

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday 7th December
10.30 am
Toy, Gift and Parade Service
Mrs Pamela Smith



Sunday 14th December
4.00 pm
Candlelight Carol Service and a light tea

Sunday 21st December
10.30 am
Rev. Phil Warrey (Baptism)

Christmas Eve
Wednesday 24th December
4.00 pm
Christingle (please bring an orange)
Rev. Phil Warrey

Christmas Day
Thursday 25th December
10.00 am
Rev. Phil Warrey

The Link

Between you and
Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church



Editor's Note

A big thank you to everyone who has given me material throughout the year.

The deadline for the February/March magazine is **Monday 19th January**. Please either post items to me, Ron Chidwick, or send by email to:

thelink@hockleyhawkwelldist.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

Issue: 172

The finished product was perhaps a bit rough and ready. Mr Chapman was a very agreeable man and, considering what he was asked to do, also very helpful. But we had our occasional differences over layout. He had a tendency to stop when he reached the bottom of page eight even if the article, sometimes even a joke, was incomplete. He would type "to be continued on the last line and that was that! You had to wait another month for the punchline.

I can't say I was sorry to hand over as editor to Laurie Fenne. As most editors find sooner or later it is not easy to produce enough material to fill every issue. But it is good to think that after 40 years or so THE LINK is still in production.

Michael Deedman

(Reproduced from: The Link - December 2005)

Toy and Gift Sunday (7th December)

All toys donated will be given to needy children.

Gifts will be donated to HARP (Southend's homeless charity). Suitable items include socks for both male and female; toiletries, gloves, hats, books, warm clothing and sweets.

REMINDER

Sunday 4th January
10.30 am
Covenant Service with Communion
Rev. Phil Warrey

The Story of 'The Link'

The Inception

In the sixties our Sunday School was the largest in the Leigh Circuit. I was leader of the Beginners Department with some 40 to 50 children aged from 3 to 5. There were similar numbers in both the Primary and Junior Departments and about 20 children in the Seniors. The uniformed organisations were flourishing, with a waiting list more often than not.

I remember distinctly a discussion at a Sunday School teachers' meeting, not about how to get more children to come but how to involve their parents, particularly those who never came to church or only to special services. We thought we could do more to let them know about other church activities, as well as telling them something about the particular groups their children attended. A proposal to start a regular magazine was passed on to the Church Trustees. They appointed a small team to look into the practicalities. The team's report recommended the production of a monthly magazine and, because its main aim was to forge a link between the church and non- churchgoers, it was only natural to call it THE LINK.

Kay Deedman

The Early Days

As the first editor of THE LINK, the date of its very first issue should I suppose be etched on my memory. I'm afraid I cannot get closer than to say it was some time in the sixties.

There was an Editorial Board of three. How grand that sounds. I do remember saying at the time that we wanted to be forward looking, meaning that we didn't want a magazine consisting only of reports of what the various organisations had done in the last month. Well intentioned as that idea was, it lasted only for a few issues - we published monthly then - as without those reports it would have been a pretty slim affair.

The production was not exactly high-tech. Most contributions were hand-written. I gathered enough material together to make up what I estimated would run to the usual eight A4 pages of print, collated them into some sort of order and delivered them to a Mr Chapman at the Hockley Printing Company. He operated from the front room of a house in Greensward Lane on the site now occupied by Lime Court. Mr Chapman himself - it was very much a one-man business - typed all the material on to stencils and ran them off on his Gestetner duplicator. I think there was a standing order for 300 copies. A week later I collected them, fortunately all stapled and ready for issue.



Thoughts from our Minister...

Dear Friends,

What happened to the baby?

A long time ago in a church faraway, we did a Christmas sketch with the young people. It was centred on the preparations for a Christmas Play, and it entailed all sorts of arguments about who was to play what part, and who was going to sing what solo, and costumes and decorating the stage. Eventually the play was put on, and all seemed to be going so well, until they realised right at the very end, that they had forgotten the baby.

It's easy to get distracted at Christmas, with all sorts of plans and preparations, spending on food, choosing and buying and wrapping presents. Somehow it's easy to forget about the baby.

So let's remember the baby, amidst all the commercialisation, let's remember, that this is God incarnate; this is something to get excited by again and again every year, and let's remind everyone we see.

This is God, who has come to save us, come to save us from all we do to harm ourselves and each other. This is God who came to teach us to love each other, to love our enemies, to forgive others, and not to harbour shame and guilt. This is exciting.

So let's enjoy Christmas, let's enjoy giving and receiving, let's feast, let's party, let's decorate and have fun, but let's still get excited by the baby, and all the good news he brings.

Every blessing for a fantastic Christmas and blessings for the New Year.

Regards

Phil Warrey (Rev)



Imagine

Imagine a star shining bright in the sky
a man and a woman with nowhere to lie
a stable so lowly nothing more to be found
a mattress of straw on the hard ground

Imagine a baby being born on that night
with cattle and donkeys watching his plight
the warmth of their bodies is all they can share
the very first love, the very first care

Imagine that child in a manger of hay
Him sleeping so peaceful to the break of the day
when down from the hills and leaving their sheep
come shepherds so simple with a faith that's so deep

Imagine three kings who followed the star
with gifts of gold, frankincense, myrrh
entering that stable so very poor
and flinging themselves down, flat on the floor

Imagine a child born to be King
Imagine us as alleluias we sing
Imagine a God who gave us his word
Then imagine that babe, our Saviour, our Lord

Roger Stapenhill

(with permission)

Cavalry" but do you know who recorded it? John Barrowman made it into Caroline's picks with "I made it through the rain" and it displayed what an under rated singer he is. For her final choice Caroline selected "How Great Thou Art." A very good choice and a very good evening.

The church was getting good use as we met here again for a talk by David Clarke on 'Jordan' on Thursday 23rd October. Relax chaps. It's about the country not the former model. What do you know about the country Jordan? It is home to over six and a half million people and was once part of the Ottoman Empire. Did you know that its ruler since 1999 has been King Abdullah the second? The city of Petra is one of its most popular tourist destinations with its temples dating over two centuries. Jordan however is in a most volatile area and has borders with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Israel and Palestine and is probably why it has over fifty thousand troops with the United Nations. The Dead Sea contains vast amounts of potash and is a popular venue for both Jordanians and, on the opposite side of the water, the Israelites. A most informative talk by David taking us through the centuries of history and the many changes that have taken place.

It was a change of venue on Thursday 6th November, meeting at the home of Kay and Michael for one of Ray's quizzes. This was a quiz of three rounds, the first round being on the Commonwealth and The Commonwealth Games of 2014 in Glasgow. The second round was on the First World War and the centenary events that took place this year. The third and final round proved to be the most difficult with eight pictures of television personalities, eight pictures of sportsman, and eight pictures of world politicians. The knowledge displayed on the World War One facts was phenomenal. I won't comment on the other two rounds. A very keenly fought contest and prizes all round for all the competitors.

We had an additional event on Thursday 13th November when a number of us attended the Palace Theatre in Westcliff to see the Southend Operatic & Drama Society (S.O.D.S.) production of Sister Act. Sister Act was a film which had considerable success starring Whoopi Goldberg. No Whoopi Goldberg in this production as she was not needed. The acting and singing was of a very high standard and many comedic performances adding to the fantastic entertainment value on offer. "The S.O.D.S " cast had a standing ovation for one of their best productions. Their next production in the New Year is Carousel and tickets should be booked as soon as possible. A really good night.

Ray Williams

Next meetings

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

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

Thursday Social Club

We met at our church on Thursday 25th September to hear from Steve Oakley and Faye Owen on their discovery of the abandoned church of St Mary Magdalene in Shopland. This was once a thriving church in its local community and its story should be a warning to all local communities and organisations that if they want their church to survive then it should make determined efforts to support it both financially and also on a working co-operation. The abandoned church of St Mary Magdalene in Shopland was re-discovered quite by accident. Steve and Faye lived in Canvey at the time and regularly took short breaks in their motor home as an escape from their stressful jobs in local hospitals. Being keen horse lovers they made their way to the Shopland Equestrian Centre and parked up nearby. This was in September 2013 so their discovery is quite a recent event. Looking through the overgrowth of grass and trees they spotted what looked like a bit of a wall. On closer inspection it was an ornate gravestone covered in shrubbery. Steve and Faye were so enamoured with their find that they decided to find out more about this abandoned church. This is their story or rather the story of St Mary Magdalene Church in Shopland.

Up until his death in 2009, local farmer Bill Edgar had maintained the site single-handedly. The oldest headstone dates from 1639 but one of its many interesting stories was that of the church's vicar Frederick Thackeray who was the vicar from 1847 to 1892. He lived at Royal Terrace in Southend and walked to church every Good Friday armed with a batch of hot cross buns for the congregation. Sounds like a good idea. His gravestone is in the churchyard and it was discovered that he was a cousin of novelist William Makepeace Thackeray. Many more stories were discovered but in the 1930's the church was falling to rack and ruin. After a few mini revivals the church was demolished in 1957. Since its re-discovery by Steve and Faye the overgrowth has been cleared with the help of a few volunteers who have come forward. This is a most iconic site and it is on our doorstep. Please pay it a visit.

Thursday 9th October and we again met at the church for an evening of "Desert Island Discs" served up by our Reverend Phil Warrey and his wife Caroline. The master of proceedings was Michael Deedman who kept the evening moving at a nice leisurely pace. Taking it in turns we heard the choice of discs selected by Phil and Caroline and reasons for their selection. Phil's choices were an eclectic selection of both classical and perhaps a little quirky. Who I wonder is aware that Benny Anderson of Abba fame recorded a tune about a circus ferryman. The unlikeliest choice however was The Wurzels's rendition of "Golden Brown." To close his choices Phil selected "Jesus remember me, when you come into the kingdom."

Appropriately Caroline's first choice was "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond which proved to be very popular with the attendees. Another choice was "Don't stop the

Mary and Joseph

You are invited to host Mary & Joseph for a night, between 1st and 24th December. You will receive Mary & Joseph on the evening to lodge in your house. When the previous hosts bring them, please invite them in for a cup of tea/coffee cake/mince pie. Maybe sing a carol together, and say the prayer on the sheet.

When Mary and Joseph are in your care, you are invited to reflect with them what it means ***to wait for God to come to you and our world.*** You may wish to record some thoughts or a drawing in the book that comes in the box.

On the next evening, it is then your turn to take Mary and Joseph to the next Inn on the list.

Mary and Joseph will then join us for our services on Christmas Eve. Come and be part of the Christmas story and join your story to theirs.

Thank you!

Anne Sains

Christmas Greetings

It's that time of year again when most of us will be sending out Christmas cards.

As usual there will be a post-box in the church which you can use to send cards to individual members or to send one card to all church friends which will be on display for all to see. There will also be a separate box which it is hoped you will use for donations in lieu of postage.

The money this year will go to the Methodist Relief Fund 'All We Can' and our aim is to raise enough (at least £40) to enable 285 African families to build a fuel-efficient stove and free up time spent gathering firewood. The proceeds from the Penny Pot will also go towards this fund.

Michael Deedman

Family News

Welcome

We are always delighted to welcome everyone to our church; all who attend services, social events, fundraising days or who regularly use our premises.

Illness

We remember all our members and friends who are ill, housebound, sad or lonely. May they all be conscious of God's love and comfort in times of need. In particular we think of Bill Potter, Pauline Williams, Jean & Ken Saunders, Maureen Blake, Harold Collingridge and Sheila & Michael Hayman.

Bereavement

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have recently been bereaved, especially we think of Valerie, Margaret and all the family following the loss of Isabel.

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

The Penny Pot

Since the beginning of September a total of £9 has found its way into the 'Penny Pot'. 'What are these contributions used for?' 'I am sometimes asked. The honest answer is 'nothing specific' – the original purpose of helping to provide funds for a disabled toilet having long since been achieved.

One suggestion has been made – to put the money towards providing items chosen from those available through All We Have (the new name for The Methodist Relief and Development Fund) to alleviate suffering in needy parts of the world. Please let me know if you support this idea or if you have any other suggestions to make.

In the meantime please keep potting the pennies!!

Joyce Rae

Messy Church

We have now hosted our third Messy Church and have, as it were, been learning on the job.

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.

Kay and Sandra kindly came to help with the activities. The most important part is the talking as each activity is related to the theme. Yesterday it was the story of Moses. Sandra was thrilled to be in charge of the frog table!! The children produced some wonderful frogs and were very proud of their achievements. Kay helped the children and their mums make the woven little mats and there were some very pretty results.

After the story, prayers and more singing in the church, we went back in the hall to enjoy sausages in rolls, beautifully prepared by Linda and June P. We had fresh fruit to follow and everyone enjoyed sharing food together. Then it was time to say goodbye.

The next Messy church will be on the Tuesday, 16th December at 4pm when we will have Messy Christmas and we will be sharing in the Nativity with all the children taking part. There will definitely be a children's tea party so offers of small amounts of finger food will be really appreciated.

Don't forget to invite family, neighbours or friends. All are welcome.

Many thanks to all who helped in any way. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Anne Sains

Stamps

Thank you to everyone for the stamps given over the year. We do not get many letters with stamps on now, but hope you all get a few over Christmas.

Thank you for all you collect.

June Waterfield

Isabella Murphy

21st February 1925 – 26th October 2014

Fisherman's 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Pilot, I shall not drift,
He lighteth me across the darkest waters:
In deepest channels – He steereth me.
He keepeth my Log. He guardeth me by –
the Star of Holiness, for His name's sake.
Yea tho I sail midst the thunders and tempests of life;
I will fear no danger, for Thou art with me.
Thy love and Thy care, they shelter me.
Thou prepares a harbour ahead, in the haven of Eternity.
Thou anointest the waves with oil, my boat rideth calmly.
Surely, sunlight and starlight shall favour me,
On all voyages I take
And I will rest in the port of my God forever.
Amen

Copy purchased from Museum in Mevagissey 2014

Nanna Isabel (Eulogy by Lucy Byford)

Isabel, Bunty, Mum, Nanna, Great Nanna, Auntie Isabel, Great Auntie. The lady we are all here to celebrate today has taken on many roles throughout her almost 90 years of life. I'm not sure I really have the time to scratch the surface but I will try my very best to do this wonderful woman justice.

I have learnt a lot more about Nanna in the last few years, enjoying many hours chatting about her life before many of us were even part of it. Isabella Reekie Sailor was born in Perth, Scotland, on 21st February 1925 to Hilda and Daniel (Donald) Sailor. She was the eldest of 3 children and being the eldest girl meant that Scottish tradition determined Nanna's name. Her paternal grandmother was called Isabella with the surname Reekie which is where Nanna's middle name came from. Because Nanna's Dad had many siblings and all families followed this tradition, there were quite a number of Isabellas in the family and, therefore, it was helpful to give them all pet names. Nanna's was Bunty. Likewise, the eldest boy in the family is named after the paternal grandfather which is why Nanna's brother, our great Uncle Dan has his name. He is one of many Daniels in the family now and contributes to my regular confusion when talking about Dan, Danny or Daniel! Unfortunately Nanna and Uncle Dan's sister passed away in 1952 which understandably devastated the family but has maybe contributed to the closeness of Nanna and her brother for all these years after, even up to Nanna's last moment with us which Uncle Dan was with her for. A great comfort to us all.

For all the years that Nanna was away from it, Scotland never left her heart, that I know for sure. If Nanna told me once, it was a thousand times how she never wanted to leave there but her Mum's advice was that 'she really should go with her husband'! I hope Grandad knew he had competition for Nanna's heart?! It was clearly meant to be though because while Grandad was stationed at RAF Scone ("it's 'Scoon dear, Scoon!") and attending Perth Methodist Church, they met and then tied the knot in 1945 - the start of a long and loving marriage which spanned 53 years before Grandad sadly left us in 1998. Their many happy years together started when Grandad managed to drag, convince, no, let's say sweep Nanna south of the border to married quarters in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.



Maybe not the introduction to England that Nanna needed or indeed wanted but thankfully she persevered!

From Lincolnshire there was no stopping Nanna's progress south and their next abode was rented accommodation in Wansted before then buying in East Ham. It was while living in these two places that their two daughters were born, our Auntie Valerie and our Mum, Margaret. It was from East Ham, as a family now, that Essex was finally graced with the presence of the Murphys in 1964. Rayleigh was their first home here before moving to 34 Aldermans Hill in 1973 which always has been and will never be anything other than Nanna and Grandad's house to me. I don't care how much any new people that might live there in the future don't like me wandering along the sideway, tapping on the windows, and letting myself in through the gate and back door! 'Excuse me, what do you think you're doing in our house?' 'I've come for one lolly, one biscuit and one sweet please'. (That's between you and me though Nanna, isn't it!!). Talking of your house, Nanna, I hope you don't mind but I have become quite nosey while you have not been staying there! There are so many things there which remind me of the wonderful family life we have always been blessed with. I now have the bird book that we used to look through lots and I would copy pictures of the birds for you. You always amazed me with your knowledge of the bird songs too. You could hear a bird sing and tell me what bird it was! I also noticed you still have a plaster of paris Donald Duck which must be at least 20 years old now! I love that you still have it! I love there being so many photos from years gone by which we can talk about. Some of the many pictures are of Auntie Val and Uncle Tony's wedding day. Now you're probably expecting me to talk about stories of what a wonderful day that was (which it was....despite me having to wear a dress and have curly hair!) but, no, my stories tend to focus more on the day before when Nanna and Grandad's garden shed caught fire while we were all eating fish fingers and spaghetti hoops!! Funny how a child's memory works!

Hockley is also where an already strong friendship was further cemented between Nanna and grandad and Kath and Don Walker. The bond between Nanna and Auntie Kath now having spanned 70 years. By now the Methodist Church was very much part of all of their lives first starting in East Ham at Central Hall where Nanna was warmly welcomed by Grandad's family who have remained as close to this day. Nanna and Auntie Joyce kept up their Wednesday afternoon phone chats for many many years (as long as they fitted around Auntie Joyce's naps!) Their next church was Rayleigh Methodist and then here to where we all are today and where a lot of Nanna's acquaintances were made. Nanna & Grandad's work here started opposite this Church when they had a shop called Valmar and later was at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church for many years, both of which extended their circle of friends within the community and circuit. It was always a treat to be taken into the office to see nanna and grandad because everyone in there spoilt us and doted on us - someone always found us a biscuit or something! My lasting memory of there is bounding up the stairs to announce to Nanna that 'I can say hippopotamus'! It is because of Nanna and Grandad's

The Choir sings 'The Introit'.

After sitting for more than an hour it was a relief to stand and sing 'All People That on Earth Do Dwell'. We heard two testimonies, one from a Girl Guide and the second from a Girl Scout.

The choir sings 'Jubilate Deo'.

A reading from St. James 1; 17-18, 22-25 from the Scout Association.

We are standing again for the hymn 'Through all the Changing Scenes of Life'. A reading from St. Mark 10; 17-27 from the Deputy Chief Guide.

THE ADDRESS: By the Reverend Richard Winslade Rector of Gravenhurst, Shillington and Stondon, County Scouter, Bedfordshire.

The Choir sings and Prayers read by Guiders and Scouts.

A good stretch to sing 'Crown Him with Many Crowns'. We then renewed our promise followed by the Blessing and National Anthem.

After the service, all the people inside the Abbey were now outside chatting and meeting friends, we pushed our way through with thoughts on my mind of finding a taxi. Although I was born in London and lived there for 28 years I have never seen so many people. Trying to cross Parliament Square was another challenge and all the time keeping my eyes peeled for a taxi. Prayers answered a bright blue one came along, so with lots of waving we managed to secure it. The taxi driver was really helpful, he said that with so many roads closed he would have to go around the houses to get back to Liverpool Street, even I was lost at some of the streets he took. He said he would not charge the meter fare as it was not our fault for the longer journey and he dropped us just where we wanted, what a nice man.

By the time we arrived at the station we were both hungry, the nice meal we were going to have did not occur, Marks and Spencer to the rescue for some sandwiches, crisps and a cake. We had a lovely picnic on the nearly empty train home.

Eunice had a most enjoyable day in London and thoroughly enjoyed the service at the Abbey, we both had a good laugh but Eunice does not think she will go back in a hurry.

Sandra Allison

National Scout and Guide Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving

Following the death of Robert Baden-Powell in 1941, a memorial stone was unveiled in Westminster Abbey on 23rd April 1947. From then until 1955, Scouting Headquarters staff and some members held an annual wreath laying and a small service in the Abbey. In 1957, the centenary of Baden-Powell's birth, the service was attended by members of the Royal Family; in years thereafter it was referred to as a Service of Thanksgiving and became a much bigger celebration.

The current arrangement maintains the tradition of the annual service at Westminster Abbey, now known as the National Scout and Guide Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving, and focuses on thanking the adult volunteer leaders and supporters for their service and dedication.

On 16th October 2014 Eunice received a letter from the Girl Guiding Association inviting her, plus a guest, to the service at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 1st November 2014.

I was that lucky guest and we started our journey on the 1st with the sun shining and blue skies. We were both quite excited and chatted all the way to Liverpool Street station. On arrival we both needed a coffee but the station was extremely busy with many people heading to see the poppies at the Tower of London. The only place we could find with chairs was McDonalds but the only chairs available were outside and there was a light drizzle of rain, so we took two chairs on to the station, found a cosy spot, wiped down the chairs with serviettes and sat for half an hour watching the world go by.

The chairs were returned and we made our way to the taxi rank where a taxi was waiting. I think we stopped at every red light in the city, but at least I could point out all the various landmarks that we passed.

On arrival at the Abbey the taxi stopped just at the end of the queue where we had to join at the Great West Door. We soon found others to chat to, hearing their stories and about the long journeys they had made to be there. Before we knew it, it was 10.45am and we entered the Abbey.

We were ushered to our seats which were near the organ and facing a most beautiful stained glass window with now, bright sunshine streaming through. The organ started with Elegy in B flat, followed by Praeludium in D buxwv 139. We were both mesmerised with the music and stared at the beautiful window.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Locum Tenens was received at the Great West Door by the Canon in residence and was conducted to her place in the Quire.

involvement in this church that it now provides so many memories for our family. Both my Mum and Dad and Aunt and Uncle got married here, Eleanor, Holly, James and myself were all christened here and much more recently my beautiful nephew and niece have continued the tradition with Owen to have his moment up here in December.

Family has always been important to all of us. Nanna was certainly a central part of that all of her life, be it as a beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great grand mother or friend and very often being the rock who everyone else knew they could lean on at any time. Our family is far too close for this to stop now that you are not with us in person but you will never stop being with us in all our hearts and memories when the family is together. The closeness we all share is another thing I have come to appreciate so much more in more recent years. To me, while growing up, everyone enjoyed the same family life as we do but that is so far from the truth that I thank my lucky stars every time I think about you all. We have even been lucky enough for family times to often extend across two families. Many fun times were spent at Christmases with the Walkers with make shift benches around Nanna's table and her managing to feed the 5000 as if there were two people there! There honestly had to be a list made up before entering the dining room and you were not to leave the lounge until your name was called otherwise some people couldn't get to their allotted space!

Has anyone else noticed yet that meal times and food seems to have been mentioned more than once while I have been talking?! Along with all the family gatherings ALWAYS comes FOOD and mountains of it!! Nanna would never see anyone go hungry and she would definitely never let anyone eat anything other than EXACTLY what they fancied at that particular moment! I was allowed fish fingers with all of our roast dinners because I really didn't like meat....honest! This turned in to James being allowed sausages with every meal while he was growing up (you can thank me later James!) Nanna's attention to detail was also evident on a Saturday lunch time back when we used to go round every single week. It was honestly like being at a cafe for lunch -"today I quite fancy a chicken burger with cheese and tomato relish please".....and there it was ready and waiting before you knew it! Then Eleanor would polish off Nanna's fresh, crisp bunch of grapes that she'd only just bought. Still not a problem for Nanna of course! Nanna's baking too. That was generally enjoyed most on a Sunday after church when the scones (or is it scones?!) were freshly done so the butter would melt into them wonderfully.....then there was Nanna's treacle pudding....chocolate puddle pudding.....apple pie (apples fresh from the garden tree).....and I can't leave out the sausage rolls (which are actually profiterols wonderfully renamed by Holly at some point but I'll leave that for her to explain)!



It is only really now that I realise my perception of you was actually quite flawed in some ways - I assumed you never had problems of your own to deal with because never did you not have all the time in the world for us all. We were all made to feel like the most important person at the right times. Amazingly that strength did not falter even in the last couple of years as much as some people would have let it. I know you have managed to sit up in your chair and put a smile on when your grand children and great grand children have come to see you even if Mum and Auntie Val have told us you were having a bad day that day! I know that I will still continue to look to you at certain times in my life if I need a little extra strength. So many traits will be missed now that you are no longer with us Nanna. Your never ending and limitless love, your generosity, your strength, your happy nature and quite simply the joy that you spread in your life to every person here. Your wisdom and love will continue to guide many people in many ways and you will never be forgotten.

Rest in peace Nanna xxx

Thanks

Valerie and Margaret thank everyone for the love, support and prayers for their Mum over the years and for the kind words of comfort, condolence and encouragement since she passed away. "She was a lovely lady who we were very proud to call our Mum. Her passing leaves a void in all our lives but her love will remain with us always."

Flower Rota

1 st Sunday	Kay Deedman	202802
2 nd Sunday	Carolyn Sturgess	203964
3 rd Sunday	Anne Sains	202010
4 th Sunday	Linda Williams	204309
5 th Sunday	Linda Clarke	204559



Church Council

At its October meeting, Church Council:

- * noted that Rev Mo Wills had been welcomed to the Circuit and a new Superintendent was being sought to replace Rev Bryan Tolhurst, due to retire in 2015;
- * approved the statement of church accounts for the year ended 31 August, 2014;
- * generally welcomed the new layout of chairs for morning service following the completion of building work in the sanctuary and the provision of a new carpet;
- * reluctantly agreed to discontinue support for the Everychild charity in the absence of information about the particular child members had been supporting;
- * gave permission for children's parties to be held in the church hall on Sunday afternoons provided they finished no later than 6.30pm;
- * asked the stewards to consider ways in which closer links with the Methodist churches at Rayleigh and Rochford, such as joint services, might be established;
- * heard of various matters discussed at this year's Methodist Conference, including same sex marriage. While that matter was still under discussion, approval had been given for a service of prayer if wanted by those already in such a marriage or civil partnership;
- * agreed that a link to the Counselling Directory (a confidential service encouraging those in distress to seek help) should be added to the church website;
- * were advised that the next Annual Church meeting would be held on 14 March 2015.

Michael Deedman,
Secretary to the Church Council

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
	Messy Church 3 rd Tuesday each month	4.00 – 5.30 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
	2nd Hockley Brownie Pack: <i>contact Vivienne S 204550</i>	5.30 – 7.00 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
	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>	7.00 – 8.00 pm

Minister: Revd. Phillip Warrey **Tel:** 01268 770333 **Mobile:** 07917077785
 259 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, SS6 7LF, **Email:**
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Web: www.hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk

*Christmas greetings
 And every blessing
 In the New Year to
 You all*



*Many thanks to all who have given me
 contributions for this and previous
 editions of The Link. Keep the articles
 coming please.
 Ron Chidwick Ed.*

I am the New Year

I am the New Year ...
I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.
I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice
what you have learned about life
during the last twelve months.

All that you sought
and didn't find is hidden in me,
waiting for you to search it out
with more determination.

All the good that you tried for
and didn't achieve is mine to grant
when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do,
all that you hoped but did not will,
all the faith that you claimed but did not have –
these slumber lightly,
waiting to be awakened by the touch of a
strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to make all things new.

I am the New Year!

Author Unknown