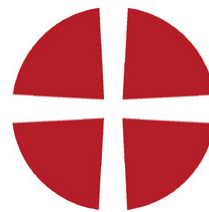


Upminster
Methodist Church



Newsletter
December/January 2017/18

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.

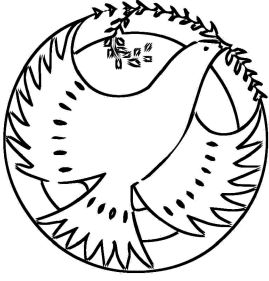
Its activities, both alone and with ecumenical and secular partners, are based on four aims known as ***Our Calling:***

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

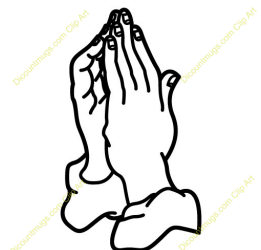


Jesus our Prince of Peace, we pray that every time a carol is sung, a Christmas greeting spoken, a nativity play performed, that your name be honoured and glorified and that hard hearts be melted to receive you afresh. **Amen**

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



Let me set the scene. In a bedroom in the manse, there is a dressing table. Above this, two shelves, and above these, a telly fixed to the wall. It's all done quite nice; the table is white, the shelves and wood brackets painted white, all the cabling for the telly hidden.

I fitted some new cabling to the telly. As I fed this up through the back of the table, up through the shelves, my hand slightly nudged a make-up brush. Something else moved and fell off the shelf. 'That's odd', I thought, 'my hand didn't touch that'. I tried to put the make-up brush, (the one my hand had slightly nudged), back where it had originally been. Something else fell off the shelf. I picked them up and as I put them back, (you guessed it), something else fell off the shelf! This continued. I knew I didn't have a clue where to put anything back - and things were falling off all over the place! Retreat!

A few days later, standing in the same bedroom, looking at the same dressing table – I pondered. I gazed in wonder at all the different types of 'things' that I guess make-up is and so many seemingly different types of what I can only describe as 'tools'. They were all together. Brushes – so many different sized brushes, mirrors, pots – round ones, square ones, rectangle ones, powders, creams, tissues, sponges, pointy things, pencil things; all sorts of make-up looking things - and a mug of cold tea. It would be easy to say, 'that's just a chaotic mess', but, I had a hunch. So, here's what I did. I tested my theory. I moved my hand, flicked a finger out and poked a make-up thing hanging near the edge of the table – the effect was amazing, like dominos! The make-up thingy literally turned on the spot while simultaneously nudging a small mirror. The small mirror moved just a fraction and knocked into a pot filled with make-up powder.

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This nudged another make-up thingy that knocked into a round looking stick, that rolled into another square looking stick. This square stick turned, catching another round thingy that rolled, rolled some more, and fell from the table to the floor!! 'Genius', I thought, 'that's absolute genius, that's not a mess at all, that's an absolute work of art!'. I stood looking. Looking in what I can only describe as wonder, admiration and with respect! It's all incredibly connected.

Amidst your Christmas preparations; the cards, the shopping, the wrapping, the decorating, the cooking, the stressing, the waiting, the excitement. Amidst all the heavy advertising boldly proclaiming what makes a perfect Christmas. Amidst that awful low feeling that often follows this season and the loneliness and emptiness some of us feel. Amidst your New Year Resolutions and the long days of January. Remember. YOU have a place.

Every thought, word or action matters – YOU matter. YOU are not a mess. YOU are never truly alone. YOU are unique and part of something *much bigger*.

Everything YOU do has an effect, an action, an outcome. Everything. Absolutely everything.

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Your life is not a jumble of 'things', but life, that's linked, all together, with this amazing story we remember at Christmas. YOU - God gazes at YOU in wonder. All YOUR experience, none of it is meaningless. YOU are so meaningful. The word was made flesh, full of grace and truth and beauty, and YOU share in this. YOU are incredibly connected. YOU are so loved that God comes to us in Jesus Christ, in a seemingly messy story of events and lives that live alongside, nudge and move each other. A story of God so loving the world – and that includes YOU! What YOU do makes a difference to someone or something, and YOU do it in YOUR unique and beautiful way. And that's amazing! That's worthy of Pondering.

May the Love of God, the Peace of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with YOU ALL this Christmas and New Year. And of course, those Holy Angels. We all have our place.

And the cabling? Well, that's found its place, hanging there, in its unique position, in its unique way. And one little movement... well, perhaps I'll leave that for another time!

Jason

FAMILY NEWS

It is with sadness to announce that David Hill's mother passed away in October at the grand age of 100, she will be missed greatly.

Judith Evan's mother, Viola passed away in November, many of the members of the church will remember her fondly.

Saa Dunbar's father died in November our thoughts and prayers are with the family

It is with sadness and shock to hear of the sudden death of Elsie Powell who was a very popular and active member of the Church – our thoughts and prayers go out to all the members of her family.



Congratulations: A son born to parents Martin & Sarah Hall, brother to Edward, grandson to Judith Hall, on 19th November

We would again like to wish our good friends in Upminster Church a very Happy Christmas and Every Blessing in 2018 and send our love to you all.

Michael and Margaret Caton

How can you give more to the Church without it costing you anything?

It is a fact of life that things get more expensive every year and this is no different for the Church.

Just as for your own home bills such as gas, electricity, telephone, water, etc., all need to be paid, but there is also the Minister's salary and maintaining the manse to consider.

It would be great if the offertory could always increase sufficiently to keep ahead of the increases of the costs, but home budgets are often already stretched so that increasing what is given just isn't possible.

However, for those that pay tax, you could increase your giving to the Church above the rate of inflation. In fact you could increase it by 25% without it costing you a penny!!!

You don't need to commit to paying a certain regular amount but by completing a simple Gift Aid form allows the Church to benefit from the tax reclaim and, if you are a higher rate tax payer, you too benefit via tax relief.

Over the last Church year the offertory was down more than £2000 than the previous year and with our contribution to the Circuit increasing by £2000 we have seen a shortfall of around £5000. If we assume that our average congregation is 100 and if we all gave an extra £1 a week we would cover the shortfall, but we do know that this is not possible for all of us and we are so very grateful for what you do give.

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If you don't currently Gift Aid then all that's needed is an additional 40 of us who pay tax and usually give at least £250 a year (£5 a week) in loose notes or coins to register for Gift Aid and this would reduce the shortfall. Even if you give less, it would still help.

Being realistic we will probably have to rely on some increasing their giving and others registering for Gift Aid, but the more additional people who sign up for Gift Aid the better.

If you are a tax payer and are currently not giving under Gift Aid, I would be very grateful if you could come and see me.

Peter Hobbs

SHOE BOXES – THANK YOU

We were able to make up thirty shoe boxes this year and would like to thank everyone for their generosity. You have made several children very happy this Christmas.

Thank you Jill Avis



5p's COLLECTION

So far this year we have raised £190 for the Whitechapel Mission from our 5p collections.

Thank you very much.

Please keep collecting!

Jean Nicholls

COUNTRYFILE CHILDREN IN NEED

On Sunday the 15th October, a group of 20 people, young & old, and a dog, met at the Upminster Methodist church, where they began that afternoons adventure. In total, we walked around five miles aiming to raise money for the BBC's Children In Need.

Each member of the walk collected sponsors which they then donated to go towards the BBC's Children In Need.

We all had an amazing time and discovered new parts of Upminster which we look forward to exploring further into in the future.

Overall everybody had an amazing time, thank you to everyone who sponsored and took part and an extra special thank you to Peter Caton for doing a great job of organising it.

Overall we raised nearly £300 for children in need.

Ella Winegarden



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 for 4 days, Monday 4th December – Thursday 7th December, with a training session on the afternoon or evening of Friday 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 Tree Festival 2017



2nd-10th December 2017

The festival will soon be upon us and organisations are making their final preparation to decorate the trees. We are very grateful for all the sponsorship we have obtained from the Upminster shops and members of the congregation. Also, a big thank you for all the stewards who have volunteered and will be at the church during the week.

As in previous years local Primary schools are coming to sing for a short while in the weekday afternoons. It is very pleasing that they wish to be involved each year so please come along and try to support them. More details will be in the weekly notices.

The festival opens on Saturday 2nd December at 10am until 5pm and continues throughout the week until Sunday 10th December. During the week the festival will be open from 2pm-6pm and weekends, Saturday from 10am till 5pm and Sunday 12noon – 5pm.

On Sunday 10th December there will be a closing informal service in the last hour of the festival, “Sing- a - long Carols” at 4.30pm led by Rev Jason Vinyard.

Entrance to the event is free but we do hope that visitors will be generous in supporting our chosen charities First Step Playgroup and Methodist Homes.



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 .

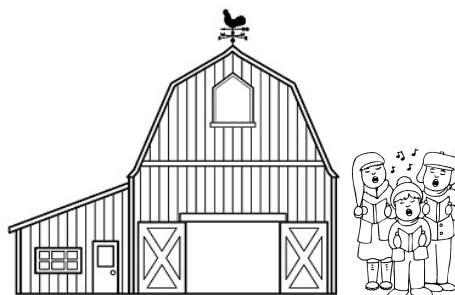
We do hope that you will be able to support the Christmas Tree Festival and will be pleased to accept offers of help.

Any enquiries to:

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

Thames Chase 'Carols in the Barn'

There will be 'Carols in the Barn' at Thames Chase on Sunday 10th December starting at 3pm. Please come along and join in with the singing.



STORIES UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREES

Young children (with their carers) are invited to enjoy some Christmas stories and crafts, surrounded by the Christmas trees.

This event will take place on:

Monday 4th December at 3.30pm

Wednesday 6th December at 3.30pm

Friday 8th December at 3.30pm



Sunday 10th December at 4.30pm

“SING-A-LONG CAROLS”

Join us in the church for the closing hour of the festival,
And sing all the favourite carols.

Another opportunity to wear your Christmas hats and jumpers!

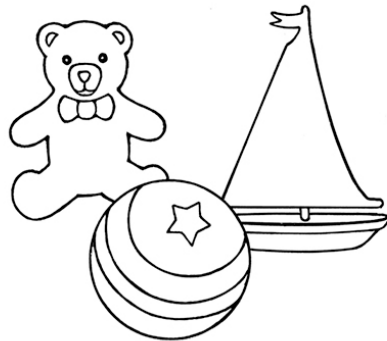


TOY SERVICE AND ALL AGE WORSHIP

Our annual Toy Service will be held at 10.00am on Sunday 3rd 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.

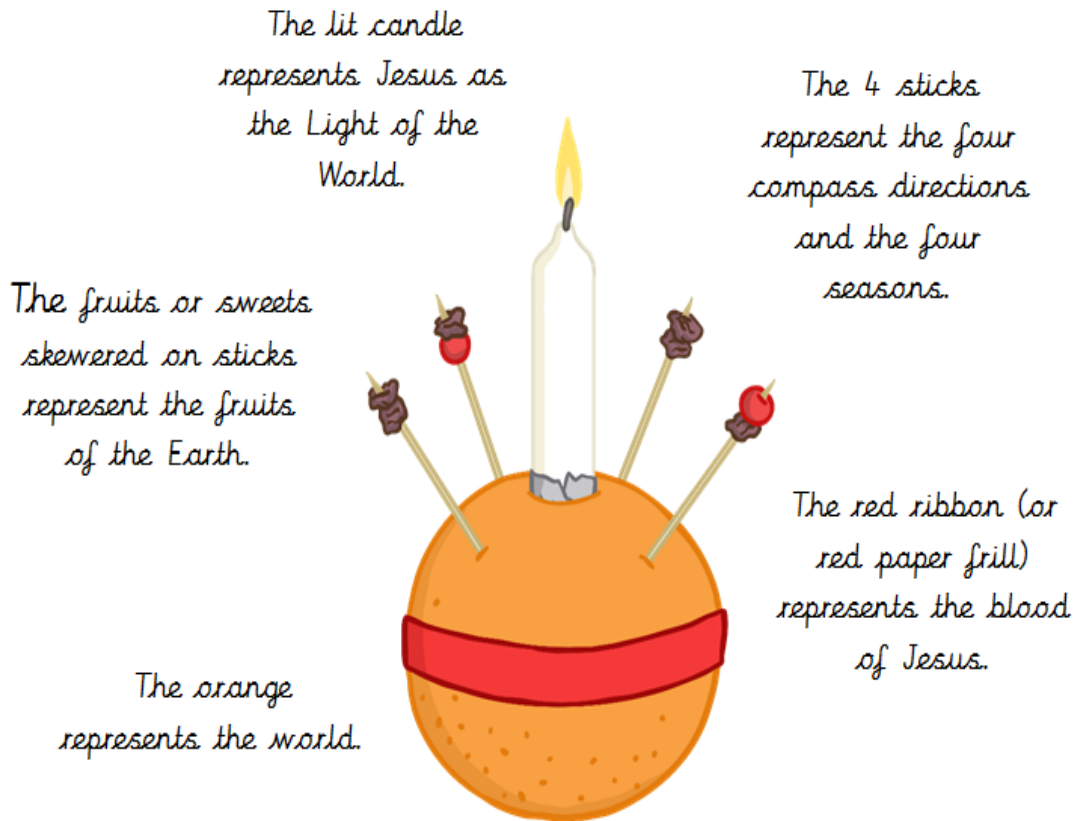


Christingle Service

Thursday 21st December

4pm

All welcome



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

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

FAMILY COMMITTEE

The next meeting is arranged for Tuesday, 6th February 2018
at 8.00 pm in the Scout Den.





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

If you would like to receive the monthly Newsletter by email please place your request via the email address above.

The views expressed in articles in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editor, minister or officers of the church.

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

If you would like the weekly Notice sheet emailed please email Allyson Hill

METHODIST BLOG

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

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





Our Church Flowers

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 2017.

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 2018 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 very 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
3rd	Chris Pain	Chris Hughes
10th	Ken Green	Jenny Smy
17th	Carole & Brian Webb	Sheila Toon
24th	Grace Ababio	Grace Ababio
31st	Christmas flowers remain	

Thank you to Joyce Sarling who provided flowers for our Remembrance service on 12th November.

Upminster Methodist Church Weekly Activities

If you have a date or activity you wish to add, please let the editor know at upminster.newsletter@gmail.com



Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.00am – 11.00am



Gateway Tea, coffee and chat

Monday and Wednesday 10.00am – 12 noon



Choir and Band Practice

Fridays and Saturdays as announced
7.30pm

Adult Badminton

Thursdays 8pm – 9.30pm

All abilities welcome



Wesley Players

Mondays 8.00pm



Patchwork Group

Mondays 1pm





Tots and Co

Tuesdays in term time
9.30am – 11.30am

Uniformed Groups

Mondays	5.00pm	Rainbows
	6.15pm	Brownies
	7.15pm	Guides and Rangers
Wednesdays	6.30pm	Cub Scouts
Thursdays	6.00pm	Beaver Scouts
Fridays	7.30pm	Scouts



Sunday Worship

December 2017

3rd

10.00am: Revd. Jason Vinyard – All Age Worship, Parade and Toy Service

6.30pm: Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion

10th

10.00am: Revd. David Jebb

4.30pm: Sing-along Carols

17th

10.00am: Mr Mike Palmer

6.30pm: Revd. Jason Vinyard – Contemplative Worship

24th

10.00am: Revd. Deji Okegbile

6.30pm: Revd. Jason Vinyard – Carol Service

11.30pm: Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion

31st

10.00am: Revd. Karen Bell



Sunday Worship

January 2018

7th

10.00am:

Mr Freddie Sayer

6.30pm:

Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion

14th

10.00am:

Mrs Rachel Read – All Age Worship and Parade

4.30pm:

Circuit Service at Collier Row

21st

10.00am:

Revd. Keith Jeffries

6.30pm:

Joint Service at St. Laurence

28th

10.00am:

Revd. Jason Vinyard – Covenant Service and Holy Communion

