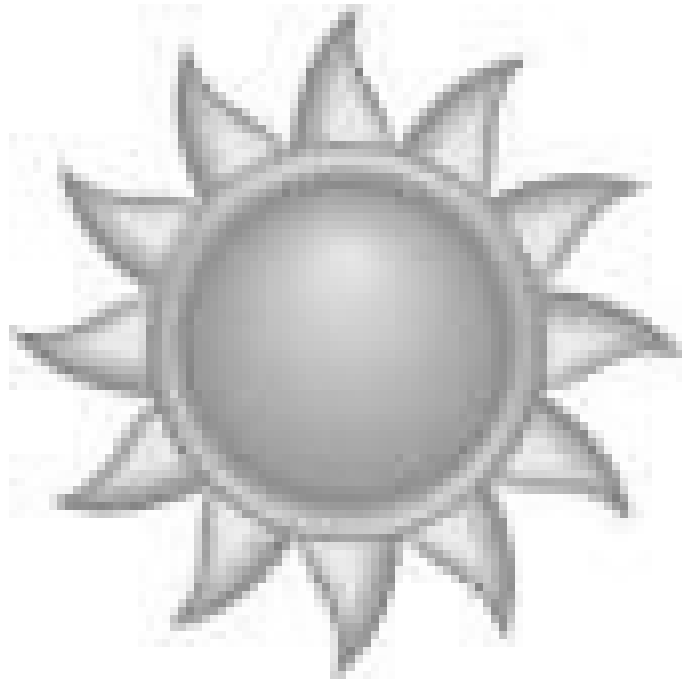


# The Link

Between you and

Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church



## The Importance of Thanksgiving and Lamentation

As I sit to write this article, I have been reflecting on the good and sad things that surround us at the moment.

One of the things we have used in Messy Church and all age worship has been a gathering of items for prayers, after asking the question, what happy things have happened and what sad things have happened this month?

It seems that in the last few months, we have had a number of sad things to contend with. We've had computer, projection, building problems, we've seen some fallings out, and we've seen a number of our folk suffering with health issues. Some of these things will have made us confused, angry, or caused us pain, grief and even some doubts.

When I used to work in an engineering office, we would often gather in the kitchen and have a good moan while making tea and coffee. A good corporate moan! We'd let it all out, and decide who it was who was to blame for whatever had gone wrong, and have a good moan. Sometimes, getting these things off your chest makes you feel a lot better, sometimes it clears the air and allows you to get on with things, or move on.

In the church, perhaps we think we always need to grin and bear it, keep smiling and pretend there is nothing wrong. BUT! This is not biblical. Read the Psalms, read Lamentations and you can see how they often had a good moan. Best of all, look to see who they moaned to! They moaned and groaned about and to God.

I did wonder what the point of Lamentations and some of these Psalms was. But, I know from experience that having a good moan works for me. Is it wrong? I suppose it depends on who you do the moaning to, and for what purpose. If the purpose is to destroy, to bring down, or gossip, or to denigrate someone, then it is wrong. If the purpose is to find a way out, to seek a solution, to resolve, to find a different way of doing things, or a different way of understanding things, then perhaps moaning or lamenting could be a good thing.

When you read the lamenting psalms, after the psalmist has had a good lament, then there often seems to be something positive that comes out of it, often a recollection of God's promises and faithfulness.

Why do we feel better when we've had a moan? Is it because we've got this thing, this bottled up anxiety, angst, worry, anger, frustration off our chest? Have we 'named' it, so now we can work on dealing with it? Is it through putting it into words to explain it to someone else that we finally begin to understand it ourselves? Is it the sharing of it with someone else that makes it easier? A problem shared is a problem halved? Or is it all of these things?

Take a look at Lamentations chapter 3 –

<sup>1</sup> I am one who has seen affliction  
under the rod of God's wrath;  
<sup>2</sup> he has driven and brought me  
into darkness without any light;  
<sup>3</sup> against me alone he turns his hand,  
again and again, all day long.

<sup>4</sup> He has made my flesh and my skin waste away,  
and broken my bones;  
<sup>5</sup> he has besieged and enveloped me  
with bitterness and tribulation;  
<sup>6</sup> he has made me sit in darkness  
like the dead of long ago.

This is a really good moan, and yet if you read on, once he gets this off his chest he realises:-

<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
<sup>24</sup> 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'

<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

Then he gives thanks to God for all he has been given.

So, if you are feeling a bit down, if things are getting on top of you, then follow the biblical pattern, speak to God in prayer, describe the suffering or anguish that you need relief from, ask God for help, ask God to deal with those who have caused your grief or pain, advise God of your innocence, or confess what you have done wrong, wait on the Lord's response and then give thanks. (You will see a similar pattern in Psalms 3 & 44).

We also have a great deal to give thanks for. We've had a donation from Thorpe Bay towards our repairs. We are seeing increasing numbers of parents and toddlers coming to Brightstars. We've completed our lighting project. We've had the finial repaired. We've had some excellent worship and fellowship over Easter. Our puppeteers and young people did very well at "Worship for All". We are even

planning to re-launch our work with young people.....and many other things that I haven't mentioned.

So remember to pray, pray for all our folk who are unwell at the moment, pray and lament for all that troubles you, and pray and give thanks for all we need to be thankful for.

Wishing you every blessing

*Rev. Phil*

## **Pentecost – How would we react today?**

### **A CLOSE SHAVE**

Minutes of Meeting held on the Day of Pentecost.

Simon Peter in the Chair.

Welcome and Apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed Matthias to the meeting as the elected successor to the late Judas Iscariot. There were no apologies for absence.

It was asked from the floor of the meeting whether Matthias' appointment was a three-year appointment and whether further elections would be held by lot or secret ballot. After some discussion it was decided:

1. That as the other disciples were appointed for no fixed period Matthias' appointment should be the same.
2. The method of election to fill further vacancies: method of election, and period of appointment should be discussed at the next meeting.
3. None of the other disciples wished to retire at the moment.

**Matters Arising:** It was suggested that John Mark be questioned about his conduct at the arrest of Jesus. It was further suggested that his membership be discontinued. It was stated that when Jesus was arrested John Mark ran away naked. This disturbed some members of the crowd particularly a few of the old ladies. John Mark said in his defence that this was a one off experience and that he was not in the habit of running about naked. His mother could vouch for that. He apologised to the meeting. His apology was accepted; 34 in favour 12 against. It was recommended that he receive counselling and this be offered to the disturbed old ladies as well.

**Finance and General Purposes:** It was suggested from the floor that the upper room where the meeting was being held was rather draughty. There was in fact a strong breeze blowing. The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee said that he would investigate the matter. Finances were tight but he would get quotations and arrange any necessary repairs. This was accepted by the meeting after further discussions on the desirability of double-glazing and under floor heating. It was also suggested that there was an electrical fault because there appeared to be sparks coming from the floorboards and other parts of the room that might be a fire hazard. It was agreed that this also should be looked into and the fire regulations checked.

**Communications:** The Chairman proposed that the members of the meeting communicate their thoughts and experiences about Jesus to the people in the streets of Jerusalem. After some discussion it was decided that this was not feasible for the following reasons:

1. People in Jerusalem spoke a variety of languages.
2. Members were not trained in public speaking.
3. No permission from the local authorities.
4. What they said might upset some people.

It was agreed that a small subcommittee look into the suggestion and report back in six months' time.

The following guidelines were suggested for the subcommittee:

1. Permission is sought from the local authorities.
2. The possibility of language courses at the local college is explored.
3. A course in public relations and race relations is undertaken.
4. The cost would also have to be carefully considered. The feasibility of a weekend away to discuss these proposals was also discussed. The Chairman would convene a subcommittee.

### **Other Matters:**

The Chairman thanked Martha and Mary for providing coffee and biscuits.

The Chairman closed the meeting, as there was no other business.

Every blessing,

*Phil*

## Family News

### Welcome

We are always very pleased to welcome newcomers into our midst. 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 unwell in mind, body or spirit; in particular we think of Norman, Pauline, Maureen, Isabel, Stan, Lillian, Sheila and Michael.

### Baptism

It was wonderful to share in the baptism of Eleanor and Scott Youd's daughter, Jessica Isabelle and to see all her family and friends supporting her.

### Birthday

Our love and warmest congratulations to Kath Walker who will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

### Anniversary

Congratulations to Olive and Chris Davis who will be celebrating their Ruby (40<sup>th</sup>) Wedding Anniversary on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

*Please let me know of any prayer request, special birthday, wedding anniversary etc. so that it can be included in our magazine. Believe it or not, some folk do slip through the net!*

## Thanks

I would like to express a GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO Jill Cross, Ivor Cross, Carolyn Sturgess and David Clarke for their extraordinary kindness and patience while taking me to and from Hospital.

It sometimes meant a very early start in the morning; they would stay with me throughout the visit which sometimes lasted six hours. I cannot thank you all enough.

May God bless you.

Very best wishes

**Norman**

## Kath Walker's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014

To celebrate this momentous occasion, Kath's family and friends invite you all to join them for a "Faith Lunch" following our church service on **Sunday 22nd June 2014**.

Everyone at church is invited to attend and all we ask is that you bring along a plate of food to share.

Kath has contributed to our church in many ways and over many years so please come along on the day if you can.



Tea and coffee will be provided and we look forward to seeing you all there.

## Flower Rota

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



## Facebook

Our church now has a Facebook page. If you are not on Facebook, just put 'Facebook' in your browser and sign up. Go to 'Hockley Methodists' and keep yourself informed about what's on at Brightstars, Friday Club & Friday Club+, Thursday Club, Friendship Days and many more.

## What's coming up?

On this quarter's plan you will see *Wotm* on some Sundays with a 4 o'clock spot. It stands for "worship on the move" and has arisen as a result of discussions about not having an evening service, how to keep in touch with our elderly and frail members as well as be accessible to families and bearing in mind that if Phil is not planned in his own section, he is likely to be sent elsewhere.

So, on the designated Sundays, worship at 4pm could be at Spa Court, Elizabeth House, or in your home, or any other place, if the need or opportunity arises. It is up to you to ask for it to come to you, or suggest a place or situation. It will be open to all members and friends to join in. It will also be an opportunity to involve and invite friends and neighbours or those you know who are in need, to share in worship in a setting that is perhaps more familiar and comfortable to them.

I think you all know by now about Rev Phil's testimony service at Rayleigh on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Rayleigh have asked for help in providing cakes and with serving refreshments afterwards so please let me know if you can do either or both. Remember to ask for a lift if you need one.

You also know that Phil will be ordained at this year's Methodist Conference in Birmingham on 29<sup>th</sup> June. This will have an impact at the service here in Hockley as Mike and I will already be in that part of the world and Anne, Shirley James and June Parkhurst have booked a ticket and place on the coach going from Rayleigh so depending on the time of departure, they may be rushing off or not be here at all. It will be all hands to the plough that day. Rev Perowne is planned.

There are two other Circuit services planned as well as Phil's testimony service. One is on 6<sup>th</sup> July, at Rayleigh at 3pm and is a celebration of worship and preaching, where new Worship Leaders will be commissioned. They have been training at the Worship Academy since September.

The second Circuit service is on 31<sup>st</sup> August when there is a welcome service for the probationer who is replacing Rev Diane Smith. She is leaving us this year and moving further north into East Anglia. This will be held at Trinity, also at 3pm.

The stewards and Phil have planned another Youth focussed weekend on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August. We will organise a family fun activity morning on the Saturday and will try again to have a sleepover. This will be one of the invitational services in the Back to Church Sunday series, and will be the one for young people.

Please remember all of these events and activities in your prayers.

**Muriel**

## Poem written by Lucy Byford and read at Jessica's Baptism

*Jessica Isabelle your time has come*

*The long anticipated miracle for your dad and mum*

*You may never understand how this could be true to say*

*But everyone here has been dreaming of this day*

*You are set in all our hearts - a promise I make to you*

*For now, tomorrow and the rest of your whole life through.*

*Your name is a blessing and will hold you in good health*

*It will mould you and steer you to good fortune and wealth*

*Your joyful heart and infectious smiles*

*Your wide inquisitive eyes will all see you through any trials*

*I have travelled afar and been awestruck by many things*

*But you and your cousin will always win the pull on my heart strings*

*Never doubt that you are always with me*

*I pledge to do all I can and remain a very proud Auntie*

*You can grow and prosper knowing you will never be alone*

*The seats in front of you are filled with people willing to put you on a throne.*

*Let me remind you before it slips my mind*

*Of all the wonderful people we have who are so much more than kind:*

*Mummy will hold you and make you laugh*

*Daddy will teach you and show you the right path*

*Aunties and Uncles will show you the meaning of life*

*To enjoy every moment and never feel strife*

*Nanna will dote and keep you on the straight and narrow*

*Grandad will share his knowledge (some of use, some a little sallow!)*

*Great Grandma will spoil and always let you choose*

*Great Auntie and Uncle will welcome and revel in all of your news*

*Cousins galore will always be there*

*For good times and friendship, they'll show you they care.*

*Your life is still just a seedling getting used to what's around*

*Take my advice and prepare for opportunities abound*

*This world is truly yours for the taking*

*You will be helped and guided and it will be your making*

*Oh what an exciting time to come for thee*

*You will be protected, adored and loved beyond any boundary*

*This goes without saying but the same is true*

*From me to every single one of you*

*The saying goes you can't choose your family*

*Why would we need to when you are all so special to me*

Have a wonderful Christening day Jessica

With much love from (your favourite) Auntie Lucy xxxxxxxxx

## **Thursday Club**

We met at the Gill and Ivor Cross's home on Thursday 20th March for part two of Phil Warrey's life story. Our minister has had a most varied and interesting life and so much so that we had to call him back for part two of his life history. As an engineer Phil has worked in many parts of the world and in many places we have never heard of. One such place was Mackie which, for the adventurers among us, is quite close to Brisbane in Australia. On returning home to Bristol he set up many initiatives with his local Methodist church, uniting for some projects with the local Congregational church. In 2009 a monumental change took place.

Phil's company was given shattering news from its parent company in Pittsburgh, U.S.A. Despite the Bristol office being more efficient and more profitable than their American counterparts, it was to be closed down and all the staff were to be made redundant. Phil started working in an office at Wesley College as the redundancies were being phased in. The expertise of the Bristol staff was called upon many times despite the Americans' decision. Much work had been put in by Phil with his local church and this led to a change of career direction towards the ministry. As most of you know, Phil, Caroline and their daughter Jessica moved to Rayleigh in August 2012. It is all happening in the Warrey's household this year as their elder daughter Teresa married Gordon last month and Jessica has found a job with a charity in Nottingham. We are very lucky to have Phil, Caroline and their family in our church and they deserve all the support we can give. A most interesting and inspiring talk.

Thursday 3rd April we met at the home of Kay and Michael for a special quiz night. For those of you not attending one of their quiz nights, think of Eggheads and Mastermind combined, but a bit more upmarket. In Round One there were pictures of landmarks from around the UK. Round Two were trees for our woodland experts. Round Three entailed identifying the inventors of various famous life changing items. We were split up into two teams and we amazed each other with our outstanding knowledge. Round Four was Hockley landmarks and showed many of us up as we must walk round with our eyes shut. Round Five was a Who's Who round of identifying pictures of famous celebrities. Round Six was the final round of Songs and Hymns with a love content. This was of course a specialist round for us all and we managed to name many of the tunes with the word "love" in their title. It was obvious a lot of hard work and research was put in by Kay and Michael and we thank them both for a most entertaining evening.

Thursday 17th April was of course Maundy Thursday, so no meeting was held.

Our church was the venue once again for the visit of Diane Abrams and a talk on "Self Sufficiency." Diane lives locally and she shared with us many ways in which we can all save our money and indeed cut costs with just a few simple measures.

We are forever bombarded with news on utility bills and the differing tariffs used by companies which are baffling to all, including descendants of Einstein. If you look on the internet and compare prices, it is quite possible you will come across a company called "OVO" and this is certainly worth looking at. The Post Office is one of the cheapest companies for telephone calls. On all types of insurance you will often find new customers are enticed with cheaper rates than loyal existing customers. Phone them and threaten to leave. They are honour bound to offer you the cheaper rate. Many other ideas were conveyed to us including utilising power and electricity from their own installed solar panels. Seed, fruit and vegetable exchange clubs are also possible and with a bit of forethought I'm sure you can think of a few more. Perhaps one of their most interesting innovations was running their car on chip fat oil. Fish and chip lovers need only apply. A very thought provoking evening.

Next meetings:

May 15th - A talk by Susan Howarth on "National Coast Watch." held at the church.

May 29th - A visit to Shoebury Hall Gardens (note earlier time of 7.00 p.m.)

June 12th - A visit to Widford Church - more details later

June 26th - A social meeting at Kay and Michael's 4.00 p.m.

August 8th - A summer outing to Ingatestone Hall

Thursday 11th September - "AGM" followed by "Lost and found (anecdotes)" at Joyce and Stan's

**Ray Williams**

## **Christian Aid**

The Garden Party, which was kindly hosted by Mavis and Roy Headley, raised the grand sum of £445. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

It was a perfect day to socialise with friends, whilst supporting such a worthy cause.

# **HOCKMIRA**



**Hockley Methodists' Inactive Ramblers' Association**



## **JUNE, JULY & AUGUST WALKS**

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July Hockley**

Hockley Woods to Edwards Hall and back – 5 miles. Start 11:00am at Church. Bring sandwiches

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August Hockley**

Family Walk and Picnic Lunch in Hockley Woods. Start at Church 12 noon. More details later.

### **Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

Benfleet to Chalkwell - 5½ miles. Walk to Chalkwell, train back to Benfleet. Bring sandwiches. More details later.

*Please make sure you have sturdy walking shoes (not "fashionable" trainers) or boots, plus waterproofs and something warm to wear. 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.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:mumic@pregnall.freeserve.co.uk) if you want further details of any of these walks or need a lift.

## Our work with Young People – 2014 and beyond

As a church we are very fortunate to have so many young people of all ages who come to our Building to enjoy so many activities. Our Friday Club and Friday Club+ welcome a large number of children and provide a happy and secure environment for them to enjoy a very wide range of activities.

The uniformed organisations also have a wide variety of activities and many of their children come to Parade services, along with their parents, and it is wonderful to be able to welcome them.

Bright Stars provides a loving relaxed environment for a huge number of parents, grandparents or carers with their little ones and they are growing from strength to strength.

Then we have Friendship mornings in the holidays where the activities are bible-based with art, games, music, stories, drama helping to bring the bible to life and our monthly JaM Club does the same.

Is it time to relaunch our Sunday children's activities? There will be many exciting things to do in the summer, culminating in a Youth weekend and this would be an ideal time to do this so WATCH THIS SPACE!!

We are lucky enough to have a number of our older members who are always extremely supportive and recognise that everyone has a part to play in the welcome that we give to young people and their families. For some families it will be their first visit to a service and they may feel nervous or worried about what is expected of them. All of us truly have a part to play in making our church a family friendly place for **everyone** to enjoy.

**Anne**

*Let's take this opportunity to acknowledge the roles several of our young people have played recently in our church services. In particular, congratulations to Georgina, James and Reece for their contribution at Jessica's Baptism, especially bearing in mind that they were faced with a very full church! Well done. Ed.*



## Murder Mystery Play

The hall was packed with would be sleuths for our third Murder Mystery Play production by the Methodist Operatic & Drama Society (popularly known as The M.O.D.S.). If you haven't been to any of our productions where have you been?

The production this year was "School For Murder" and involved the visit of the feared Ofsted Inspector, Nigella Fry. Ripper Road Primary School was in danger of being put into "Special Measures" or, even worse, be closed down completely. It was the school sports day which coincided with the dreaded visit of The Ofsted Inspector.

A murder was to take place that afternoon and many of the teachers and staff at the school had secrets which they wanted to keep that way. Nigella Fry used to be known as Nigel and it was no surprise when gunshots were heard and the curtains opened to reveal the poor unfortunate body of Nigella Fry lying dead in the centre of the sports field. Fortunately the local police arrived promptly in the shape of PC Todd Sweeney, who had run all the way from Rayleigh. It was then time for everyone to leave for the police station with questions to follow.

Hot meals were served to the cast and audience as discussions went on as to "Whodunnit."

Once food and refreshments were over a number of probing questions were put to the surviving cast.

Deliberation time now and our patrons were invited to submit their "Whodunnit" forms, with whodunnit, how and, more importantly, why. Forms were handed in and prizes were given to the best three correct answers.



Congratulations go to all who identified the murderer and in reverse order these were the best three detectives of the night. Third, Linda Edwards. Second, Linda Clarke. Winner Liz Gibbs.

Our murderer stood up and confessed to the audience how and why the murder was committed and everyone else lived happily ever after.

Our main concern was that everyone was entertained and enjoyed their evening and the secondary factor was the money raised towards our urgently needed church funds. A grand total of £550-00 was realised. Thank you for your support.

All the cast were brilliant as were our backstage crew too and many thanks to our catering team.



## School for Murder written by Ray Williams

*Stage Manager Jenny Mullen*  
*Sound Engineer Sam*

### (Cast in order of appearance)

GREGORY TUDOR (history teacher)	DAVE MULLEN
MONTAGUE STONE (headmaster)	DAVID ELKINGTON
JESSIE WALKER (pupil)	EMILY KEBBELL
ALFIE GOLD (pupil)	REECE BURTON
HARRY GOLD (pupil)	JAMES BURTON
BEYONCE HILTON (pupil)	GEORGINA ELKINGTON
MRS CAROLE BLACK (music teacher)	MERLE KEBBELL
JACK ROONEY (deputy head)	PAUL HAYMAN
MISS ANGELINA WOOD (religious studies)	JOYCE RAE
MISS PENELOPE SAXON (P.E. teacher)	WENDY BENNETT
MISS HONEY MONRO (office manager)	CAROLINE SMITH
ROBERT YOUNG (I.T. teacher)	MIKE PREGNALL
BARRY CARPENTER (caretaker)	MICHAEL DEEDMAN
GLORIA CARPENTER (chair of governors)	MURIEL PREGNALL
MISS NIGELLA FRY (ofsted insp.)	REV. BRENDA GUTBERLET
PC TODD SWEENEY (policeman)	REV. PHIL WARREY

Thank you once again for your support. Don't have nightmares.

**Ray Williams**

## Keep Sunday Special

As some of you may remember, I was a supporter of the Keep Sunday Special Campaign, which sought to bring to the public's attention the effect that the proposed Deregulation of Sunday Trading would have on their lives.

Despite a hard campaign to seek support from various organisations, including the churches, the Bill received enough votes in the Commons for the Bill to go forward and finally received Assent and became the Sunday Trading Act 1994. The only concession in the Bill was that multiple stores and supermarkets and garden centres over 3000 square feet would be restricted to six hours on Sundays and also to be closed on Easter Sundays.

As a result of the Bill becoming law, we have all seen the effect on our Sundays, which are no longer peaceful, and must have disrupted family life. In order that the reader may fully understand the K.S.S. arguments opposing any further Deregulations, I am printing below their points from the circular that I have received.

" \* Once again we are appealing to the supporters of the Keep Sunday Special Campaign in face of a new threat to partially, or completely, deregulate Sunday trading in England and Wales. The news that Philip Davies MP, vice chairman of the parliamentary Retail Group, intends to table a series of amendments to the Deregulation Bill currently going through Parliament has stirred up a lot of interest in the press and local radio to which we are contributing vigorously. The Keep Sunday Special Campaign is utterly opposed to the proposed changes and is ready for the work which will be needed when the debate occurs in Parliament, briefing all MPs in advance and making sure that the arguments are heard across the media.

The present position is this: Asda and Morrisons have told government ministers that they now want the 2012 temporary 'Olympic Games' extra opening hours to be made permanent. B & Q are said to be supportive but are not actively campaigning at the moment, while the Home Retail Group (Homebase, Argos and Habitat) are opposed, as are Sainsbury's and Waitrose.

Alongside this, a new campaign, Open Sundays, has been launched which is encouraging consumers to make their voice heard: "We want to shop on Sundays when we want and where we want." It is vital that MPs and the press know that the majority of people value Sunday as a special day and do not want further deregulation.

There are four dangerous myths of the Sunday Spoilers that we need to expose both in this context and more broadly.

MYTH 1: That Sunday trading is about unnecessary and oppressive regulation. Simply not true. We believe that Sunday is a special day because people want a day with a different character and shared time for family and community life. A real 24-7 society would mean that all days were the same. Moreover, we have already seen this argument off during the early days of the coalition government. In 2011 KSS and others put up a determined resistance to attempts to deregulate Sundays under the terms of the 'Red Tape Challenge', a formal consultation process, which concluded that there was no real demand or support for change.

MYTH 2: That further deregulation simply allows "freedom of choice". People are already pressured to work on Sundays and can be penalised if they refuse to take jobs requiring Sunday work. Current employment protection is limited and ineffective. Parents of school-age children, who work weekends, and particularly Sundays, do not make up the time with children during the week. Shops will be under pressure to match their competitors' opening hours, spreading the same sales over a longer period. Deregulation would, in fact, remove choices for many people.

MYTH 3: That the 'Olympic Sundays' legislative concession was a success in trading terms. It wasn't and it's surely for those advocating change to highlight the evidence which shows that the temporary suspension of Sunday trading regulations for eight weeks in the summer of 2012 actually resulted in a drop in business not an increase! And there is also absolutely no evidence that people have money burning a hole in their pockets which they long to spend on Sundays.

MYTH 4: Raising the apparently 'better position' in Scotland in this context, as our opponents do, is yet another own goal. Witness the Sunday Working (Scotland) Act 2003 which followed Argos sacking people for refusing to work on Sunday in 2002. The trade unions successfully contested this and Argos backtracked. Subsequently an Act was passed by Parliament protecting the employment rights of workers north of the border so that they have the right to opt out of Sunday working. The unwelcome pressure to work on Sundays, to the detriment of family and community life, is as much an issue in Scotland as anywhere else.

We must also note from recent press reports (in, for example, the Daily Telegraph) that Asda and Morrisons are losing market share, which may well have some relevance here. So, instead, we must ensure that the words of highly successful retailers who see the bigger picture and who can take the longer view are widely heard. Justin King, chief exec of Sainsbury's recently said "Our customers aren't asking for it. I've never had a letter from a customer saying, 'Please campaign for longer opening hours on Sunday'. The compromise that has been reached is, essentially, "to keep Sunday special". Bravo! And Sir Stuart Rose, former M & S Chairman added: "The fact of the matter is you simply spread the same amount of business over a longer period, but with more operating costs.

It's a zero sum game. Besides, if you can't do your shopping in the time already available, what hope is there!" We also look to the Prime Minister robustly to defend his position that we should become "most family friendly country in Europe" and that all policy should be subjected to a "family test".

\* With acknowledgement to Keep Sunday Special.

If any reader has any views on this subject there is always the right to make our Member of Parliament aware of them.

**Harold Collingridge**

## **A Prayer For Those Who Live Alone**

*I live alone dear Lord, stay by my side  
In all my daily needs, be thou my guide  
grant me good health, for that indeed I pray  
to carry on my work from day to day.*

*Keep pure my mind, my thoughts my every deed  
let me be kind, unselfish in my neighbour's need.*

*Spare me from fire, from flood, malicious tongues,  
from thieves, from fear and evil ones*

*If sickness or an accident befall,  
then humbly Lord I pray hear thou my call.*

*And when I'm feeling low or in despair,  
Lift up my heart and help me in my prayer.*

*I live alone dear Lord may I not fear  
because I feel thy presence ever near.*

**Author unknown**

## A Recipe for Life

Take equal parts of faith and courage, mix well with a sense of humour, sprinkle with a few tears and add a large helping of kindness to others.

Bake in a good natured oven and dust with laughter, remove all pity for self.

Scrape away any self indulgence that is apparent and serve in generous helpings.

Marchioness of Reading 1894-1971  
1st. Chairwoman of the W.V.S

## Future Dates

1<sup>st</sup> June Church Anniversary and Gift Day

5<sup>th</sup> June Church Council Meeting at 7.30 pm

8<sup>th</sup> June Revd. Phil's Testimony Service at 4 pm at Rayleigh Methodist Church

29<sup>th</sup> June Revd. Phil's Ordination at Shirley Methodist Church at 4.30 pm.

## Facebook

Our church now has a Facebook page. If you are not on Facebook, just put 'Facebook' in your browser and sign up. Go to 'Hockley Methodists' and keep yourself informed about what's on at Brightstars, Friday Club & Friday Club+, Thursday Club, Friendship Days and many more.

## Editor's Note

A big thank you to everyone who has given me material for this issue.

The deadline for the August/September magazine is **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July**. Please either post items to me, Ron Chidwick, or send by email to: [thelink@hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk](mailto: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

---

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

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

---

**Minister:** Revd. Phillip Warrey      **Tel:** 01268 770333      **Mobile:** 07917077785  
259 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, SS6 7LF, **Email:**  
[phil.warrey@methodist.org.uk](mailto:phil.warrey@methodist.org.uk)  
**Web:** [www.hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk](http://www.hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk)