**RAYLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH**

Eastwood Road, Rayleigh

**Minister**

Rev Nana Thomford 01702 298135.

**Coordinating Steward**

Mrs Pat Norman01268 781896

**THE NEWSLETTER**

**JUNE 2019**

## THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

Praise God for the wonderful world that He has made for us to live in. Praise Him for the light of the sun in the sky by which we are able to live and breathe, and for the light of the Bible, which gives us the rules by which we should
lead our lives.

Thank Him for the wisdom of the rules He gave us to live by. Thank Him for giving us the understanding of how to follow them, and – if we transgress, as we often do – thank Him for being so ready to forgive and pour out his love upon us.
Let us ask Him for wisdom and courage, that we may obey His rules even when others around us fail to do so. He knows how difficult it can be to act with love to those who are disadvantaged in some way; the poor, the sick, the needy.

He asks us to spend time with the weary, the sad, the stranger.
Not everyone is gifted to be at ease with those who demand time and attention, but He asks each one of us to do our best. Remember that Jesus himself spent time with those who were cold-shouldered and overlooked by the rich and selfish in society. Now He ask us to do something about it.

### THINKING ABOUT STRANGERS

It is sometimes easier to confide in strangers than it is to talk to close family or friends. But what if the stranger were Jesus? Undoubtedly we would be met with even greater sympathy and more understanding
than if it were our best friend listening to us. We can always have that sympathy and understanding if we open our hearts to Him and trust in His judgment.

### SPIRIT OF GOD

We remember at this time that at the end of His time on earth, Jesus empowered the people of God to spread the good news. We pray that You do the same for us now. Inspire us, Lord, to proclaim the gospel openly as we continue Christ’s work, meeting with your sons and daughters in whatever way they come into our lives.
 **1**

At this time we remember also the foreigners living among us, for they also are sons and daughters of God, and the role of the Spirit in their creation was the same
for them as it was for us.

### LET US THANK GOD FOR:

Let us give thanks for the work that goes on in the church week by week, year by year, often taken for granted, often unnoticed. We think of work undertaken behind the scenes, meetings attended at church and circuit level, preparations made for Junior church, Fellowship meetings of the uniformed organisations, Let us give thanks for those responsible for maintaining, cleaning, opening up and closing the
premises and arranging for the garden to be tended. We give thanks for those who conduct our services, play the organ, buy and arrange the flowers. For the pastoral visitors who keep contact with members and liaise with our minister.. For our church Stewards, Door Stewards, and Communion Stewards. AMEN

**SERVICES FOR JUNE 2019**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ' 2 June | '09.30 | HC | Rev Nana Thomford |
| ' 2 June | '10.45 | W | Local Arrangement |
| ' 9 June | '10.45 | P | Rev Nana Thomford |
| ' 9 June | '18.30 | RW | Steve Mayo |
| ' 16 June | 10.45 | JCA | Colin Turner |
| ' 23 June | '10.45 | W | Jane Fulford |
| '23 June | '16.00 | C/SERVICE | At WESLEY |
| '30 June | '10.45 | HC | Rev Nana Thonford |
| '30 June | '16.00 | Messy Church | Local Arrangement |

P Parade HC Holy Communion W Worship RW Reflective Worship JCA Junior Church Anniversary

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**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

Congratulations to Roy and Marjorie Miatt who will celebrate their
65th Wedding Anniversary on 26th June.  Roy will also reach his 90th
birthday on 24th July so  best wishes all round.

John and Maureen Littlewood have a new great grandson,  Noah George, born on May 8th to Kiri and Chris. Good wishes to all the family.

Please remember Cynthia Hall and Linda McLeod, praying that they will feel better soon.

It is with sadness to report the death of Anne Davidson. Our thoughts are with her family. and friends. Anne's funeral will be at 1.40 p.m. on Thursday, 6th June at Southend Crematorium.

Condolence is sent to Rev. Clifford and Linda Newman following a
family bereavement.

**Val Tyler**

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Ourprogramme for June is as follows

 3   June   Social Afternoon with Raffle

10 June        Val  Tyler              "  Oberammergau "

17 June        2 p.m.  Visit by Wyburns School Choir

24 June        Bruce Glendenning    " A Traveller's Tale"

Elaine Blades

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**WORSHIP ACADEMY**

As June is Bible Month, Worship Academy is centered around the Book of Colossians and follows a different format.

There are two sessions each week for four weeks. Booking is now open for the first week, and the subsequent weeks booking links will be emailed out on the Fridays in June.

The following sessions will take place:

## Week 1 Colossians 1:1-23 BOOKING AVAILABLE NOW

Benfleet — Wednesday 5th June — Led by Rev. Steve Mayo
Thorpe Bay — Thursday 6th June — Led by Rev. Steve Mayo

## Week 2 Colossians 1:24-2:15 BOOKING AVAILABLE FRIDAY 7TH JUNE

Benfleet — Wednesday 12th June — Led by Rev. Norman Hooks
Thorpe Bay — Thursday 13th June — Led by Rev Chris Sandy

## Week 3 Colossians 2:16-3:17 BOOKING AVAILABLE FRIDAY 14TH JUNE

Benfleet — Wednesday 19th June — Led by Rev. Nana Thomford
Thorpe Bay — Thursday 20th June — Led by Rev. Nana Thomford

## Week 4 Colossians 3:18-4:18 BOOKING AVAILABLE FRIDAY 21ST JUNE

Benfleet — Tuesday 25th June — Led by Rev. Pete Moorhouse
Thorpe Bay — Thursday 27th June — Led by Rev. Pete Moorhouse

If you are interested in attending one or all of these sessions please see a steward.

**LADIES CLUB**

Our programme for the following weeks is as follows:

5 June Nigel Payne “Television”

12 June Bowling

19 June Maz Morgan

26 June Prize Bingo

3 July Graham Mee “RSPB”

10 July Games Afternoon

17 July Summer Lunch

Elizabeth Ellis

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**IT WAS:**

200 years ago, on 12th June 1819 that Charles Kingsley, British clergyman and writer was born.  Best known for his historical novels Hypatia, Westward Ho! And Hereward the Wake.

175 years ago, on 6th June 1844 that the YMCA (Young Men’s Christian Association) was founded in London.

125 years ago, on 18th June 1894 that Uganda was declared a British protectorate. (She gained independence in 1962.)

Also 125 years ago, on 30th June 1894 that Tower Bridge in London was officially opened.

100 years ago, on 28th June 1919 that the Treaty of Versailles was signed at the Paris Peace Conference, marking the official end of the war.

90 years ago, on 12th June 1929 that Anne Frank, German Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim, was born.

80 years ago, on 7th June 1939 that King George VI became the first British monarch to visit the USA.

75 years ago, on 6th June 1944 that D-Day took place with the Normandy landings.  Over 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, at the start of the Battle of Normandy.  The battle ended on 25thAugust and was an Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 8th June 1949 that George Orwell’s novel Nineteen Eighty-Four was published.

65 years ago, on 7th June 1954 that Alan Turing died.  This British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst and computer scientist was noted for his contributions to codebreaking during World War II.  Considered the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.  Prosecuted for his homosexuality.

50 years ago, on 22nd June 1969 that Judy Garland, American actress and singer, died.  Best known for her role as Dorothy in the film The Wizard of Oz.  Mother of Liza Minnelli.  Died of an accidental drug overdose, aged 47.

40 years ago, on 1st June 1979 that Rhodesia ended 90 years of white minority rule, established a black government and changed its name to Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

Also 40 years ago, on 7th June 1979 that the first elections for the European Parliament were held.

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30 years ago, on 5th June 1989 that the Unknown Rebel (‘Tank Man’) of Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China, made world headlines.  He temporarily halted a column of tanks by standing in front of them on the morning after the massacre.  It became one of the most iconic images of the

 20th century.  (There are conflicting theories about what happened to him afterwards.)

25 years ago, on 7th June 1994 that Dennis Potter, British TV dramatist and screenwriter (Pennies from Heaven, The Singing Detective, Blue Remembered Hill, etc) died.

20 years ago, on 11th June 1999 that the Kosovo War ended when the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and NATO signed a peace treaty.  NATO peacekeeping forces entered Kosovo the following day.

10 years ago, on 25th June 2009 that Michael Jackson, ‘the King of Pop’, died.  This American singer, songwriter and dancer had hit songs that included Beat It, Bille Jean, Thriller, and Bad.  He died of an anaesthetic overdose.

**REV STEPHEN WATTS**

Valerie and family wish to thank everyone for their love, thoughts and prayers on the passing of a very dear husband and father. They have been a great help to us all.

**THANKS**

Many thanks for the gift of lovely flowers. Eileen Trayling

Thank you for the Church flowers given to me following my fall. Best wishes to you all, Sue Ward.

**16 June JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE**

We hope as many of as possible will support the youngsters on this special occasion which is being led by Colin Turner. The children will be involved in various activities for your enjoyment. Following the service you are welcome to join us in a 'Bring your own Picnic' on the church Field.

Dilys and John

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**MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS**

One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.

If you can’t be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

Try Jesus. If you don’t like Him, the devil will always take you back.

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don’t they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

Go to church this Sunday – and avoid the Christmas rush.

**A SNAIL'S PACE**

I'm a pretty avid snail racer In my spare time, but my racing snail started lagging a lot of races just lately,. I tried taking his shell off to see it could reduce his weight amake him more aerodynamic, but it didn't work. If anything it's made him more sluggish.

**JUNIOR CHURCH**

Children queuing for refreshemnts after Junior Church. On the first table there was a pile of juicy apples but with a note from the teacher saying, “Only take one - God is watching”. On a table further along was a plate of chocolate biscuits but this time a child had added a note, “Take two- God is watching the apples”.

**THINGS TO LEARN FROM NOAH'S ARK**

Take care of each other- remember we are all in the same boat.

Plan ahead – it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Stay fit – when you are 600 years old someone may ask you to do something big.

Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were as safe as the cheetahs.

Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs , the Titanic by professionals.

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**9 June WHIT SUNDAY**

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country’s wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history.  For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit – the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee.   Jesus had plans for His disciples – but He knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need His help.

And so they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind.  Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus: and the Church was born.  The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves.  The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning:  proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah.  His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before.   And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised.  How’s that for fast church growth!

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**16 June TRINITY SUNDAY**

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries.   One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky.  The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father.  The light that flows from it, and which illuminates all our lives, is the Son.  The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit.   You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat.  The light and the heat are from the sun, are ofthe sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons:  Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit.  For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: ‘Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’

Isaiah 45:22: ‘Turn to me and be saved… for I am God, and there is no other.’

Genesis 1:1-2: ‘In the beginning God created…. and the Spirit of God was hovering…’

Judges 14:6: ‘The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power…’

John 1:1-3: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  He was with God in the beginning.  Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.’

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence.  Jesus tells His disciples: ‘I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.’

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life soon follows.

**The BIBLE – Did you know :**

It Contains 3 566 480 letters 773 693 words

31 102 verses 1189 chapters 66 books

The longest chapter is Ps 119 and the shortest Ps 117

The longest name is in the 8th chapter of Isaiah

The word 'and' occurs 46 277 times and 'Lord' occurs 1855 times

The 37th chpter of Isaiah and 19th chapter of the second book of Kings are alike.

The longest verse is the 8th in chapter 9 of Esther

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**16 JUNE FATHERS DAY**

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father’s Day.  It’s a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year?  If your own father cannot be with you, is there a ‘spare’ father somewhere in your church or your circle of friends whose children cannot be with him, and who would welcome some special treat on the day?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway?   Well, Father’s Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd.  That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one’s mother. Mother’s Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time.  But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth.  So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father’s Day celebration in Spokane in 1910.  With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a ‘Father’s Day’ was appointed.  Sonora Louise had wanted Father’s Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father’s birthday), but the city council didn’t have time to approve it until later in the month.  And so on June 19th, 1910, the first Father’s Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too.  The rose was selected as the official Father’s Day flower.  Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living.  Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father’s Day – a permanent, national holiday.

Today, Father’s Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models, like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads.   Certainly Father’s Day has become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad (shirts, ties, and electric razors) increase considerably. Perhaps

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**COFFEE MORNING**

The May Coffee Morning for CHRISTIAN AID raised £292.10. Many thanks, once again for your help, generosity and contiuous support.

**Wesley Guild Coffee Morning.**

15th June 2019

from 10.00 to 12.00

in aid of Church funds.

Home baking, **Cream Teas**

Preserves. Stalls

Come and join us.

**WESLEY GUILD**

Coffee Evenings throughout the Summer recess to be anounced later.

In September the Wesley Guild will be changing its time.  It will be on Thursday afternoons in the Wesley Room from 2pm to 3pm.  We hope with the change of time it will enable more of you to join us.  Our meetings have varied and enjoyable speakers, social times, a meal out as well as Devotional and Christian Service meetings.  We always finish with teas, coffees and a chat.

Margaret Flintham

**THE LEPROSY MISSION.**

In their latest newsletter it stated that more than £1.3 million pounds has been raised for  'Heal Nepal'. Thanks to UK Aid Match this was doubled by the government to an incredible
£2.6 million. The team at Anandaban Hospital can now find, cure and heal thousands more people living with untreated Leprosy. Patients will receive life-changing care at the hospital. The team in Nepal are so grateful for your support.

Dilys Hand.

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* + 1. **RAYLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH**
1. **PRAYER GROUP MEETING DATES**
2. **2019**
3.

*June: 5th & 19th.*

1. *July 3rd & 17th. NO MEETING IN AUGUST.*
2. *September: 11th & 25th. October: 9th & 23rd.*
3. *November: 6th & 20th. December: 4th.*
4. 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 COMBINED JULY and AUGUST 2019 EDITION***
2. *The deadline for the submission of articles for this edition of the Newsletter is Sunday* ***9 June 2019*** *( in Welcome Area) or*
3. *Wednesday* ***12 June*** *by post or email.*
4. ***johnward816@gmail.com***
5. **Bible Study** at Clifford and Linda's house at 10am on Friday June 28th. Study session - Joy.

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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

5.15 pm- 6.15pm Beavers

6:30 pm - 7:45 pm Cubs

8:00 pm – 9:30pm Scouts

8:00 pm Wesley Guild (Sept to May only)

**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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