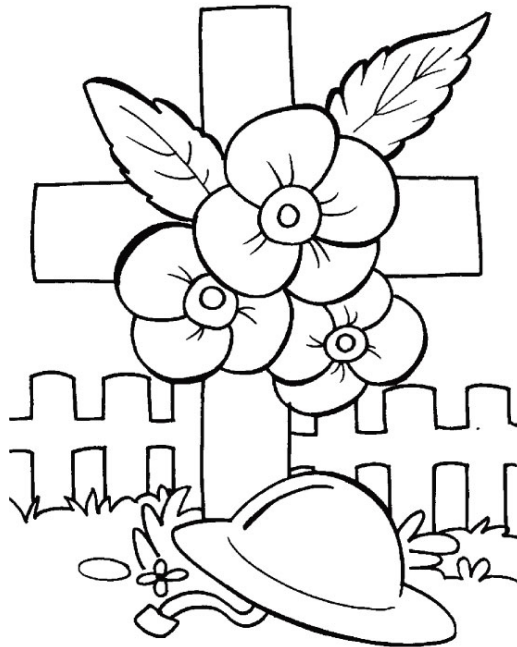
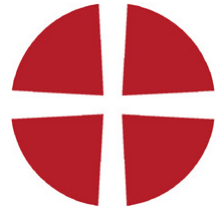


Upminster
Methodist Church



Newsletter
November 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

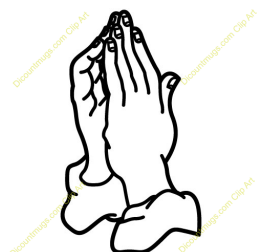
Teach us, O Lord, to attempt what we fear we cannot attain, to ascend what we fear we cannot reach and to express what we fear we cannot utter. In adoring you whom we cannot comprehend, teach us to celebrate the faith we cannot prove; for your own love's sake. Amen.

Hilary of Poitiers (315-367)

Warm, loving Spirit of God;
open our ears, that we may listen in order to understand, not simply to reply;
open our minds, that we may receive new insights into the nature of your love;
and open our hearts, that we may share generously the gifts of your grace.

Thus will we truly be disciples of Jesus Christ, and know the truth, the truth that will set us free. Amen.

Sheryl Anderson, Liverpool District Chair



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



Dear Friends,

Both Brentwood and Upminster [Methodist Churches] are at varying stages of thinking, talking, planning, or already developing how we use our premises and what they are for – varying within each church and varying within each individual. I would suggest first and foremost our [Methodist] Churches are for people; for people to encounter a loving and welcoming God.

Many of you haven't met my eldest daughter Tyler. In her 22 years of life, Ty has often been defined by her disability: registered disabled at an early age; underwent ground-breaking work in Cerebral Palsy at Great Ormond Street Hospital; statemented at school; now with a full mobility car - I could say more. I sat with her at a recent hospital appointment and clearly heard a surgeon say "the next phase of surgery doesn't need to be done just yet, we can wait, but your joints are wearing out and we can pin and screw them together, but you'll always be in pain – there's nothing we can do about the pain". It was startling to realise that this actually cheered her up! She said to me "well you see Dad, the pain thing isn't what scares me: I've always lived with the pain but I really don't like getting pulled about all the time – it's my body - and they've been sticking needles in me; stretching muscles and cutting ligaments, breaking and re-breaking bones since I can remember – I don't like the operations as I'm always so scared of the loneliness that comes with the recovery".

A recent infection means that two of Ty's toes will be amputated very soon, later the remaining toes will have metal inserts, her ankles will be fused, then her hips pinned and more. I've witnessed how people talk 'down at her' at times when she needs use of her wheelchair; how steps (that many of us just don't think about) can become huge barriers; how a seemingly small lip on a door entrance forms a visual and physical barrier from entering a building: I've recognised the loneliness she spoke of.

We are on a journey and part of the destination at which we hope to arrive is to develop our church premises to be accessible to ALL – and to everywhere in the buildings'.

Yes, it is costly – in many ways. It is what it is. We have old buildings that need updating. I've heard it said that, 'John Wesley sat lightly to the buildings'. He considered it more important that they be fit for the purpose of our collective mission: fit for people and fit for the people to come to an experience of a loving God – who welcomes ALL.

Here, it seems appropriate to add that it's not just the buildings - it's often our presumptions, perspectives and fears that need to be updated, developed and healed.

I remember as a 12-year-old boy standing looking up at a seemingly impossible task. My father had died. I decided to decorate the hallway, the banister rail, the upstairs landing and ceiling. My father was working on this when he died: I needed to pick up the tools and continue the work. I remember thinking "How on earth am I going to do this? How do I get all the way up to that ceiling - where will I lean the ladder?" I needed to remember: to remember how my Dad had been doing it. Tentatively I lent the ladder and I climbed – with paint-brush and pot in hand – I'd seen him do it and now I had to.

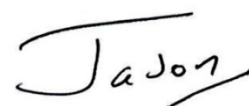
It's the season of All Saints' and All Souls', when we remember our loved ones. They were the ground breakers and the modernisers; they were those who worked hard in faith to bring us to the 'here and now' and without them we are nothing. To truly honour them, to truly remember them, we go forward in faith – as they went forward in faith.

I was not yet a teenager when my father died, and I learnt that you simply have to continue the work of the previous generation. No matter how much you love them - you simply have to paint over their paint, install that new door or whatever it is. They are still with you – for they gave you the tools and the knowledge to keep going forward – and in doing so we find our healing amidst the grieving. I also learnt that it's now our task to pass this on to the next generation – so let's get our part done so they can pick up from us.

I have quoted before, "Saints are just people who are trying to listen to God's word and live God's call. This is "the communion of saints" that we speak of in the Apostle's Creed -- that fellowship of believers that reaches beyond time and place, even beyond death.

Remembering the saints who have helped extend and enliven God's kingdom is what All Saints' Day is about."

And it is always in each moment that we live it. God is with us all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulation to Ian Leadley, Allan & Doreen Ramsden – who have celebrated or about to celebrate their 80th Birthdays

Our thoughts and prayers go to Betty Barnes & Trevor Marsh who have been in hospital recently and them a speedy recovery.

Thank you

I would like to thank the Church Family for the flowers, cards and prayers during my stay in Hospital. It was much appreciated.
Thank-you again, Jenny Smy

In a previous newsletter, Jason referred to the attractively refurbished Green Room. On behalf of all who use this room, the stewards would like to formally record a very large 'thank you' to all those who gave generously of their time and money to redecorate, provide and hang new curtains, and generally clean and tidy up the room. It is a pleasure to use!

-

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

There are so many people to thank for our wonderful Harvest celebrations.

Thank you to you all for your generosity in supporting the Festival, not only with your gifts but also in attending the lively, fully-packed service in the beautifully decorated church (incidentally, the last service before the building works began, so fitting that there was overspill into the choir stalls!).

Thank you to Chris H and her team for creating such a wonderful display of flowers and fruit. The windows, decorated by various groups and organisations, displayed the theme of 'God's Gift of Water', imaginatively and effectively.

The Guides took a leading role alongside Jason in both selecting hymns and material and in presenting it to the congregation, with Vera's organ playing and the band adding to the atmosphere of thanksgiving.

The Scout group once again took on the challenge of cooking a BBQ, with Chris W and her team taking control of the salads and desserts - again it was a great success, enjoyed by about 70 people.

Fresh fruit and vegetables were taken to St Francis Hospice on the Monday morning and Tony Miller from the Whitechapel Mission arrived with his trailer to collect the many tins, boxes and packets of food later in the week – he was amazed to see such a vast array of gifts, and particularly grateful since donations of food are currently somewhat reduced.

So – thank you all for making our Harvest a very special occasion.



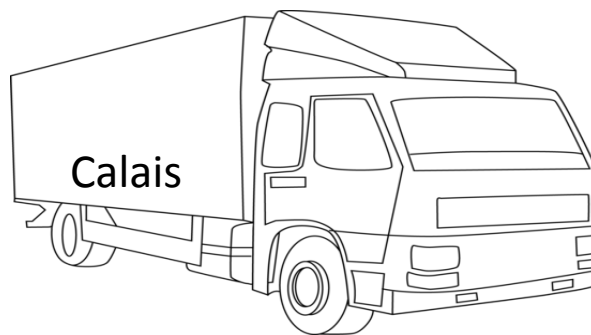
CALAIS FOOD COLLECTION

During September, we received a rather last-minute call from the London Districts for donations of food to be taken to the Calais refugee camps, where supplies were very low in already difficult conditions.

Thank you for your support in bringing along food, which was then taken to Romford Trinity for collection a few days later.

These donations are of course in addition to your regular donations to our local food bank, and for the harvest collection.

We are very grateful for your generosity.



The Hungry Fish!

Thank you for all those spare coins that found their way into the fish at the back of the Church. We raised £190 which will be shared between the Family & Children's Worker Fund and J.M.A. (Junior Mission for All.)

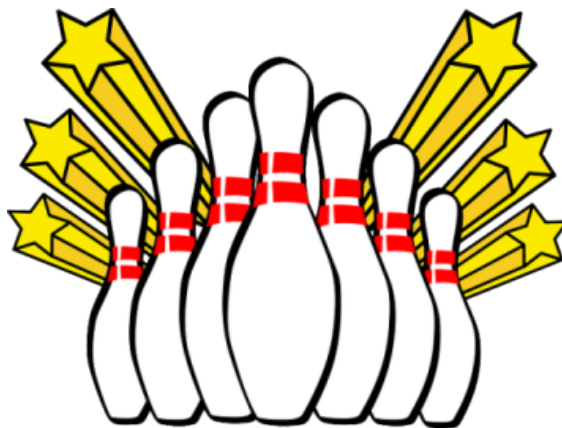
The fish is in for repair, as all those coins were very heavy! It will return (by popular demand), when we will look forward to your generosity again in colouring it's scales with any shade of coin.

This time we are looking to raise money for the Church Building Fund and J.M.A.

Thank you for all your support



UPMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH FAMILY SOCIAL EVENT



Everyone is invited to join us at Dagenham Bowling
on Sunday 6 November 2016 at 2pm

Please book your place with Caroline Kinder (01708223793)
by Sunday 30 October

Approximate costs for two games
£12 per adult or £10 per child

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 BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to participate in an Advent Study Group, following the York Course 'Living in the Light', to be led by Rev John Chambers.

These will commence on Wednesday 30 November at 7.30 in the Parlour, and continue on December 7th, 14th and 21st.



ADVENT SOCIAL

A note for your diaries, on Saturday 10th December at 6.30pm -9pm we will be having our Advent Social.

There will be quizzes & games followed by a supper(details to be confirmed later) finishing with some festive singing and music.

There will be a sheet at the back of the church for you to add your names and everybody young and old are very welcome.

CAROLS IN UPMINSTER TOWN CENTRE

Churches Together will be Carol Singing on Thursday 24th November from 4.3pm by the Upminster Town Christmas Tree which will be at the traffic lights outside Lloyds Bank

Please come along with your singing voices or support those that are singing



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.

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

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



3rd December - 11th 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, 2016 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 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.

Entrance to the event is free but we hope visitors will be generous in supporting our two local charities, "Hope for Havering " the charity that helps those who are homeless in Havering and First Step. Money raised on Saturday 3rd 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.





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

- 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 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 SHOEBOXES

People have been asking about whether the Church is doing the Shoebox appeal.

As we are raising funds for THE BIG BUILD we did not think it was fair to expect the church family to stretch their very generous support to Shoe Boxes as well.

However, I will be sending as many boxes as I can as usual as it is something very dear to my heart.

If anyone wants to contribute I will be more than pleased to accept any of the usual items; soap, flannels, crayons, pens, combs etc.

Thank you for your help, it is greatly appreciated.

Jill Avis



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 December/January issue. Please forward material to Allyson Hill by the 15th November.*

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.

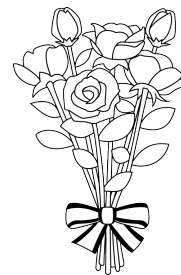
Weekly Notices - Items for the weekly Notices sheet should be sent to upmethdistchurch@btinternet.com or pass to Allyson Hill

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, as always, to both providers and arrangers:

	Provider	Arranged by
November 6 th	Vera Richards	June Dutton
13 th (Remembrance)	Joyce Sarling	Judith Hall
20 th	Christine Jollye	Sheila Toon
27 th	Marilyn & Andrew Milne	Jenny Smy

The Flower List for 2017 will be at the back of the Church from the first week in December. Thank you for your continuing support to provide flowers each week to make our Church beautiful.

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



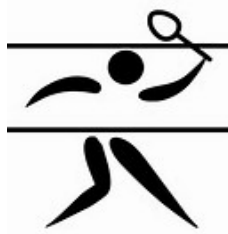
Choir and Band Practice

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 November

6th

9.15am	Tots Praise
10.00am	Local Arrangements
6.30pm	Revd. Jason Vinyard - Holy Communion

13th

10.00am	Revd. Jason Vinyard – All Age Worship and Parade – Remembrance Sunday
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20th

10.00am	Mr Ricky Bull
6.30pm	Revd. Jason Vinyard – Contemplative Worship

27th

10.00am	Revd. John Chambers
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"He follows your 'tweets.' That's how God
always knows what you're doing."