

The Link

Between you and

Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church



Editor's Note

Not such a bumper issue this time; nevertheless thank you to those who have contributed.

The deadline for the June/July magazine is **Monday 12th May**. Please either post items to me, Ron Chidwick, or send by email to: thelink@hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk

Here is a QR Code link to our Church Web Site.



The views expressed in this magazine are those of the various authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Church Trustees

Message from the Manse

As I write this, we are in the midst of preparations. We've just come back from Bristol, where we've been cleaning the carpets, and helping to prepare the house for decorations and some new carpet, hopefully, all in time for the wedding. (Theresa and Gordon get married on the 5th April), and I am really looking forward to it. I've even had a dancing lesson!). Also, there are all sorts of things I need to sort and get ready for my ordination in June, conference, and then in taking over Rochford in September.

This morning and evening, I've been running a Lent Course at Rayleigh, and we've been considering lent in our Sunday morning services.

Constantly preparing!

Lent is a long time, 40 days. The word Lent comes from the German word Lenz, which means long, and it reminds us that in spring, the days start getting longer. It is a time to reflect, a time to have a clean out, a time to look at our lives, and think, I don't need that, I can do without that. A time to contemplate Jesus in the wilderness, doing without, preparing for his mission, preparing to bring salvation first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles.

So, how are your preparations going? What can you do without? What do you need to clean out, what do you need to prepare for Easter? How do you plan on celebrating the most important day of our Christian calendar? How do we bring salvation and good news to the people around us?

This Easter we look forward to the Eggstravaganza, as we welcome our uniformed organisations on Palm Sunday, and tell them the good news of Easter. We will contemplate and reflect on Jesus suffering as he died because of his love for us on Good Friday; and we will celebrate with communion and breakfast on Easter Sunday.

So I wish you well in your preparations for Easter. Please pray for Gordon and Theresa for their wedding day, and I will pray for you, as you prepare for Easter.

Every blessing,

Phil

Family News

Welcome

We are always delighted whenever someone new joins our church fellowship; we encourage you to make yourselves known to any of our church stewards.

Illness

Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone who is feeling 'under the weather'; in particular we think of Norman who expects to have urgent surgery very shortly. We continue to think of Isabel, Maureen, Harold, Sheila and Michael.

Congratulations

We send our love and very best wishes to Theresa (Warrey) and Gordon who will be getting married on 5th April.

Please let me know of any prayer request, special birthday, wedding anniversary etc. so that it can be included in our magazine. Ed.

Life is a Gift

*Today, before you say an unkind word
think of someone who cannot speak*

*Before you complain about the taste of your food
think of someone who has nothing to eat*

*Before you complain about your husband or wife
think of someone who is crying out to God for a companion*

*Today, before you complain about life
think of someone who went too early*

*Before whining about the distance you drive
think of someone who has to walk the same distance*

*When you are tired and complain about your job
think of the unemployed, the disabled and those who wish they had a job*

*And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down
put a smile on your face and think you're alive and still around.*

Flower Rota

1 st Sunday	Kay Deedman	202802
2 nd Sunday	Carolyn Sturgess	203964
3 rd Sunday	Glenys Teare	204942
4 th Sunday	Linda Williams	204309
5 th Sunday	Anne Sains	202010



Church Flowers

Every week before the Sunday service, one of the five ladies on the flower rota will have arranged the flowers. Each lady will have their own style and type of design so that during each month there is a variety of displays. Some weeks a church member will have asked for the flowers to be purchased for a special occasion, perhaps to celebrate a birthday or anniversary or perhaps to remember a loved one. We are always happy to do this and use flowers of your choice. Equally, members are quite welcome to arrange the flowers themselves if they prefer.

After the service we try to take flowers out to members of the congregation who are sick or housebound or have a special birthday. They are sometimes given to mothers attending Brightstars to mark the birth of a new baby or who are going through difficult times, sometimes to a person outside the church who would be cheered by a gift of flowers. There used to be a sign at the florists 'Say It With Flowers'. That is what we try to do as part of our church outreach.

Some members will remember May Daimond who worshipped with us for many years until her death. Her family arranged to send the sum of £30 every year to be spent on church flowers. We thought it would be a good idea to include an item in Church Notices at the appropriate time to the effect that 'this week's flowers are in memory of May'.

We are grateful to all those who already give money towards the purchase of flowers. Anyone can contribute towards their cost by giving a donation to any of the flower arrangers listed in THE LINK or using the money box for flowers at the back of the church.

Kay Deedman

Church Council

At its February meeting the Church Council:

- * decided that Sunday evening services could no longer be sustained in view of the small number attending;
- * was advised that Rev Phil will go forward for ordination on 29 June 2014 and be taking over Rochford Methodist Church to his list of responsibilities from 1 September 2014;
- * heard that worship leaders at our Rayleigh and Rochford churches would be available to conduct services at Hockley (and vice versa);
- * heard that there would be a joint service on Maunday Thursday (17 April) at Rayleigh Methodist Church at 8pm, also a Walk of Witness from Broad Parade to Hockley Methodist Church on Good Friday morning;
- * agreed to explore the possibility of working more closely with the Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul;
- * heard that new church lighting had been ordered and was scheduled for delivery in February;
- * agreed to replace the finial on the front exterior of the church which had been destroyed in a storm in 2013;
- * approved necessary repair work to eradicate damp under the church floor at an estimated cost of £7,000 and authorised the Treasurer (Mr Rae) to seek grants and loans as necessary to pay for the work, noting too that the proceeds from this year's Gift Day would go towards the cost. The work is currently planned to be carried out in August 2014;
- * decided that letting fees should be raised by £1 per session from 1 September 2014; also that no further capital expenditure should be approved before then (except in emergency);
- * thanked Stan Rae, retiring as Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee, for all the work he had carried out over the years.

Michael Deedman

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual meeting held in March was less well supported than usual with the main interest lying in the reports prepared by the various church organisations and previously circulated. Anne Sains, coming to the end of her appointment as Church Steward, was thanked for all her hard work over the last six years and presented with a gift of plants. There being no offers to fill the vacancy, it was proposed to invite members to act as 'Vestry Stewards' to assist the Church Stewards at Sunday morning services.

Rev Phil confirmed that the new church lights had now been delivered and were awaiting installation. He was confident that financial problems associated with the work necessary to cure the damp beneath the church floor could be resolved and the Circuit had already approved a loan of £5,000. He had agreed to take over from Stan Rae as Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee for the time being. He mentioned a recommendation from the Circuit Treasurer that members who currently provided services to the church but didn't charge should consider submitting a bill instead, at the same time making a donation for the same amount if it could be Gift Aided.

Muriel Pregnall presented a useful summary paper showing the results of the 2013 questionnaire on Worship, and invited suggestions and comments before further consideration at the next meeting of the Church Council. She also distributed a revised 5-year plan and invited comments on that too (copies of both of these documents are currently available at the back of the church).

There was some discussion of possible alternatives to Sunday evening services, such as meetings in homes (including residential homes). It was also agreed to adopt a different format for 'Back to Church Sunday' highlighting specific services throughout the year starting with Mothering Sunday.

All the stewards (other than Anne Sains) and Council members (other than Geoff Teare) were re-elected for a further year. Geoff, coming to the end of his six-year term as Council member, was thanked in particular for his success in securing lettings for church premises and it was recognised that the work involved might reasonably be shared with others.

After the meeting most of those attending were able to continue discussion over lunch prepared by Linda Williams and Kay Deedman.

Michael Deedman
Secretary to the Church Council

Thursday Social Club

I hope you have lots of stamina for on the 23rd January we were taken on a trip to Mount Kilimanjaro by Ian Mackenzie.

Where is Mount Kilimanjaro you may well ask. Apart from knowing it is somewhere in Africa I had no idea either. It is in fact in Tanzania just over the border from Ethiopia's capital city Addis Adaba. Mount Kilimanjaro is made up of three volcanic cones of which Mawenzi and Shira are now dormant. Kibo although dormant, has the highest summit of Uhuru Peak at a height of 5,895 metres. In Ian's party there were fifteen trekkers, one chief guide and seven assistant guides, one cook and ten helping porters backed up by an additional forty ordinary guides. A much larger walking party than most of us are used to. Toilet facilities were quite basic which was illustrated by porters literally carrying up on their backs their group's porta-loos.

It was an early start each morning at 7.30 a.m. and walking by 8.00 a.m. The age of the party was between 18 years and 66 years old, so quite an age difference. Each day it was a six to seven hours climb so very exhausting even for experienced climbers excepting the locals who thought nothing of it even with heavy loads on their back. It is no wonder that both Tanzania and Ethiopia produce outstanding Olympian athletes year after year. The final climb due to light conditions had to start at midnight taking them six hours to reach the summit at 5,895 metres. After reaching Uhuru Peak it was time for the descent to make their way back to camp.

The first European to climb Mount Kilimanjaro was Hans Meyer in 1889 and he was closely followed by Ian Mackenzie in October 2013. Congratulations Ian on a momentous effort and we can't wait for the next major challenge.

The 6th February and we met at the church for a talk by Janet Fox on the charity Hope Worx which is based at Brook Road Industrial Estate in Rayleigh. Hopeworx started as a community outreach project at the Christian Growth Centre in Rayleigh. Their aim is to help long term unemployed to regain confidence by working at their 6,000 feet warehouse at Anchor House in Brook Road, Rayleigh. Funds are raised by selling on, donated furniture and appliances of good standard, to the general public.

There is a free of charge collection service subject to items complying with minimum requirements. Anyone wishing to volunteer their help would be most welcome with drivers, sales staff. Phone staff and admin staff among the jobs on offer.

It was a most interesting talk and a most worthwhile organisation that thoroughly deserves help from us all. Why not pay them a visit at their warehouse and

perhaps pick up a furniture bargain. For more information they can be reached on 01268 743232.

Wednesday 19th February was the date set for our annual club's lunch time meal. Meeting, first at the Meadowcroft nursery for a look around, followed by a tea or coffee in their spacious restaurant. It was a short drive to The Anchor at Danbury which is just off the road to Woodham Walter. There was about twenty of us and the young staff were most attentive in providing service to our demanding standards. We all sat at one long table away from the main bar in an area we almost had to ourselves. Myself, I had the lasagne which was most tasty indeed but I was most impressed by the largest fish I have ever seen on a plate. I didn't realise shark was on the menu. Seriously, it was very large. The desserts that followed were equally good and it is certainly a pub restaurant that I would visit again. Congratulations to our selection panel.

Back to a Thursday and on 6th March, we met at the church for a talk by David Clark on "The Treasures of Sicily." Sicily is literally just off the toe of mainland Italy and it could easily be linked by a bridge but Sicily prefers to stay as an island despite their closeness to Italy. Sicily is a larger island than most people are aware and is an area of over 25,711 square kilometres.

When people think of Sicily thoughts inevitably turn to the Mafia but this is of a more recent constituent in a most illustrious history. Many ancient tribes have fought over Sicily and these include the Phoenicians, the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans and many more, creating a most varied and exciting cultural mix to the island.

David took us on a coach trip around the island introducing us to many of its towns and cities with archaeological sites that were created many centuries ago. Amphitheatres abound and Sicily also contains six of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Tourism is of great importance to the island but with so much to see and discover you could spend a lifetime here and still be wanting more. For anyone interested in history and ancient culture this is a must for any adventurer. David painted a most interesting picture of the island with his many slides and made for a very enjoyable evening.

Ray Williams

Reminiscences: Self-Inflicted Injuries

In order to help you to understand the seriousness of the situation behind my last episode: Physical Training, I would like to tell you a story told to me by a man recently transferred to Army Headquarters from another unit.

My informant knew the person concerned fairly well because they lived in the same barrack hut. He did not tell me the person's name so I will call him Tom.

Tom was desperately unhappy with Army life, so much so that he tried to commit suicide. After a spell in hospital recovering from his self-inflicted injuries, Tom was put on trial and sentenced to nine months in prison.

British Army prisons were by all accounts tough brutal institutions. After serving his nine months Tom came out of prison. My informant said that Tom looked ghastly and had lost quite a lot of weight. Then came the body blow, Tom was told that his time in prison would not count towards his Army service, and he would have to serve an extra nine months.

My informant was transferred to Army H.Q. at that stage, so he lost touch with Tom, and did not know if he settled down to Army life, or was more successful at his second attempt at suicide.

In my opinion Tom should never have been sent to a brutal Army prison, but should have been given alternative treatment like Psychotherapy.

But the Army judicial system does not allow for consideration of alternative treatments, you broke the law, you suffer.

Norman Daniels

Fairtrade

The sale of Fairtrade products at last month's Pancake Morning realised £20. Thanks to all those who signed the petition against the unfair pricing of loose bananas, where prices have halved although production costs have doubled, trapping many of the workers in poverty. The petition has now been sent to the Fairtrade Foundation en route to Dr. Vince Cable, the Secretary of State for Business.

Kay Deedman

Why Teachers Drink

The following questions were set in last year's GED examination. These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds).....they walk amongst us and they WILL breed.

Q. Name the four seasons?

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire

Q. What causes the tides in the oceans?

A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight

Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs (Shoot yourself now, there is little hope)

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes?

A. Premature death (It stands to reason)

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow (Simple, but brilliant)

Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorised (e.g. The abdomen)?

A. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I, O, U.. (wtf!)

Q. What is the fibula ?

A. A small lie

Q. What is a seizure ?

A. A Roman Emperor. (Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit)

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick at the airport. (Irrefutable)

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean ?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight (brilliant)



MAY and JUNE WALKS

Saturday 3rd May

Belfairs Park and Woods

This walk starts in the car park by the bowling greens in Belfairs Park. It's 5 miles long and takes in several stretches of woodland including Hadleigh Great Wood. Start at 11:00am at Belfairs Park, but we'll leave the Church car park at 10:30am. Bring sandwiches or a picnic lunch and something to drink.

Bank Holiday Monday 26th May

Woodbridge

Another visit to the Cogars. Peter has planned a circular walk around Melton with a bit of riverside walking to start. We'll leave the Church car park at 9:45am to get to their home at 11:00am, for coffee followed by a short downhill walk to the Coach & Horses at Melton for a prompt lunch at 12 noon. A further 3-4 miles after lunch will allow us to be back chez Cogar for afternoon tea a little earlier than in past years. **As Peter will need to book at the Coach & Horses, please let us know ASAP if you're coming on this walk.**

Saturday 14th June

Hockley

Local walk of approximately 4 miles taking in part of Hockley Woods and paths north of the railway line. Start 2:30pm from the Church car park.

Please make sure you have sturdy walking shoes (not "fashionable" trainers) or boots, plus waterproofs and something warm to wear. Always bring something to drink. All these walks are fairly straightforward but any activity like rambling (even the inactive variety!) needs care so please watch what you're doing and keep an eye on any young people.

Contact Mike or Mu Pregnall on 01702 204748 or e-mail

mumic@pregnall.freemove.co.uk if you want further details of any of these walks or need a lift.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 6 th April	10.30 am: Morning Worship led by Mrs. Pamela Smith 10.15 am: JaM Club for children aged 3-11 years old.
Tuesday 8 th April	10.30 am Friendship Day – holiday activities for children Aged 3-11 years old.
Sunday 13 th April	10.30 am: Palm Sunday – Parade and Family Service, led Revd. Phil Warrey. Palm Crosses and Easter Egg Hunt.
Monday 14 th April	8.00 pm: Stations of the Cross at St. Teresa's Church in Ashingdon Road, Rochford.
Maundy Thursday 17 th April	8.00 pm: Section service at Rayleigh Methodist Church.
Good Friday 18 th April	12 noon: Walk of Witness from opposite Chandos Garage 3.00 pm: Service in our church.
Easter Sunday 19 th April	8.30 am: Communion service, followed by Breakfast 10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr. Roger Thomas.

Christian Aid Week

Sunday May 11th – Saturday 17th

This one week a year is coming round again. Unfortunately we are short of collectors from our church, so if anyone can spare a couple of hours it would be much appreciated.

We will be having our Garden Party as usual at 48 Orchard Avenue on Saturday 17th May from 10.00 am to 1.30 pm. We are very grateful to Mavis and Roy Headley for this and to Mr. Malcolm Blunden for all his plants.

Hope to see you there.

June Waterfield



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUN	Morning Worship	10.30 am
	JaM Club for children (1 st Sunday each month)	10.00 – 12noon
MON	Brightstars Parent & Toddler Group, <i>contact Linda S 204309</i>	9.30 – 11.45 am
	Ballroom Sequence Dancing: IN THE HALL <i>contact Fay 01268 780028</i>	7.30 – 10.00 pm
	Triple H Community Choir: IN CHURCH <i>contact Ashley 07581390448</i>	7.30 – 9.30 pm
TUE	Dru Yoga Class: <i>contact Ruth on 07818599183</i>	10.00 – 11.30 am
	Hockley Ladies Keep Fit Club: <i>contact Roselle 07709349695</i>	& 7.30 – 9.00 pm 2.00 – 3.00 pm
WED	50+ Keep Fit: <i>contact Julie 07912622483</i>	10.30 – 11.30 am
	50+ Stretch & Tone: <i>contact Julie 07912622483</i>	11.45 – 12.30 pm
	U3A History Group: <i>contact Gill S 512482</i> 1 st Wednesday.	1.30 – 4.30 pm
	Bible Study: 2 nd Wednesday, <i>contact Anne 01702202010</i>	2.30 – 3.00 pm
	followed by a Communion Service	3.00 – 3.30 pm
	Food, Faith & Philosophy – 4 th Wednesday	12 noon
	2nd Hockley Brownie Pack: <i>contact Vivienne S 204550</i>	5.30 – 7.00 pm
	Slimming World: IN CHURCH, <i>contact Hollie 07817417032</i>	6.30 – 10.00 pm
	Badminton Club: <i>contact Michael S 202802</i>	7.30 pm, most weeks
THU	U3A Floral Art Group, <i>contact Irene 202975</i> , last Thursday	1.30 – 4.30 pm
	Sisterhood: <i>contact Kath S 203932</i>	2.30 – 4.00 pm
	1st Hockley Beaver Colony: <i>contact Jane S 203739</i>	5.15 – 6.15 pm
	1st Hockley Cub Scout Pack <i>contact Dan, 07802 193936</i> or email Hockleycubs@yahoo.co.uk	6.30 – 8.00 pm
	Thursday Social Club: <i>contact Joyce S 201635</i>	8.00 pm, alternate weeks
FRI	Booiaka Dance Exercise Class:	9.45 – 10.30 am
	<i>contact Vicki on 07779646945</i>	
	Friday Club (years 3-7) <i>contact Wendy S 200484</i>	6.00 – 8.00 pm
	Friday Club + (years 8 & 9) <i>contact Revd. Phil Warrey</i> <i>On 01268 770333</i>	7.00 – 8.00 pm

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