

# The Link

Between you and

Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church



## Editor's Note

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

The deadline for the December/January magazine is **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November**.  
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.



## Thoughts from our Minister....

Dear Friends,

A song keeps coming to mind at the moment, it was sung by Sheila Walsh, a onetime star of Christian Music. I was reminded of it when we were at Greenbelt Festival recently. The words come from Ecclesiastes 3. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." I suppose it is because we have recently come back from Greenbelt Festival where we had a great time with 15,000 other Christians and people of faith, and heard some great speakers and bands. Sheila Walsh used to play Greenbelt in the late 80s and early 90s.

We've been through a lot recently, and sometimes it is hard to make sense of things. Check out Ecclesiastes 3, and see if this helps.

As I write this, we are preparing for a funeral of a dear friend to our church. Norman suffered silently and without any complaints, he has been an inspiration to us all, and we will miss him dearly. But we must take comfort, in that we have been praying for his healing, and for Norman, his healing has come in his death and him going on to eternal life with Jesus.

To fit in with the reading, though, we also welcome into our Church family, Oliver whose christening we will have on the 21<sup>st</sup> December.

We've moved stones and wood to replace the joists and floorboards, and it is good to be back in the church. We will try and keep the chairs in a pattern similar to what we had in the hall, so we can enjoy close fellowship. We rejoice that this work is complete, and wasn't as bad as we thought it would be. Thank you to all who've been busy moving furniture, clearing and cleaning. Thank you to Thorpe Bay who gave us a £5000 donation which all but paid for the main work. We are hoping to do some decorating later, but our property fund is a bit depleted. Please consider if you can also be a regular giver to the property fund, Stan will have some forms for standing orders.

Time also to rejoice in some new things, we've launched 2 new things recently Worship on the Move (WOTM) and Messy Church. WOTM has met twice at Spa Court, and a good time was had by all. Thank you to Maureen and Kath for providing Tea. Messy Church was also a good start with 10 young people, thank you to Anne and her team for bringing that together.

Just so I haven't forgotten anyone, thank you to Muriel, Carolyn, Linda, Gill.....well everyone, for making my job at Hockley so easy and enjoyable.....Now time for something else..... Regards,

**Phil Warrey (Rev)**

## Family News

### Welcome

To all newcomers to our church, please let one of the church stewards know if you would like a visit.

### Illness

We remember with love all who are unwell; in particular we think of Isabel Murphy, Michael & Sheila Hayman, Bill Potter, Pauline Williams, Jean & Ken Saunders, Shirley James, Maureen Blake and all who are sick in body, mind or spirit.

### Bereavement

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gillian and the family following the loss of Norman, who passed away on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

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

### Thank You

Shirley & Ron Chidwick are most grateful for all the lovely cards, gifts and best wishes received for their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

## Ann Loomes

Thanks to everyone who has remembered our friend Ann Loomes in their prayers and enquired after her progress. Ann and husband Philip lived in Plumberow Avenue for some years in the sixties and seventies and were active members in our church. Their three daughters - Gaenor, Elizabeth and Jane - grew up in the Sunday School; having Welsh parents it was perhaps no surprise all three are very musical and Ann has been a member and soloist with numerous choirs wherever they lived. Ann also played the piano and organ and deputised whenever necessary for our regular organist Tom Murphy. The family (apart from Jane in Wales) now live in Somerset, Gaenor being Anglican vicar at Yeovil.

Ann was attending a choir reunion in Cardiff when she was involved in a serious car accident. After 6 weeks in intensive care in Cardiff Hospital she was able to be transferred closer to home at Taunton and after a further 3 weeks in intensive care is now in an orthopaedic ward and making good progress. It was wonderful news when after 10 weeks, she was able to speak again. At the time of writing I've just heard she was taken with Jane to the hospital chapel for Sunday service and, Jane says, sung her heart out.

I am delighted to be able to share with you the good news of her progress.

**Kay Deedman**

## Harvest Supper

Time to get your skates on as the day of the Harvest Supper is fast approaching. If you wish to attend please let me know as soon as possible as this will help with catering arrangements.

The evening commences at 5.00 p.m. with a light hearted quiz.

Supper is to follow at 6.00 p.m. with a choice of meals as follows:

1. Shepherd's Pie
2. Meat Lasagne
3. Sausage Plait
4. Vegetable quiche

(The third and fourth choices to be served with new potatoes and salad)

There is to be a choice of desserts, with tea and coffee to follow.

No charge but as usual we are always happy to receive donations.

We hope to close the evening with a few harvest hymns.

**Linda Williams**  
01702 204309

## Flower Rota

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

Please - is there anyone willing to arrange the church flowers on a fifth Sunday; this happens about four times a year?

Thank you.

**Carolyn Sturgess**



## What's going On?

So here we are looking into the autumn and beyond. Where did the summer go? At least we can feel that it was a good summer weather-wise and that there was plenty of opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors, or even your small outdoors!

The highlights of the summer have been the numbers of young people that we have seen coming in to our building, going back to the Friday Club barbecue in July and the visit from the Crouch Valley Cubs, moving on to the Friendship Days, the summer Brightstars sessions which also combined with HOCKMIRA for a picnic and walk, the Youth weekend and the re-start of the Friday Club on 12<sup>th</sup> September. Photos of some of these events are on the board by the hall doors.

The lowlights have been the number of people poorly or in hospital and the loss of Norman, although shining all through that is the constant love and care that you all show to each other. Thank you to you all.

The other matter over the summer has been the floor but now we are back in the church, and keeping the same layout of chairs that we all so much enjoyed in the hall. There is a great sense of us being one unit, The Body of Christ, worshipping together. Another big thank you to all those who have worked hard to supervise, organise and reorganise as well as clean up and set up during the disruption.

Messy Church is a new venture for this year. Anne has been consulting with our families and the date has been chosen by them. Messy Church will be on the third Tuesday of the month from 4pm to 5.30pm. Please come and join in— it is a time for all of us and not just the children. By the time you read this the first one will have taken place, so put the date of the next one in you diary now, it will be 21st October.

This year, Harvest has been moved on a week so that we can share Harvest Supper with St. Peter and St Paul's Parish Church. I hope that you will all be able to join in this event and strengthen our ties with other Christians in our community. Harvest Sunday will be for all ages and Parade. It will also be the first visit by Andrew Wells from Wells Legal, who has offered to play for us from time to time. Initially, he will play at services when Phil is preaching so that we can help him to understand our worship ways. I am sure you will make him feel welcome. I expect his wife, Yuping, will be with him, and maybe their teenage children.

Worship On The Move has settled in at Spa Court where Maureen (and Kath) have worked hard to make us feel welcome and organised some refreshments. On the first Sunday in November, we are going to Shirley James' flat (all being well) and we will be back at Spa Court for carols in December. We sing hymns (usually the choice of someone present), look at a Bible reading with Phil and say

prayers about matters that concern us. It lasts about 40 minutes and then we have tea and biscuits and chat. Don't forget to tell me if you would like WOTM to come to you.

Food Faith and "Philosophy" has been suspended for the time being. Due to a number of factors, the last few have been unable to take place, so there is going to be a re-think. Watch this space.

As co-ordinating steward, I receive lots of information by e-mail from Ruth Lowden, the Circuit Administrator, about other events at churches in the Circuit. To stop us getting overloaded with information and posters, I propose to only publish those for events in our section (i.e. Rayleigh and Rochford) or relevant to us. Others will be mentioned in the notices and if you want to know more, tell me and I will forward the e-mails to you. I also receive the Benfleet Methodist magazine by e-mail which I forward to Kay and Linda. If you would like me to add you to the list then just let me know.

**Muriel**

Co-ordinating steward

## Messy Church

On Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm we welcomed our first families to Messy Church. All the activities were set out, the food was arranged, the puppets and the songs were ready and then we waited anxiously to see if we would have anyone walking through the door. We could not have been more pleased when five families from Brightstars as well as six of the children we know well arrived.

Messy Church has a regular structure which starts with a welcome, then activities related to the story, the telling of the story and worship followed by sharing a meal together.

Phil had set up ready for the puppets and ably assisted by Rebecca they performed for the children. It went down very well. I think all ages enjoyed it! The story was of Abraham and Sarah and God's promise that Abraham will have more children than the stars in the sky or the grains of sand in the desert and that we are all members of God's family of believers.

After prayers and more singing, we went back in the hall to enjoy pizza and salad followed by ice-cream. Then it was time to say goodbye.

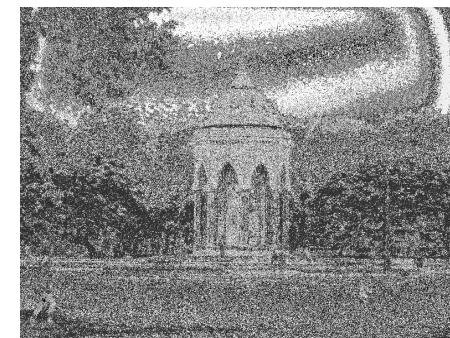
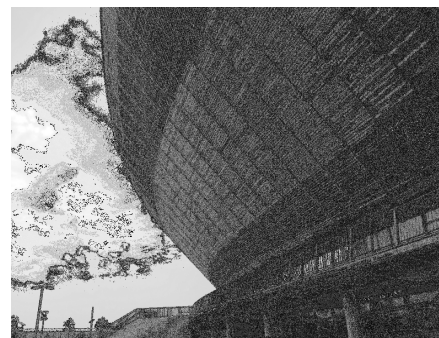
Messy church will be on the third Tuesday of each month and so the next one is on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Today 17<sup>th</sup> September we received confirmation of being registered with Messy Church. Grateful thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

**Anne**

## THE HOCKLEY WOODS AND LONDON WALKS

We've had mixed attendance at our walks, as usual, and had to cancel one because of the weather but these two walks were particularly well supported and enjoyed good weather.

The **Family Walk and Picnic** in Hockley Woods attracted over 20 adults and young people (including a couple of pushchairs) and we had a pleasant picnic in the playground then did the short Valley Walk, stopping to play on piles of logs shortly before the ice cream stop! Good fun.



**Mike Pregnall**

## Doing the London Walk

The annual HOCKMIRA London walk this year drew 17 walkers to Hockley Station for the train to Liverpool Street. From there we caught a bus to Islington where we could reach the Regent's Canal not far from where last year's walk left off. After a coffee stop at the Towpath Cafe we continued along the towpath towards Hackney, reaching Victoria Park at about the right time for a picnic lunch. The Park has been much improved in recent years (it is the largest of the London parks) and makes for an interesting walk in its own right.

From the point between the east and west parts, the Regent's Canal goes south to Limehouse and the Thames but we followed the Hertford Canal to the Olympic Park, now re-opened after the 2012 Games. The highlight for most of us was the Velodrome, a brilliant building now open to spectators and providing a great opportunity to watch amateur cyclists testing out the track. The landscaping all around the park is very attractive, there are plenty of cafes and a host of play opportunities for children, another park well worth a visit.

Unfortunately you have to pass the popular Westfield Shopping Centre to reach Stratford Station for the return journey to Hockley - but with determination it can be done without incurring more expense!

All in all, a good day out.

**Michael Deedman**

Some of us caught the train home from Stratford and others went on to the Tower of London to see the ceramic poppies.

A very enjoyable day – thank you Kay and Michael.

**Mike Pregnall**

## Wanted

Garage space to rent. Please phone 07518027291.



## OCTOBER WALK

### Last walk of 2014

### SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

This is a 5½ miles walk around Sutton and Stambridge. Leaving the Church Car Park at 10:30am and starting the walk from Garons Park Car Park at 11:00am. Sandwich lunch, tea/coffee available at the end of the walk.

*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.*

*Our 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](mailto:mumic@pregnall.freemove.co.uk) if you want further details or need a lift.





With all the disruption from the repairing of the Church floor and replacing the carpet, the box for donations of food etc. for HARP has been shunted about and almost forgotten – it's nearly empty at present. But the HARP project still requires our support - here's the prioritised list of needs so please try to remember to drop something in the box whenever you can.

**Priority Need Group 1 (everyday needs):**

Coffee, teabags, sugar, long life milk/powdered milk

**Priority Need Group 2 (really useful):**

1 litre long life fruit juices (orange and apple preferred)

Individual cartons of drinks

Individually wrapped cakes

Individually wrapped chocolate biscuits (e.g. Kit Kats, Penguins) Crisps/potato snacks

**Priority Need Group 3 (other items needed):**

Tinned hot dogs, ham and corned beef

Tins of chilli, meatballs, meat curry, minced beef, chicken in white sauce, stewed steak

Traditional tinned vegetables

Tinned Fray Bentos meat pies and puddings (not with ale or beer)

Tins of tuna pasta (spaghetti or shapes)

Tins of baked beans, spaghetti, ravioli, spaghetti Bolognese, beans with sausages

Tins of fruit, steamed sponge puddings, custard and rice pudding

Gravy granules

SMASH instant mash

Jars of cooking sauces

Orange, lemon, summer fruit squash

Tins of soup

Biscuits

Mayonnaise

Evaporated milk

Long life whipping cream

Crumble mix

Batter mix

## Ancient and Modern – by Revd. Susan Sarapuk

Like a lot of churches, we've recently lost our full-time organist, and now the vicar has to look around for someone to play the organ every Sunday. In the daughter church in the parish there hasn't been an organist for a while; a sung service has gone to a said service with hymns, to a service without even any hymns.

Singing is a vital part of our worship - it's why many of the newer churches dedicate a lot of worship time to it. Occasionally I've attended a service at one of the big Pentecostal churches with a band out the front leading the worship. Although I've enjoyed it I've found myself frequently thinking of how sad it would be if we lost the great old hymns. They teach us a lot about doctrine. Something like Wesley's "And Can It Be" thrills the soul as the words sink in and you realise they are true, not only as a statement of doctrine, but also in your own life.

*"My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth and followed thee:"* The joy as those words register! *"Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own."* As I sing these words I find myself reflecting on the wonder that that is going to be true - and the grace and mercy of God that it can be true! I imagine being in God's presence with Christian friends who have walked the road of faith with me for over 30 years. How we will look at each other in recognition and joy, and then gaze in awe upon God himself.

Granted, there are modern hymnwriters who have the ability to incorporate doctrine into their lyrics. And you can get that sense from singing choruses, too, as they are meant to bring us into the presence of God. But let's not lose the doctrine. Although I was sent to Sunday school as a child I didn't regularly attend church on a Sunday, so when, as a student, I had a conversion experience, I had to learn a lot of hymns from scratch as well as studying the Bible. It would be sad to lose that rich tradition because we are losing organists and thus no longer sing in our services, or because new songs are dominating our worship.

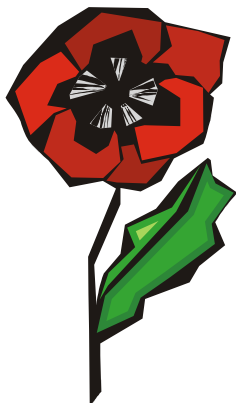
The other thing I've noticed is how the language of some hymns is being changed. I've written before of how "For All the Saints" has been sanitised, with the removal of all battle references even though the Bible clearly tells us we're in a battle "not against flesh and blood but against the principalities and powers". If we expunge those references from our hymnology then we lose a fundamental part of Christian doctrine.

So my plea is to keep the old hymns alive. I've chosen my favourites for my funeral. Yes, there's one modern one - "In Christ Alone". But then I've gone for "Crown Him With Many Crowns", "At The Name Of Jesus" and "I Cannot Tell" because as well as praising Jesus they are packed with doctrine which should make the singer think and respond. There is room for all sorts of worship in our churches and all sorts of different songs and hymns. Let's make sure we don't lose any along the way.

taken from 'The People's Friend' © D C Thomson & Co. Ltd.  
(with permission)

## REMEMBRANCE

We will have our Remembrance Sunday morning service on 9<sup>th</sup> November and there will also be a service at Hockley War Memorial at 2pm till 3pm.



In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*John McCrae, May 1915*

## *Norman Ernest Daniels*

Norman was born on 11th February 1930 in Goodmayes, Essex to Ernest and Sarah. He had one brother, Russell, born September 1931 (Died 1985). They grew up in their father's Dry Cleaning business where they initially worked.

Norman carried out his National Service in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and later got a job working in the dock offices of east London, before moving to Seacontainers, where he worked for over 20 years.

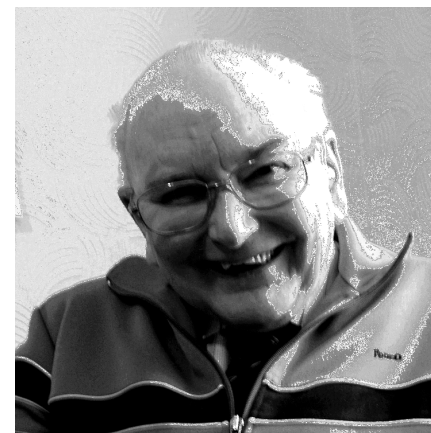
Norman was a dutiful family member, and looked after his ageing parents and an uncle until their respective deaths, at his bungalow in Hockley. Norman never married. He was diligent in keeping in touch with all his family members, calling weekly to share news. He shared in all family gatherings and spent every Christmas with his brother, Russell's, family and continued to do so after his death. He shared many wonderful holidays with his cousins and niece and family.

Norman was an active member of his Church, and served God faithfully for many years through his service there.

Norman was "a real gentleman" who walked gently on this earth. He was much loved by members of his extended family who have been blessed with many wonderful memories of Norman's love, duty and generosity.

Thank-you Norman!

*Gillian (Norman's niece)*

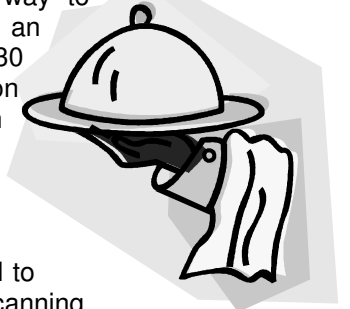




## Thursday Social Club – Summer Outing

We decided to make a visit to Hanningfield Reservoir on Friday 8th August before an onward journey to Ingatestone Hall.

It was a short drive for us all as we made our way to Hanningfield Reservoir to meet for coffee/ tea and an early lunch at the Cafe on the Water, meeting at 11.30 a.m. The sun was shining but a gathering of clouds on the horizon made us decide to dine inside rather than outside on the decking area overlooking the boats and the reservoir. Another reason for eating inside was the wildfowl prevalent all around. Ducks and geese walked around the outside tables looking for scraps of food to eat. They were so close I expected to see both duck and goose on the menu but despite scanning it intently there was no sign of this delicacy. As more diners arrived they seemed to get bolder by the minute almost like pet dogs. They were certainly brave as some of the clientele eyed these birds and licked their lips in anticipation. With knife and fork in hand I half expected to see the patinas replaced by duck and goose on their plates and washed down with the obligatory tomato ketchup.



Inside the service was of a most courteous and professional manner and we did not have to wait long for our ordered lunch choices. Looking outside and scanning the menu once again, I half expected to see duck and goose added to the menu. Alas no.

On finishing our meals we wandered outside onto the decking area and looked over the reservoir. Boats were tied up nearby for hire on a daily basis for the many keen anglers present. For the fishermen among you it is said to stock the highest quality of perfect fin trout throughout the season. There is a tackle shop next to the restaurant that stocks everything you need for an enjoyable day out. This is the prefect place for purchasing your fishing gear as apart from the usual varieties of bait, flies are available in many shapes and sizes as are waders and other essential clothing. The cafe is open seven days a week from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. from March to September.

With the time creeping on we left Hanningfield for the short drive to Ingatestone Hall as we had booked a guided tour from 2.00 p.m. It was only a short drive to Ingatestone Hall through country roads taking us through the village of Stock and onward to the village of Ingatestone. Driving down the High Street we turned left by the station and crossed a level crossing before parking on a green just outside the walls of Ingatestone Hall. We waited until everyone arrived and then walked the hundred yards through the walled gates of Ingatestone Hall. A clock tower with intentionally only one hand, welcomed us to this historic building. The clock



tower was most impressive and in French was the words "Sans Dieu Rien". I'm sure you are all fluent in French and I do not need to give you the English translation.

Ingatstone Hall is a sixteenth century manor house built by Sir William Petre (pre Wimpey and Barratts), Secretary of State to four Tudor monarchs. A number of notable visitors stayed at this house which included Elizabeth 1 in 1561. Sir William's descendants still live in the house which largely retains its Tudor form and appearance (including two priest's hiding places.) On display are furniture, family portraits and other pictures accumulated over the centuries together with memorabilia of fifteen generations of the Petre family. One of the Petre family who attained the position of Fourth Lord died in the Tower falsely accused of complicity in the Popish Plot and whose wife was described by Samuel Pepys as "an impudent jade." I don't think he meant that as a compliment. Another famous member of the Petre family was the Seventh Lord. He was known to spend six hours every day dressing his hair and was the inspiration for "The Rape of the Lock" by Alexander Pope.

Our guided tour took just over an hour which meant the climbing of many winding staircases between floors and rooms. Every room contained pictures of the Petre family along with many collected mementos from around the world.

Our tour ended as we were then led into a most welcoming restaurant with staff ready to take our orders. As always with our visits we do love our cups of tea and our prebooked cream tea was served by waitresses as we sat by our respective tables. The service was of the highest standard and I would certainly visit again.

The weather had changed for the worst as we had our tour of the house and the rain only started to ease as we consumed the last crumb of scone from our plates. We had also intended to explore the immaculately kept gardens but the torrential downpour ruled this out on this occasion. Never mind, another excuse to visit and to sample a cream tea once again.

The clock struck four o'clock and it was time to leave. We walked back to our cars and drove away thinking of all the history we had absorbed. History is all very good, but the cream teas aren't bad either.

### Next meetings

Thursday 11th September: AGM - followed by "Lost and Found" anecdotes at Stan & Joyce's

Thursday 25th September: Faye & Steve Oakley - "Shopland Churchland" at church

Thursday 9th October: Rev Phil & Caroline - "Desert Island Discs" - at church (open evening)

Thursday 23rd October: David Clark - "Jordan - Land of Ancient Wonders" - at church

Thursday 6th November: Ray Williams - "Quiz" at Chris & Olive's

Thursday 20th November: Shirley James - "War Memorial" - at Vivien's

Thursday 4th December: Don Mouatt & Ken Platt - "Film Show" at church

Thursday 18th December: "Carols by Candlelight" at Stan & Joyce's

## AGM

We held our AGM on Thursday 11th September and it was unanimously agreed that all existing officers and committee be re-elected.

Our first meeting of our new year followed the AGM and was on the subject of "Lost and Found." In the interests of confidentiality the actual names have been omitted to protect the guilty. The subject matter was situations when members have lost items and then found items a little (or long) time later. These are just a few of those stories.

1. With Christmas approaching a man and wife were out one day and the wife remarked on some lovely plant stands she had her eye on. She enthused so much about them that her husband decided he would go back to the shop alone and purchase these items. This he did a week later, and so far, so good. Wrapping up the gift in an exquisite covering of embossed red and gold paper the gift was wrapped. With still weeks to go, the question was where to store the gift without his wife discovering it. Then a bright idea came into the husband's head. It didn't happen very often so he had to make the most of it. He would hide it in the loft. His wife never went up there. She would never find it. That was the trouble. Out of sight, out of mind. Christmas came and his wife had to be content with a bottle of Blue Grass perfume and a nice new scarf. No plant stands though. The months passed by and it was only weeks before his wife's birthday. Going up into the loft one day the husband shone his torch upon a beautifully wrapped gift to his left. Reaching out he picked up the item and brought it down from the loft. That's lucky he thought. I'm sure my wife would love this for her birthday. Her birthday arrived and ripping off the paper there it was. Two lovely plant stands.

2. What does Boston mean to you? Well this meant, to this young man, a rather aggressive rabbit that could easily have starred in the film "The Great Escape." Five foot fences were easily scaled, he was a real Houdini as he could escape from almost anywhere. He was becoming quite a celebrity. The rabbit that is. There were workmen in the road and part of their fitness programme was to chase the escaped rabbit down the road and try to catch it before it got away. It did

begin to get quite embarrassing. One day there was a knock on the door of Boston's owner. Opening the door he was confronted by a rather indignant work foreman who said that his men were trying to work but they kept wasting time chasing after a rather elusive rabbit. On another occasion the family's daughter ran into to a local church where her mother ran a small playgroup. This unfortunately coincided with important visitors to the group. They were heard to hear the daughter scream "That pesky rabbit has got out again and he's made me late for work. I've had enough." With that she stormed out of the church. This was most unlike the daughter and completely out of character. Needless to say the rabbit was caught once again and this continued on a regular basis. That is until one fateful day. He escaped once more for his final adventure. It was a feeling of both sadness and relief when the lifeless form of Boston was found in the road. A sad end but what a life.

3. A visit to the seaside used to be the epitome of a young family's holiday. This young family visited the seaside resort with their son and daughter and after buying the obligatory ice creams it was time for fun and games on the beach. A beach ball was inflated and a lovely time was being had by one and all. Then disaster struck. The beach ball went into the water and the tide turned taking the ball with it. The young son was distraught and there was nothing they could do to console him. By this time people were coming over to ask what was wrong and why the little boy was crying. On hearing what had happened a number of swimmers dived into the sea to rescue the ball for the little boy. Alas it was to no avail as each time the swimmers got close the ball kept going farther and farther out to sea. Was there nothing that could be done to save the situation ? Then hope arrived on the horizon as a lifeboat was speeding off in the direction of the errant beach ball. It was like a scene from "Hawaii 5-O." Closer and closer, closer and closer until finally the prey was captured. As the lifeboat speeded back to shore there was loud applause from the gathering crowd as the captain handed over the beach ball to the little boy. The young lad could not have been more pleased if he had been handed the World Cup. A day to remember.

4. Where there's the sea, there is often boats, and boats feature once again in this story. We have heard a story about an adventurous rabbit - well this time the adventurer is a dog called Spot. Going to the beach was the highlight of the day for Spot and he could often be found chasing up and down and never keeping still. Each day he seemed to be going further and further afield until one day, like Boston, he disappeared. The young lady owner frantically ran around searching for him. There was a man with a donkey and she asked him "Have you seen a little white dog called Spot?" Both the man and the donkey shook their heads and continued on their way. Next to be asked were a very old looking couple "Have you seen a little white dog called Spot?" She was hit on the head by the man with a stick and the woman continued rocking a baby as they disappeared into a pin striped booth. She took that as a no. Next she stumbled upon a man buried in the sand with only his head on view. "Have you seen a small white dog called Spot?" The man spitted some sand out of his mouth and said something rather

rude to her. She put a bucket over his head and searched on. Then she looked out to sea and a smile appeared on her face. There he was. Her Spot. And what was he wearing on his head? The speedboat stopped at the beach's edge and a kindly man carried Spot over to her. He explained that Spot had climbed on board without anyone seeing and seemed to have enjoyed himself so much that he had called him Captain Spot. Since then the young lady has been on that speedboat many times. Not alone though as sitting alongside her has been Captain Spot.

5. Our final tale is a warning for you all. Be sure of your facts before you call the police. One foggy morning the man opened the front door and it was gone. His trusty car was gone. It just wasn't there. It was early morning so the man hadn't woken up properly and the missing car was putting him in a confused state. Wandering out of his drive he looked in both directions. Right, left and right again. Still no sign of his car. He was now starting to panic. He needed his car. It was his best friend. He now began to realise. Someone had stolen his car. He could not believe it. Not in Hockley. He walked back inside still in disbelief. Luckily he was able to find the phone. He checked the number in the telephone book. It was 999 or something similar. Anyway he got through to Rayleigh Police Station.. He knew it was the right number because the answer he received was "Rayleigh Police Station here." He stammered into the phone and told the officer that his car had been stolen. "When did you have the car last?" said the officer. "Well", said the man, "I drove up to the church this morning to do some jobs and walked back home." The man then stopped as he realised what he had just said. "I am sorry officer but I left it at the church. I am sorry. Really I am. "That's ok", said the officer, "these things happen." The man put down the phone and raced up to the church. To his relief the car was still there. What a silly-billy. "Lost but now found."

**Ray Williams**

## A Walk in the Park

One of the things on my bucket list was to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, having done the Everest Trek in 2008. I had been told on the Everest trip that Kilimanjaro was easy in comparison! So after raiding my piggy bank and booking the trip with Exodus, I had to do the pre trip preparations.

**Visa:** These are purchased at the border in the Airport in Tanzania thereby saving a trip to London.

**Jabs:** When I did the Everest Trip in 2008 I had most of the ones that were necessary. But I still had to have the following:

**Typhoid:** at Doctors Surgery, free with no side effects.

**Yellow Fever:** had to be arranged via a Private G.P. at Springfield, cost £70. At the time I had it there was a shortage of vaccine, but because I had booked it in advance, a vaccine had been put aside for me. Some people had to cancel holidays for destinations where it was compulsory for entry into the country. The side effect was flu like symptoms, which unfortunately I suffered on a day when I was racing.

**Malaria:** I had to buy the tablets on private prescriptions at Tesco's, luckily I had no side effects from taking these, cost £70.

**Weight Allowance:** The limit for hold baggage was 20kgms; Exodus provided a very good strong bag.

**Equipment:** I borrowed a sleeping bag from Pauline's husband and a down coat for wearing in the evenings when it got very cold. The other things I needed I already had. So on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 I travelled to London Heathrow for a 21.00 departure to Addis Ababa with Ethiopian Airways, where we arrived at 07.00. Our flight to Kilimanjaro was due to depart at 10.20, but was unfortunately delayed; however some young chaps on another holiday gave an impromptu concert which passed the time very pleasantly.

On arrival at Kilimanjaro we were met by a representative of the African Walking Company who were organising the trip to climb Kilimanjaro. He drove us to the coffee plantation lodge at Arusha where we were staying overnight. It was very nice and had a swimming pool which I used to help cool down, and met up with some of the other members of the party. In the evening we had a pre climb briefing which detailed such things as the equipment needed, how much water to drink and safety procedures. The meal was very good and gave us all a chance to mingle and chat.

The next morning, Friday 25th October, after packing our trek bags and leaving valuables and spare clothing at the lodge, we were driven to the start point of the trek, stopping en route to buy toilet paper, an essential item. At Londerossi, we completed the necessary formalities to enter the Kilimanjaro Park and ate our snack lunch. We then walked to the Lemosho Road Head where our support crew of 60 was waiting. Our leader guide for the day was Alfred, a very regal looking Masi warrior who, for some strange reason, carried a brief case. He set a nice pace through the rain forest with plenty of stops for drinks and rests. It was quite warm during the day. After about 3 to 4 hrs walking we reached the Lemosho Forest camp site where our tents were already up and our bags in them; my porter, Godfrey, led me to it after we had signed in. Unfortunately the ground was very hard and stony; we were given some hot water for a wash after our hot drink and snack on arrival. The evening meal was very nice with soup, main course and a pudding, followed by a hot drink of some sort and the briefing by the Chief Guide Miki for the next day's walk. Because of the lack of lighting we usually retired to bed about 8 pm as there was not much else you could do. Our group was provided with 2 toilet tents and these were some of the best portable toilets I have ever used; they actually flushed. I did not sleep too well as the inflatable mat I had borrowed from Pauline did not want to inflate and I felt all the rocks and stones. In the morning the ground was white with frost and it was very cold first thing, altitude of camp site 8612 feet. The chief guide asked me how I had slept and I explained the problems with my mat; very kindly he loaned me a spare thick mat that was not required so it meant I slept well for the rest of the trek.

The morning routine was always the same - a bowl of hot water was brought for wash, your hot drink, after which you had to pack your bag. In mine I had a sleeping bag, down coat, heavy duty waterproof, trainers, pyjamas, wash kit, shaver and underclothes. By the end of the trek you had become quite expert at packing up. Once packed you had to put the bag on a groundsheet from where the porters would collect it; your rucksack for the day was put on a groundsheet together with your walking poles and was collected by you after breakfast. Breakfast was usually at 8am each day and consisted of porridge or cereal of some sort followed by some form of hot snack such as scrambled egg and bread. The walk usually commenced about 9am.

## SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

We soon walked out of the forest onto the moorland area of giant heather, the trail climbed steadily towards rim of the Shira Plateau. Each day we were given a lunch box to carry and it usually contained a sandwich of some sort, a banana, a biscuit and a drink. We each carried 2 litres of water for our own consumption, it was emphasised that we must drink a lot of water to help us to acclimatise. Our camp for the evening was at Shira One, altitude 11,537 feet, time walked about 6 hrs. The guides told us we were a strong group of walkers and we were arriving at the camp sites earlier than some groups. Again the evening routine was the same; luckily the ground here was not as stony as the first camp site.

## **SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

This was a comparatively short day to allow us to acclimatise and only involved 4 hrs walking, arriving at the campsite for dinner with the afternoon to relax. We camped at Shira Hut altitude 12,480 feet.

## **MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

During the morning we gently ascended towards the Lava Tower junction, 14,787 feet and then descended to the great Barranco valley, 12,675 feet, where we camped, the total walking time was about 6 hrs. It was a pleasant day's walk without too much effort required and plenty of time to admire the views and take photos.

## **TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

We had a really good steep climb to start off with up the Barranco Wall which I enjoyed; from the top we had really good views of the Southern Ice fields. The terrain changed to volcanic scree giving a powerful sense of mountain wilderness. Our campsite was at Karanga altitude 13,000 feet. Nearby was the last water point on the approach to Barafu, walking time 4 hrs. This gave us time to relax after we arrived before the evening meal.

## **WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

The trail was on compacted scree and was a hard climb up to the Barafu campsite which we reached for lunch, time walking 4hrs. The afternoon was spent resting for the final assault the next day, altitude of campsite 14,950 feet. After dinner we retired to bed for only a short time as we had to be ready to leave at about 23.30.

## **THURSDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER**

Although we were all ready on time we did not leave till about 00.30. It was very cold and we all wore our thickest coats, hats and gloves. Miki led the group at a very steady, slow plod, all you could see as you looked up the mountain were other walkers all with head torches on like us. We stopped every so often to allow for drinks and a short rest. Barry the second oldest man, he was 66, had to have an injection to combat altitude sickness. Some people who were not properly prepared or not fit enough in other groups were in real difficulty, some needing to be evacuated for medical treatment. Our entire group arrived together at the first main ridge, Stella Point, altitude 18,638 feet; just as the sun was rising at 08.00. The view was really stunning and we enjoyed a hot drink brought up by the guides. After our break and taking pictures we all then carried on to the actual peak at Uhuru Peak altitude 19,158 feet, where again we took the obligatory pictures to prove we had got there. Unfortunately on the way down I suffered a minor stomach upset and had to be helped over the last bit to our campsite at Barafu. However after a rest and something to eat I felt ok again and we walked for about 4 hours to reach our campsite at Millennium camp. It had been a long day and we were all glad to reach the campsite to rest and recuperate. I found the prolonged descending hard on the knees and was glad to have a rest; the total walking time was about 13 hours. The evening meal was really appreciated by

everyone and we were all glad to have achieved our objective of reaching the summit, especially Barry who had attempted the climb before and had not succeeded, I think he did it on will power more than physical ability as he had been struggling on other days. One of the ladies had been feeling really sick but had still got to the top as well.

## **FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER**

Before we left the campsite the porters and guides gave a concert and did some dancing and we gave them tips to show our appreciation of their efforts in looking after us.

We then had what seemed to be a never ending descent down what at first was a very uneven and rocky path, but eventually changed into a better maintained and surfaced one. En route we met up with several other groups who were doing the climb for charity and could not understand that we were doing it for fun! They told us that at least 5 to 7 members of their groups numbering over 30 had failed for various reasons to get to the top and were most impressed that our entire group had done so.

After what seemed like hours, we were all really glad when eventually we came out onto the forest road, which meant a break from descending; my knees were really hurting as I am sure other peoples were. It was nice to walk along a reasonably level road but as fatigue began to tell we split up into little groups. Soon we came onto a surfaced road and then knew we must be getting close to the park exit gate, I even managed a sprint finish when it came into site. After we had all signed out our certificates were issued to us and we walked the last mile to where our mini bus was parked at the cafe and we enjoyed our lunchtime snack with a beer. The mini bus was rather crowded as we were giving a lift to some of the guides. I had hoped to be able to stretch out to ease the pain in my knees and after the guides got off was able to do so. On arrival back at the Coffee Plantation Lodge we recovered our valuables and clean clothes and had a much needed shower, I did not realise I smelt so much! The evening meal was one of celebration we were all on a high having achieved what we had set out to do. I found it difficult to sleep as a result but drifted off eventually.

The next day 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 we were all departing at different times. I left with three of the ladies at about 4pm to travel to Kilimanjaro airport for our flight to Addis Ababa leaving at 6.15 pm. I felt very dehydrated and had to buy a large bottle of water at the airport. The flight left on time and was without incident. However at Addis Ababa 10 passengers, myself included, were told we were on standby despite having confirmed bookings, needless to say we were not amused. After a lot of arguing with Ethiopian Airline Staff who did not seem to care, I eventually got on the aircraft which did leave on time at 01.05. I did not enjoy the hassle as I was really tired and did not expect to have to argue for my seat which had been booked, paid for, and confirmed by Exodus. We landed on

time at Heathrow at 07.15 on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and I was met by Taxi arriving home just after 09.00.

**GROUP COMPOSITION**

15 IN TOTAL, 9 WOMEN and 6 MEN, OLDEST ME AT 67, YOUNGEST SCHOOL GIRL 18 ON HER FIRST TREK WITH HER MUM.

*Ian Mackenzie*



**October Services**

October	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Mrs Jane Fulford (JaM) Rev. Bryan Tolhurst (WotM)
October	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Rev. Phil Warrey (Harvest Festival)
October	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Rev. Brian Gameson (S)
October	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Rev. Mo Wills

**November Services**

November	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Rev. Phil Warrey (JaM, S) Rev. Phil Warrey (WotM)
November	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Local Arrangement – Remembrance Sunday
November	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Rev. Peter Perowne (S) - Prisons week
November	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30 am	Rev. Phil Warrey - Women against Violence Sunday
November	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Local Arrangement - Advent Sunday

**Dates for your Diary**

October	11 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm	Harvest Supper
October	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Church Council
October	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Craft Fair
November	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Christmas Bazaar
November	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Decorate Church for Christmas

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## 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>	Brightstars 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> Messy Church 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month	10.00 – 11.30 am & 7.30 – 9.00 pm 2.00 – 3.00 pm 4.00 – 5.30 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 <i>Contact Muriel on hockleysteward@hotmail.co.uk</i> 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 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 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> U3A Dancing: <i>contact Colin Gammon</i>  Friday Club (years 3-7) <i>contact Wendy S 200484</i> Friday Club + (years 8 & 9) <i>contact Revd. Phil Warrey</i>	9.45 – 10.30 am 2.00 – 4.00 pm  6.00 – 8.00 pm 7.00 – 8.00 pm

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**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.hockleyhawkwelldmethodist.org.uk](http://www.hockleyhawkwelldmethodist.org.uk)