**RAYLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH**

Eastwood Road

Rayleigh

**Minister**

Rev Dr Calvin Samuel **M: 07411 289 469**

**Coordinating Steward**

Mrs Pat Norman **T: 01268 781896**

**THE NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 2019**

**WHAT KIND OF CHURCH DO WE HOPE TO BE FOR RAYLEIGH?**

I have been stationed to be minister for Rayleigh and Rochford Methodist Churches for 1 year until August 31st 2020. I am in the 2020 stationing process and so is the Southend & Leigh Circuit. So it’s possible that I could be stationed to Rayleigh, Rochford and Hockley from 2020 for a further 5 years. However, we won’t know the outcome of the stationing process for several months and we must assume unless we hear otherwise that my appointment will last for 12 months only and that someone else will take on that role from September 2020.

If that were the case, then we have a question before us. What do we want to do for the next 11 months? What kind of minister do you want me to be and what kind of church do we want to be for Rayleigh? It’s one of the questions on the agenda for the October Church Council.

It seems to me that we have at least two options. Option 1 is to play it safe. I can act as a caretake minister keeping the seat warm and keeping things ticking over until my successor arrives in September 2020. At which point the ministry that matters for the long term can begin.

Option 2 is not to play it safe at all. Instead it’s to determine that we will try something new, innovative and courageous, something a bit risky, knowing that we have a short amount of time together. So even if it all goes horribly wrong, a fresh start, in terms of ministers at least, is hopefully just round the corner.

And what will shape the decision we choose to make on either of these two options is our answer to the question: what kind of church do we hope to be for Rayleigh? That’s a very carefully framed question. Not only what kind of church do we hope to be, but, what kind of church do we hope to be *for Rayleigh?*

It’s my conviction that any church that’s worthy of the name exists for the benefit of those who are not yet members as well as for those who are already its members. It’s part of the reasons that Methodist churches often take the name of their location rather than the name of some worthy saint as is common in some other church traditions. It’s our way of saying that the church has to be *for* the community in which it is located. It’s not just a club for those who have joined its membership.

**1**

So, what kind of church do we hope to be for Rayleigh? How might we be a beacon shining in this town and offering something of our hope that is in Christ Jesus? How do we embody faith in our local communities so that faith is no longer an odd word important to quirky people but rather an attractive and hope filled way of life that demands explanation? How do we experiment and innovate so that we can move towards a different future from the one to which we are now headed? How do we find the energy and create the space to do the experimentation and innovation that is so desperately needed when we are already busy and committed and a wee bit overwhelmed?

I don’t have easy answers to these questions, partly because there are no easy answers. But I am convinced of this: we will not begin to fulfil our potential as a church family until we have some kind of answer to the question, ‘What kind of church do we hope to be for Rayleigh?’ Without greater clarity about our hopes for Rayleigh, we will continue to lack focus to our efforts as a church and continue to do the things that we’ve traditionally done with fairly predictable results; our decline will accelerate.

However, I don’t believe that decline is the only option available to us. I happen to believe that we have something important and valuable to share, first, in the good news of Jesus, and, second, in our particular Methodist emphases on Christian faith.

Ours is a church with a proud heritage here in Rayleigh. It might be that some of us are satisfied that our heritage should simply remain in the past, for which we give God thanks.

However, I’m hoping that there are also some of us who desire that our heritage be much more than mere history; it should also be a foundation for growth and mission, and vitality.

So, what kind of church do we hope to be for Rayleigh? Over the next 11 months let us develop a vision of that church together and then under God work towards making it a reality.

All God’s Blessings. Calvin.

**2**

**SAFEGUARDING**

It is now time for us to renew our DBS checks in order to comply with Methodist Safeguarding practice and our own Safeguarding Policy. “DBS” stands for Disclosure and Barring Service.

If you have been checked previously, I will be emailing you to ask for some fresh information which will enable me to start the process. (I will write separately to those without email and will assist them in making their application.) After I have initiated the online process you will receive an email from Due Diligence Checking who manage this service for the Methodist Church giving you a password to enable you to make your application.

During the process of making an application you will be asked to choose three means of identification and after the process is complete you will be asked to see me with those documents so that they may be verified. After this has happened the application will be dealt with and in due course you will receive a certificate which I shall need to see.

When I contact you please let me know if there is any change in the role you undertake for the Church which might affect the need for a DBS check. If there is anyone who has not had a DBS check and is not sure whether they need one please have a word with me.

Tony Knuckey

Safeguarding Coordinator

Thanks

I would like to say a big thank you to all my friends at Church for all the lovely cards and the good wishes I received for my 90th birthday. I had a wonderful day with my family. Many thanks once again.

**From Val Pells**

**3**

**SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2019**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| '6 October | '10.45 | W | Local Arrangement |
| '13 October | '10.45 | P | REV Dr Calvin Samuel |
| '13 October | '18.30 | RW | REV Dr Calvin Samuel |
| '20 October | '10.45 | W | Kathy McCullough |
| '27 October | '10.45 | HC | REV Dr Calvin Samuel |
| '27 October | '16.00 | Messy Church | Local Arrangement |

P PARADE HC HOLY COMMUNION W WORSHIP RW REFLECTIVE WORSHIP JCA JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER 2019**

7 October Speaker Paul Green
  "Beekeeping"
14 October    Social Afternoon
   "With Raffle"
21 October       Speasker Major Battle
 "The Salvation Army"
28 October        Speaker Brian Carline
  "A Pictorial View of life of a Child in 1940"
 Elaine Blades

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

Val Smith is happy to announce the birth of a new granddaughter, Isla
Elise, born to Andrew and Carla - a sister for Caitlyn and Heather.
Congratulations and best wishes to all the family.

**Val Tyler**

**Linda Newman** wishes to say a big thank you to everyone, for their kind thoughts, wishes and prayers for my recent operation.  Also, many thanks for the get well cards and flowers from the Church.  I had  a total hip replacement and making a good recovery from the surgery.

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**RAYLEIGH TREFOIL GUILD**

In Trefoil Guild, women and men aged 18+ make new friends, travel, explore, serve their communities and help Guiding (and Scouting) thrive across the UK!

Whether you’re involved in guiding or not, Trefoil Guild is a wonderful opportunity to meet like-minded people to share your next adventure - whatever that might be!

Trefoil Guild is a branch of Girlguiding and its members agree to support the guiding ethos - including the pledge to help other people. Many members pass on their skills and knowledge to local guiding units, from helping Brownies work towards a badge to preparing older girls for a camping adventure. Many members are unit leaders or helpers in Girlguiding units.

But it’s not all about the girls - there are plenty of opportunities for members to try something new, take on a new personal challenge and escape the daily routine. The best thing is that what you do is up to you! Across the UK, there are over 1,100 Trefoil Guilds with over 20,000 members.

Rayleigh Trefoil Guild enjoyed hosting a coffee morning in July when they were able to raise enough funds to give a £200 donation to the church plus have more money to go towards a final donation £400 to the HARP charity, the chosen charity for this year. Lisa Walton from the charity received the cheque at the September meeting.

At the end of August members enjoyed having an afternoon tea party at Joan Watts' house when a further £150 was raised for charity, and had a walk round her lovely garden.

Several members members went to the National Trefoil AGM held in Southport in June and next year Southend's Cliffs Pavilion will be the venue when Anglia Region will be hosting the event on 6 June. Rayleigh will be helping to steward the event when over 1400 members from across the UK will be coming to the town for the weekend.

In July, 9 of our members went to Chigwell Row, a Guiding Centre in Romford, for the Essex Three County Fun Day and helped to win the trophy for South-East Essex. Further events in our calendar is a trip to Flatford Mill this month and a National Trefoil gathering in Swanwick in October. These will be followed by a County Quiz Night in our Church Hall in November.

Margaret Butler Rayleigh Trefoil Guild Chairman

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**IN PRAISE OF GRANDPARENTS!**

6th October is ‘Grandparents Day’. Grandparents in the UK number about 17 million, or more than one in four of the adult population. Grandparents average out at 68 years of age, have four grandchildren who live 10 miles away, and who spend five hours per visit.

Grandparents have multiple roles as their grandchildren grow up: playmates, teachers, confidants, spiritual guides, mentors, role models and nurturers, as well as pray-ers.  They also can keep children’s milestones, family history and family events alive. Grandchildren will often discuss their personal concerns with a trusted grandparent.

Grandparents are also important for the UK economy!  Nine million of them looked after their grandchildren in 2017.  On average they did so for eight hours a week, and 96% received no payment.

Research has found that if grandparents go to church regularly, 60% of their grandchildren are likely to go to church also.  Grandparental example is followed!

As about 10% of UK grandparents are churchgoers, would a church ‘Grandparents’ Group,’ to help grandparents meet, discuss issues and pray for their grandchildren be useful?  Moses’ injunction to the Israelites “not to forget the things your eyes have seen ... make them known to your children and children’s children” (Deuteronomy 4:9) is a constant challenge, but Psalm 92:14 is a wonderful promise!

Grandparents’ Day in the UK is the first Sunday in October.  Should we put that day in our church diary for a special celebration of our grandparents?

**4th October: St Francis of Assisi - love for the Creation**

St Francis (1181 - 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis’ youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and

carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area.

**6**

Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi ‘Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down’.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis’ life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father’s cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious - until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis’ close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ’s sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

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**COFFEE MORNING.**

**19 OCTOBER 2019 from 10.00 to 12.00**

**Womens Fellowship**

**(Elaine Blades)**

***It will include the following stalls, cakes cards, books, bric-a-brac,***

**and much more**

**RAYLEIGH WESLEY GUILD**

**WHEN? NEW TIME – 2PM-3PM**

**WHERE? WESLEY ROOM**

Yes we have changed the time of our meetings to the afternoon and we do hope you will now be able to join us. We have a varied programme including speakers, members , meals and much more. We always end with a chat, tea or coffee and biscuits. There is also a table with food and gifts for sale. We look forward to seeing you there.

**October Dates**

10th - Colin Turner

17th - Pat O'Keefe - Firefighters

24th - Diane Parmenter OACS - Councelling Service

31st - Half Term - 1pm Fish and Chip lunch

Margaret Flintham

**THANKS**

We wish to thank all friends for their cards and gifts we received on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding.

Judith and Brian Ring

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**WORD-SEARCH FOR OCTOBER 2019**

October brings us Harvest, and Psalm 65 expresses it perfectly: “You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn, for so you have ordained it... You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance... the hills are clothed with gladness, the meadows are covered with flock and the valleys are mantled with corn; they shout for joy and sing.”

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CORN | ABUNDANCE | MARROWS | CROPS  | PRAISE |
| RAIN | GOODNESS | WATER | SOFTEN | CARE |
| MUD | RICHES | THANKFUL | CARTS | BLESSING |
| WHEAT | PUMPKINS | FOOD | OVERFLOW | MEADOWS |
|  |  |  |  | FLOCKS |

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**RAYLEIGH COMBINED CHURCHES REFUGEE GROUP**

OUR

COFFEE MORNING AND FRUGAL LUNCH TRANSFORMS PEOPLES

LIVES

 COME AND SUPPORT US AS WE TURN YOUR DONATIONS INTO

EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT CLEANWATER

 SANITATION OPPORTUNITIES

CROP AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

***THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2019***

***11.00AM – 1.30pm***

***AT CALEY HALL,***

 ***CROWN HILL, RAYLEIGH***

**BRING AND BUY STALL**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Please note that the date of the next CCM has been altered to Tuesday 1 October, 2019.

We are aware that some members will be unable to attend, but as it is convenient for most of us, it is the nearest alternative to the originally set date at the end of September.

**THE LADIES CLUB**

**2 October Doreen Sims- Guide Dogs**

**9 October Diane Nicholson - Samaritans purse
16 October Macmillan Coffee Afternoon - wear pink
23 October Time to Talk
30 October Half term
6 November Bring & buy**

**Elizabeth Ellis**

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**OPTING OUT**

 There are 100 members in our church,

            But 30 are frail and elderly.

That leaves 70 to do all the work,

            But 18 are young people at college.

That leaves 52 to do all the work.

            But 14 are tired businessmen,

So that leaves 38 to do all the work.

            But 16 are busy wives with jobs and children,

That leaves 22 to do all the work.

            But a further 10 have most important outside interests,

That leaves 12 to do all the work,

            But 5 live too far away to come regularly,

So that leaves 7 to do all the work.

            And 5 say they’ve already done their bit for the church.

That leaves you and me,

            And I’m exhausted.

            **Good luck to you!**

**WHOSE FAULT IS IT, ANYWAY?**

In a small town a businessman put in planning permission to build a nightclub complete with dancing girls.  The local church started a vigorous campaign to block it from opening.  The church launched a petition and held prayers in public.  Work progressed, however, right up until the week before opening.  Then one night a bolt of lightning strike hit the nightclub and it burned to the ground.

The church members were rather smug after that, until the nightclub owner sued them all -on the grounds that they were responsible for the fire. Loudly protesting their total non-involvement and innocence, the church members were all taken to court.

As the case began, the judge looked over the paperwork and observed: ‘I don’t know how I’m going to decide this.  It appears that we have a nightclub owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that doesn’t!’

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* + 1. **RAYLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH**
1. **PRAYER GROUP MEETING DATES**
2. **2019**
3. *October: 9th & 23rd.*
4. *November: 6th & 20th.*
5. *December: 4th.*
6. ALL MEETINGS ARE IN THE WELCOME AREA, COMMENCING AT 9.30AM, FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES.

1. ***FROM THE EDITORS WE NEED YOUR ARTICLES for the NOVEMBER 2019 EDITION***
2. *The deadline for the submission of articles for this edition of the Newsletter is Sunday* ***13 OCTOBER 2019*** *( in Welcome Area) or Wednesday* ***16 OCTOBER*** *by post or email.*
3. ***johnward816@gmail.com***
4. **Bible Study** at Clifford and Linda's house at 10am on Friday 25th October - Subject Faithfulness

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**SERVICES**

**Sunday Services**  10:45 am and (6:30 pm 2nd and 4th Sunday)

**Junior Church**  10:45 am

**Mid-Week Communion**

With the exception of August it is held on the third Tuesday of each month in the WESLEY ROOM at 10:30 am.

**REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS**

**Monday**

1:15pm Sunbeams Parent and Toddler Group

2:30 pm Women's Fellowship

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

1:45pm – 3:15pm Ladies Club

4:15 pm-5:30 pm Rainbows

5:45 pm -7:15 pm Brownie Guides

7:00 pm-8.45pm Guides

**Thursday**

10:00 am Care and Share

2:00 pm Wesley Guild (Sept to May only)

5.15 pm- 6.15pm Beavers

6:30 pm - 7:45 pm Cubs

8:00 pm – 9:30pm Scouts

**Friday**

4:30 pm-5:45 pm Rainbows

5:30 pm-7:00 pm Brownie Guides

7:15 pm -9:00 pm Guides

7:15 pm -9:00 pm Guides Senior Section (fortnightly)

**Preschool**

Mon 9:15 am to 11:45 am

Tues Weds Thurs Friday 9:15-11:45 am and 12:30-3:00 pm

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