to live with my daughter in Darlington. Doreen has already moved to a home nearby.
My address will be:-
16, Stanhope Road North
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 7AR
Peter Jonas

FISH SUPPER – *thank you*

On the 17th October, the 1st Upminster Guides held a fish supper to support the RNLI.

We invited our parents and we cooked, prepared and served: fish cake buns and fish finger buns.

It was a great night! Thank you to everyone who supported us.

The donations came to a great £180.

Thank you, 1st Upminster Guides



DO YOU HAVE A SPARE CHRISTMAS CARD?

If you have a spare Christmas card please send it to the Queen Victoria Seamans Mission.

Many of the residents do not have any family and the cards they receive are shared out and used to decorate and brighten their rooms at Christmas.

I know how much these are appreciated.

You can sign the card either 'from a friend' or just sign your Christian name.

Thank you
Sylvia Baker

Queen Victoria Seamans Mission
121-131 East India Dock Road
Poplar
London E14 6DF



SAFE AND SECURE

If you use the Church or halls for any occasion, please make sure that someone checks that all the internal doors are closed and that the external doors are locked appropriately.

Unfortunately, on too many occasions doors have been found open or unlocked, which literally 'opens the door' for anyone to enter the building/s without anyone knowing. In light of recent terrorist activity, especially in France, we need to be more vigilant and check the security of our Church and buildings.

The introduction of the new key fobs has helped greatly but we need to make sure that security is in the forefront of our minds when using the Church/halls.



MEN'S SHED

Here at Upminster Baptist Church we are starting an exciting new community project called MenShed. The purpose of this is to reach out to lonely and isolated men in the community who might like to come and spend some time doing woodwork, or just talking and drinking tea... in a shed!

You can find out more at: <http://menssheds.org.uk/>

We are asking for any surplus tools to be donated to the project. So if you (or anyone you know) has any tools lurking in a shed, garage or cupboard under the stairs which you would be happy to part with, we would be very grateful to hear from you. These may range from hand tools (hammers, saws, etc.) up to circular and table saws.

Secondly, please would you think about men whom you have contact with who might be interested in attending: Family members, neighbours, church attendees, etc.

Many thanks,

Mark

Rev. Mark Davison
Upminster Baptist Church
Springfield Gardens
Upminster
ESSEX
RM14 3EH
ubcminister@gmail.com



ADVENT SOCIAL

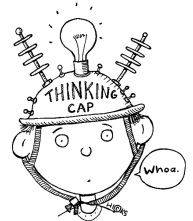
A note for your diaries, on Saturday 10th December at 6.30pm – 9.00pm we will be having our Advent Social.

There will be quizzes & games followed by a supper (jacket potato) finishing with some festive singing and music.

There will be sheets at the back of the Church, please indicate if you are attending the Advent Social and also If you are able to provide a dessert for the evening.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY QUIZ



The annual Christmas Holiday Quiz sheet is now available, it's in aid of Richard House Children's Hospice, to whom all proceeds will be sent: we ask for a minimum donation of £1 per copy, to support the fantastic work the Hospice does.

It's the usual mixture of fun and games, with some gentle exercise for your grey cells, and, by request this year a bit more for the younger members of the family. For your copy/copies, please see Jill Avis or Judith Evans.

CONCERT BY THE THURROCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

As part of the Christmas Tree Festival, the TMVC will be giving a concert on Saturday, 3rd December in the Church, commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets can be obtained from Ray Hare (Tel. 01708 223218) at £10 each.

Due to the Christmas Tree Festival and the alterations being carried out inside the Church, audience numbers will be reduced, so you are advised to apply early.



CAROLS AT THAMES CHASE

The Annual

'CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROLS AT THAMES CHASE'

is arranged for 11th December at 3.00 pm

This is an opportunity to join with other local churches for what is always a very pleasant occasion. If you would like to come but have difficulties with transport, please have a word with a steward.



Christmas Mini-Market
Saturday 3 December 2016
10am – 3pm
In aid of Church Building Fund

This year we are planning a new type of mini-market to raise money towards the new building, with a new group of enthusiastic planners we have lots of ideas (and of course would welcome more)

As always with these things we require help in advance and of course on the day.

We are planning more stalls, with side show attractions eg tombola's, estimate the weight of the cake and a Santa's grotto!

Help is required with donations in advance of:

- Chocolate – any type and lots of it!
- Toiletries – any unused items
- Books and DVD's

cont'd.....

- Raffle Prizes
- Christmas items to create hampers/baskets

Please bring these to church any Sunday in November – thank you in advance

Help will also be required on the day (for as long as you wish to give) – to set up, to run stalls, to be Santa or Mrs Santa or an Elf! and of course to help clear away at the end.

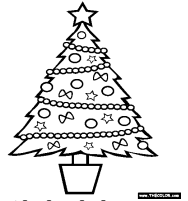
Also if you make and sell items or know of someone who does and would like a stall please let us know. Stalls holders are asked to donate £10 and a raffle prize.

If you can help with any of the above or have any ideas please speak to Allison Winegarden – 07905094983, Helen Crane - 07870817089, Helen Ward - 07776184969 or Caroline Kinder - 07941431091



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

3rd- 11th December 2016



The festival will soon be upon us and organisations are busy thinking of great ideas to decorate their trees. We are very grateful for all the sponsorship we have obtained from local businesses and members of the congregation. With the enthusiasm for the event so far, 2016 is going to be another successful year!

As in previous years the local Primary school choirs will be singing for a short while during the weekday afternoons. It is so good that they are keen to be involved each year so come along and support them if you can. More details of the choir timetable will follow in the weekly notices.

The Festival opens on Saturday 3rd December at 10:00am until 5:00pm and continues throughout the week until Sunday 11th December. During the week the festival will be open from 2pm - 6pm and weekends till 5pm.

A new event this year is a "Story Round the Christmas Tree" story and activity sessions on Monday and Friday from 3.30-4pm for young children (7 and younger) and their carers.

Entrance to the event is free, but we hope visitors will be generous in supporting our chosen charities, "Hope for Havering" the charity that helps the homeless within Havering and First Step Playgroup.

PLEASE NOTE:

On Saturday 10th December the church will be closed between 12-1.30 pm as there is a wedding in the church. It will reopen for the rest of the day soon after.



HELPERS NEEDED!

We are asking for volunteers to act as stewards in the Church whilst the Christmas Tree 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.

SING ALONG CAROLS

Sing Along Carols- Sunday 11th December, 4.30pm to celebrate the end of the Christmas tree festival together



Carol Service



All-Age Orchestra

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

Vera Richards – 01708 222841

or

June Weaver – 01708 220543 / 07779729692

or

Gill Cook – 01708 224711

Musicians of ALL ages welcome

Christingle Service

Come and celebrate Christmas at Upminster Methodist Church

Children of all Ages welcome

Date: Thursday 22nd December 2016

Time: 4pm

If you would like any more information, please contact Sarah Harris

sarahupminstermc@gmail.com

01708 222278

07511377351



#120958224

New Year Party

Come and join us to celebrate the new year together

Date: Sunday 15th January 2017

Time: 12noon till 2pm

Place: Upminster Methodist Church

Age: Children up to and including year 6

Cost: £3 per child

Please contact Sarah Harris for more information and to book your place – numbers will be limited.

Children's details

Name of child(ren)

Emergency contact name and number

Allergies/medication/dietary requirements

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 February issue. Please forward material to Allyson Hill by the 15th January.*

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.

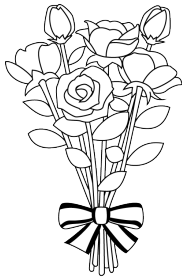
Weekly Notices - Items for the weekly Notices sheet should be sent to upmethodistchurch@btinternet.com or pass to Allyson Hill

METHODIST BLOG

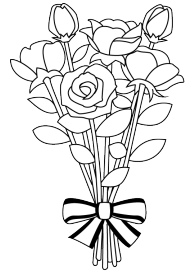
If you wish to read the President and Vice President's blog on a regular basis, please go to the Methodist Church website at www.methodist.org.uk and there you will be able to follow the links on a regular basis.

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





Our Church Flowers



The flowers in our Church play an important part in our worship and we would like to thank all the kind folk who have provided flowers each Sunday during 2016. I would also like to say very many thanks, on behalf of the Church family, to our dedicated group of ladies who kindly arrange the flowers each week and also work so hard behind the scenes to enhance our beautiful Church, especially for the Easter, Harvest and Christmas services.

The Flower List for 2017 is now pinned on the noticeboard at the back of the Church. If you would like to provide flowers next year 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 so grateful if you could consider this. You may have an anniversary or occasion that is very special to you and your flowers in the Church at that time is a lovely way of remembrance.

Chris Hughes (01708 225351)

Flowers for December

| | Provider | Arranged by |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 4 th December | Chris Pain | Chris Hughes |
| 11th | Ken Green | June Dutton |
| 18th | Grace Ababio | Grace Ababio |
| 25th | Grace Ababio | Grace Ababio |

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 December

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|---|
| 4th | 9.15am: | Tots Praise |
| | 10.00am: | Revd. Jason Vinyard – All Age/Parade and Toy Service |
| | 6.30pm: | Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion |
| 11th | 10.00am: | Revd. Keith Jefferies |
| | 4.30pm: | Singalong Carols |
| 18th | 10.00am: | Revd. David Jebb |
| | 6.30pm: | Revd. Jason Vinyard – Carol Concert |
| 22nd | 4.00pm: | Christingle Service |
| 25th | 10.00am: | Mrs Joan Pugsley – Christmas Day Family service |

