

# The Link

Between you and

Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church



## Editor's Note

A big thank you to everyone who has given me material before the listed deadline. It was a great help.

The deadline for the April/May magazine is **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. 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 Trustee

## Thoughts from our Minister...

Dear Friends,

Caroline and I would like to say a big thank you, firstly for all the love, care and concern whilst Caroline has been unwell, and also for all your loving Christmas Cards and even some presents. Thank you.

As we have come back down to earth after Christmas, and lots of travelling around, (Even a quick visit to Nottingham for Jessica's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday), we feel we have been brought back to earth, and grounded as I have shared in the three Covenant Services for Rochford, Hockley & Hawkwell and Rochford.

The Covenant Service has been around for quite some time; John Wesley wrote the first form in 1755. The Methodist Church website reminds us that "This idea of Covenant was basic to John Wesley's understanding of Christian discipleship. He saw the relationship with God in Covenant as being like a marriage between human beings (both as a community and as individuals) on the one side and God in Christ on the other." (*The website also suggests we look at Ephesians 5.21-33 to see where John Wesley got this idea from*). "His original Covenant Prayer involved taking Christ as "my Head and Husband, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, for all times and conditions, to love, honour and obey thee before all others, and this to the death." (To read more on this see <http://www.methodist.org.uk/who-we-are/what-is-distinctive-about-methodism/a-covenant-with-god/the-covenant-service>).

I did particularly like the bible reading about us being intertwined with Jesus in the vine, (John 15:1-10) and as we move through this year, and consider our discipleship together, it would be good to remember, that we all depend on each other, and we all depend on Jesus.

This year we used covenant promise 'A' from our service book, and it is not an easy promise to make. I have copied it here for us all to reflect upon.

**I am no longer my own but yours.  
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,  
wherever you may place me,  
in all that I do  
and in all that I may endure;  
when there is work for me  
and when there is none;  
when I am troubled  
and when I am at peace.  
Your will be done**

**when I am valued  
and when I am disregarded;  
when I find fulfillment  
and when it is lacking;  
when I have all things,  
and when I have nothing.  
I willingly offer  
all I have and am  
to serve you,  
as and where you choose.**

**Glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours.  
May it be so for ever.  
Let this covenant now made on earth  
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

If you were not able to be at one of the covenant services, you can make this promise yourself, or I can share this promise with you on a visit.

As we reflect on the promise, let us remember to listen out for God's call upon our lives, and remember at all times to support and encourage each other in God's love.

Keep an eye out in the notices in the next few weeks for information about our Lent courses.

Every blessing for 2015.

Regards

*Phil Warrey (Rev)*

## Family News

### Welcome

To everyone who attends our church for whatever purpose; please speak to a steward if you would like a home visit.

### Birth Announcements

Carron and Michael Jacobs became the proud parents of Stanley Oscar (Stanley after his great grandfather) on 3rd October 2014. Di writes: "He weighed in at 7 lbs and is of course quite beautiful. Poppy is very proud of her brother." Diana & David Jacobs are delighted to have a grandson after 3 granddaughters!

Gill & Ivor Cross are also pleased to have a new grandson; Noah James Joseph, who arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014. He weighed in at 8 lbs 10oz.

Our congratulations to both Families.

### Birthday Congratulations

Our love and very best wishes to Jean Saunders who was 80 years young on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### Illness

We remember with love all our members who are unwell, especially we think of Jean and Ken Saunders, Sheila and Michael Hayman, Pauline Williams, Maureen Blake, Caroline Warrey, Eunice Burge, David, Sally Ann and Family and Revd. Sam Connolly who was our minister in the 1960s.

### Bereavement

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have recently been bereaved; we give thanks for the life of Bill Potter and think of all his friends who will miss him the most.

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

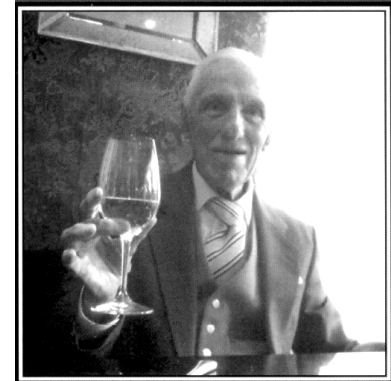
## William Harold James Potter (Bill)

4<sup>th</sup> December 1921 – 28<sup>th</sup> December 2014

### Eulogy by Alan Simpson

William Harold James Potter, known to us all as Bill. I would like to say that Bill was a carefree, fun loving, cheerful and happy individual but that wouldn't be true. He was often grumpy, intolerant and rude but the number of you here today would suggest that he was much loved and respected for his unusual ways.

It all began on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1921 when Bill was born in East Ham to Mr. and Mrs. William Potter. He was to be their only child. His father was a top Chef on the White Star Shipping Line. He was often away from home for six months at a time whilst sailing between England and South Africa.



Bill had a strained relationship with his father but was very close to his mother and deeply loved her.

The family moved to Osborne Road in Hornchurch where Bill spent his late childhood. He attended the Royal Liberty Grammar School for boys which was also my old school, and that connection was part of my initial bond and friendship with Bill.

I think however he was a year or two above me at School.

He left School in 1936 aged 15 and started work with the Eastern Electricity Board. He worked for the same company for his entire life and gave more than 40 years' service to that Company. He earned a long service certificate that I have been honoured to see.

It was during the 1930s that he began his support of Arsenal Football Club. During that period they won three championships under Herbert Chapman and he became a lifelong supporter. Many here will however recall his dislike of their Manager Arsene Wenger and the current foreign players whose names he struggled to pronounce.

War came in 1939. Bill was not quite 18 but ready for service. However his employment with the Electricity Board meant that he had a "Reserved Occupation" and he was therefore required to remain a civilian in order to protect the Country's electrical services.

Bill's home in Hornchurch was very close to Hornchurch Aerodrome which was heavily involved in the Battle of Britain. He socialised in the local pubs with the young RAF pilots who were his age and he spoke fondly of Guy Gibson and Stanford Tuck. He sadly remembered the friends and young pilots who never returned from action.

I always felt that Bill resented the fact that he could not be one of the pilots and he would have gladly given service to his Country.

It was during the latter part of the War that he met his wife Margaret Skinner. She was a serving WAAF. They met in London and I often joked with him that it must have been in the blackout or he would not have stood a chance with her.

They married on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1946 at St. Andrew's Church in Westcliff and set up home in the Westcliff area. Following her discharge from the Forces Bill discovered that Margaret had been the personal assistant to Air Vice Marshall Downing and had been privy to numerous highly classified war secrets that she had never disclosed. In civilian life Margaret became a technical teacher at Southend College and Bill continued to rise through the ranks at Eastern Electricity.

Bill had a great love of cricket, playing at good club level as a batsman and enjoying numerous cricket tours. He became friends with Trevor Bailey and Godfrey Evans who were both England players. With their assistance and introductions he became a member of the MCC, his membership application being seconded by the West Indian Legend Sir Frank Worrell. Until recently he regularly attended Test Matches at Lords and as a token of this love of cricket Bill is being buried today wearing his MCC Tie..... (*suitably stained!!*)

He was also a member of the Cricketers Club in London and told tales of spending boozy afternoons with Dennis Compton and the Australian Keith Miller.

As well as his cricket Bill loved music, all types of music, but in particular Big Band Music. He leaves a large record collection. Particular favourites were Carol Gibbons the resident band at the Savoy Hotel, the Rat Pack, Ella Fitzgerald and Tony Bennett.

I was surprised to be told by Bill that he did in fact have his own band; he was the drummer and band leader and made many performances throughout London and

Essex at Dances, Weddings and Parties. He claimed to have a very special talent for interviewing aspiring young lady singers.

In 1957 Bill and Margaret moved to his present home in Rayleigh which they purchased new from Byfords. Bill mainly worked in the Grays area and enjoyed an active social life within the business community there. He and his friends enjoyed visits to the top hotels and nightclubs of the West End.

He became a Freemason in 1969 being initiated into Thurrock Lodge 4757 and also joined two Mark Mason Lodges.

Bill loved his clothes although those of you seeing him over the last few years may be surprised. All of his suits were hand made in Saville Row and he purchased his shirts from the best London retailers in Jermyn Street. His shoes were either Loakes or Churches and his wardrobes are still filled with many of these clothes and shoes.

Bill and Margaret were unfortunately unable to have children but focused their love on their pet dogs. Golden Retrievers were their favourites and they acquired their last dog Lucy in 1990. Bill was very sad when Lucy passed away.

Bill's love of dogs continued until his last days and many of you will no doubt recall the fuss he made of your own dogs whenever he saw them.

Having moved to Rayleigh Bill and Margaret attended the Methodist Church in Eastwood Road. They did not feel comfortable there and moved to this Church in Hockley where they became regular and active members of the congregation.

Bill continued to attend the Church until his recent ill health and expected it to be run the way he liked it and for his convenience as some of you will well know.

Margaret became ill in the 1990s suffering from Ovarian Cancer. Bill tried everything to cure her seeking the best possible private medical treatment. Sadly nothing could be done and Margaret died on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1999. They had been married nearly 53 years. His love for her never ceased and he paid regular visits to her grave in Hall Road. On each visit he took flowers which he purchased from Christine's the local florist for £2.00 per bunch. He was known to the florist staff as the "*£2 man*" Bill in time formed a companionship with an old friend Alice with whom he shared meals and days out. She helped with his washing and cooked for him **but** unfortunately she died suddenly in October 2009 leaving Bill once again alone.

It is this lone figure with the "*hat*" wandering around Rayleigh, Hockley and Hadleigh that most of you will remember.

Bill was a legend in local pubs and clubs insisting that his half pint of beer was served in a warmed glass jug or that his Cinzano (*does anyone still drink that??*) was topped with exactly the same amount of lemonade, a slice of lemon but with no ice!! Woe betides any bartender who got it wrong!!

As we are all aware, during the last year Bill began neglecting himself and this led to his ill health and hospitalisation in August last. Despite several temporary signs of improvement he never really recovered and sadly passed away early on 28<sup>th</sup> December. I am honoured to say that Linda and I were with him and he died peacefully.

Thank you to everyone who supported him visited him and cared for him over those last few months. I know that he was touched by the love and kindness shown to him.

Yes, Bill appeared to be a lonely old man but with these few little snippets today I hope I have shown that he enjoyed a fruitful and loving life. I am glad that I spent time with him and learned of his life. There is no greater wisdom than that which we obtain from our elders.

Your number today is a testimony to his life and you are all invited to join us for refreshments and a continued celebration of his life at the Rayleigh Conservative Club in Bellingham Lane.

So there you are...it just leaves me to say...goodbye old mate *for once you will be buying the first drink.*

God bless you Bill,

**Alan Simpson**

## 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	Linda Clarke	204559



## Weather Report 2014

Looking back on 2014, I guess most of us would think of it as a very wet year. As indeed it was; rainfall in January, February, May, July, August, October and November was almost twice the average. Four of the remaining 5 months were actually a lot drier than normal but not enough to prevent the year's total of 852mm being 38% above the average of the last 30 years of 617mm. The wettest day was 8<sup>th</sup> October with 32mm of rain.

It was not all doom and gloom however, for 2014 was also the sunniest year since 2003, with a total of 1832 hours, about 9% better than average. July was the sunniest month (242 hours) - but also particularly wet. February, March and June were also sunnier than usual and December the sunniest we've yet recorded for that month.

As a whole the year was considerably warmer than normal; in fact the warmest yet recorded with an average maximum daily temperature 16.1°C as against an average 14.4°C... Each month bar August was warmer than usual. We count a day as 'hot' if the thermometer reaches 25°C and it did just that on 32 occasions, twice reaching 30°C in July. No snow fell during the year and there were less frosty nights than usual, the last spring frost occurring on 26<sup>th</sup> March and the first winter frost on 6<sup>th</sup> November. So, a memorable year, being both the wettest and the warmest over the 30 years we've been keeping records.

As ever we are grateful to Peter Cuthbert for maintaining the record whenever we're away from Hockley.

**Kay & Michael Deedman**

## Memories

Our Mother, Phyllis Leadbeater, had been brought up as a Methodist by her parents so it was only natural for Rosemary and me to be as well. It was also very convenient as the church was just down the hill from our home.

My earliest memories are of being coerced into going to Sunday afternoon Sunday school by being given a doll which was duly named Primrose. This was during the 1950s. I do not remember when Sunday school was changed from the afternoon to take place during the morning services.

There were a few highlights during the church year; one would be the Sunday school anniversary, when we would take part in the church service. One part that I loved was picking flowers from the garden for a corsage. I remember primroses and grape hyacinths being wrapped up in silver milk bottle tops and pinned to our tops. Another occasion was the Church Anniversary.

Harvest festival was one of my favourite events. This was before we were asked to take tinned food to be distributed to households. The window sills and the table in front of the pulpit would be a mass of flowers, fruit and vegetables. At a later date I remember Mum providing a harvest loaf for the display. This she ordered from the little baker's shop on the corner of the approach to the station. The bread was made to look like a stack of corn that you would see in the field, and at the bottom would be shaped a mouse.

In the summer the highlight would be the Sunday school outing. Neither of our parents drove so to go to places like Clacton, Frinton, and Walton or just to Maldon was quite an event. Then on the way back we always stopped at Tiptree to pick strawberries for jam making.

On a Thursday afternoon Mum would be in the Sisterhood meeting held at the church where she was Secretary. I used to go there straight after school. By this stage of events it was tea and biscuits. The kitchen where the tea was made was part of the old building just next to the side door. As I recall it now, it was about the size of a cupboard and always had a really strong smell of damp and gas.

Most years there would be a Christmas Bazaar and for many years the funds were put towards building a new hall. This was achieved and the new hall was built on the right hand side of the L shaped piece of land that the church sits on. This hall was used every Sunday for the junior Sunday school while the seniors used the old hall attached to the back of the church. This area was then replaced, I think, early 1970s.

During my teens the youth club was held one evening a week and was very well attended.

*My husband has just read this and commented that where he attended the Methodist Sunday School in Warrington they used to have prize giving of a book and this was based on your good attendance during the year; I do remember this also being the practice at Hockley.*

I do hope that some of my childhood memories jog other people's memories too.

Best wishes to you all

***Shelagh Rowley, nee Leadbeater***

## Rosemary also adds her Memories

We moved to Hockley in September 1949, my parents, Ridley and Phyllis, my sister, Shelagh, and I. Shelagh was 6 months old and I was 6½. We lived at No. 57 Main Road, halfway between the church and the school. The minister was a joint minister with Rayleigh, Revd. Stanbury, followed by Revd. Teare. Then when I was about 10 joys of joys, we had our own minister, Revd. Arthur Bryant, who was famous for his brilliant stories he told the children. He was a Welshman, and he was a great orator. He was followed by the wonderful Revd. Sam Connolly, who left I think in July 1965.

I was married in September 1967 and my wedding was conducted by Revd. Brian Gameson.

The Sunday school was run by Doris Deedman, Mother of Michael. She and her husband also ran the youth club on a Friday evening. The Sunday school was then run by my Mother, then Kay Deedman. At least I think that was the correct order. Anne (Drinkwater), I think now Sains, was also in Sunday school, I think with my sister. Anne remembers her and I being angels in the nativity play and both of us getting into trouble for giggling all the way through. Nothing new - I was always in trouble.

The Sunday school for us older children was run by Mr Porter, and he was followed by Chas Chapman. Both did a sterling job. Also, one family who were stalwarts of the church were the Gregory's. Mr Edwin Gregory was a local preacher; his wife I think was called Lily who, along with my mother, ran the Sisterhood. Their daughter

was Janet and she was the same age as my sister.

It is almost 50 years since Ray and I married at the church. We live near Chelmsford and our family own a sandwich company in Chelmsford called Raynor Foods. We have a son, Matthew and a daughter, Heather. Matthew has 2 sons Cornelius and Octavius, and a daughter, Aurelia. Heather has a son and daughter; Joshua and Verity.

I do hope that this, along with Shelagh's recollections, may be of interest to your readers.

***Rosemary Raynor (Leadbeater)***

## **Fair Trade**

At the same time as our Church was designated a FAIR TRADE CHURCH, we opened a Traidcraft Fair Trader account for the purchase of Fair Trade products. We recently received the following message from Traidcraft:

"It's one year since you registered your Traidcraft Fair Trader account. Thank you for all you are doing to promote fair trade in your community. It makes a real difference to the lives of our producers and is much appreciated by the staff at Traidcraft and our wider family of supporters. Here's to the next year....."

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 23 February to 8 March, when we are asked to make a special effort to purchase Fairtrade goods in our weekly shopping. Please support the Fairtrade Pancake and Coffee Morning at the Church on Saturday, 21 February.

***Kay Deedman***

## **Coffee & Pancake Morning**

**SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY, from 10 am - 1.00 pm.**

Please come along on the day; we look forward to seeing you.  
Everyone is welcome.

**There will be Fairtrade displays and activities for children.**

***Linda Williams***

## **What's Going On**

So here we are in 2015, looking forward to another year of witness in our local community and throughout the wider world.

First of all, a big thank you goes to all those who filled in for Mike and I whilst we were off on our adventure. It was a busy time for you but we have come back renewed with energy and enthusiasm, at least for now!!

I am pleased to report that donations over the Christmas period were as follows:

Christingle collection for Little Havens Hospices - £73.20

For 'All we Can'

Christmas Day - 102.90

In lieu of Postage 79.00

£181.90

Thank you everybody.

This is the time of year when we look back at what has been going on in each of our groups, so if you lead a group or are the secretary, then look out for the letter asking you to write a report. This year there will be a strict deadline so make sure you keep that in mind and get your reports to Shirley Chidwick in good time or they will not be published!

The church is also arranging a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in the church for all the groups and organisations that use the premises, so that we can discuss problems and try to iron out some of the issues that arise. This will be called the Family Forum (as in church family) and will include all those who hire the hall or church. There will be individual invitations but if you are in any of these groups, please lobby the leaders or your members to make sure that there is at least one representative from your group at this meeting.

All of this is leading up to the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, when everybody is welcome to come and discuss any matters arising from the reports and the new Five Year Plan which will take into account the results of the Worship Consultation on 31<sup>st</sup> January. There are also some appointments to be made at this meeting. Tea and coffee will be served from 10am; the meeting will begin at 10.30am and will be followed by lunch.

Please put all of these dates in your diary and do your best to be there. We need to move forward together and can't do that if you don't share in the discussions.

This year, Lent courses will be available at Rochford and Rayleigh, starting in the middle of February, so look out for details in the notices.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the three churches in our section are meeting at Rayleigh at 4pm to watch a film and follow it with a discussion. There will be a tea – details later so once again keep an eye on the notices.

Thank you for all the donations of clothes for the night shelter clients. The team from Hockley is involved on the 24<sup>th</sup> January and the 28<sup>th</sup> February. The Methodist Circuit is responsible for running the night shelter on a Saturday night from November to March. Other churches do it on other nights. This year, we are based at Whittingham Avenue, not Chalkwell Park. Each section in the Circuit has been asked to take responsibility for a Saturday night and our section has been given the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in the month. There will be report back at the AGM. Thank you for all that you do.

***Muriel***

## **Christian Aid**

Unfortunately the Committee has decided to disband. In July last year Beatrice Cook wrote to churches in Hockley, Hawkwell and Hullbridge and she only had one reply.

Anne White introduced me to the Committee in 2003/4 approximately. Peter Cuthbert is Chairman, Katy Pryor is Organiser, Richard Pryor is Treasurer, Beatrice Cook is Secretary and I am the representative for Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church. All have now served for over ten years. Without further support we cannot carry on. We are the only five left.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way raising money from house envelope collections, street tin collectors and the garden parties, quizzes and concerts

It is sad that this action is necessary after 50 years activity in this district but thanks are due to many people who have raised thousands of pounds for Christian Aid in that time.

***June Waterfield***

## **Brightstars**

Brightstars Parent and Toddler Group meets every Monday morning 9.30 -11.30am. Activities are split between the Church and the Hall with refreshments available in the Coffee Room.

The Church is set out with activities for babies and toddlers that aid children's development. There is an area for young babies with arrangements of toys and soft play materials to encourage crawling, hiding and peeping. There are books for adults to read to the children, or for the children to read for themselves. Equipment includes a Home Corner area with dolls and table arranged with a tea set; Duplo bricks on the floor for the children and parents to build; a Roadway mat with garage and cars; a see-saw for children to share and a tunnel.

In the Hall a table is set up for painting. Another table is set up for sticking and a selection of collage material already cut into shapes is provided for the children to stick onto card. There is playdough and puzzles available on other tables. Adult and child sized chairs are set up for all these activities. Also in the Hall children can use the push-a-long toys - for the older ones there is a selection of ride-on toys which are kept away from the babies.

As there are now some over threes a story time has been started with approximately 6 children using story sacks on loan from the Children's Centre.

Refreshments are served throughout the session. There is a table in the Coffee Room for the children's refreshments. Parents help with drinks and the children can help themselves to their snack. Refreshments have included bananas and grapes, cheese and apple, oranges and apples with bread sticks.

A risk assessment is carried out before each session to ensure e.g. that socket covers are in place and that all the toys are in good condition and clean. Cups, spoons and dishes are frequently sterilised.

When planning for the group "Birth to Three Matters" is used. This covers areas such as effective practice, play and practical support, planning and resourcing for the following four areas: "Healthy Child"; "Competent learner"; "Strong child"; and "Skilful communicator".

***Linda Williams***

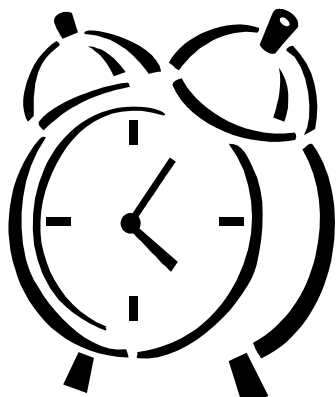


## Dates for your Diary

Thursday February	12 <sup>th</sup>	Church Council Meeting at 7.30 pm
Saturday February	21 <sup>st</sup>	Fairtrade Coffee & Pancake Morning 10 am – 1 pm
Saturday March	14 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Church Meeting, followed by Lunch
Sunday March	15 <sup>th</sup>	Mothering Sunday Service at 10.30 am
Palm Sunday March	29 <sup>th</sup>	Eggstravaganza & Parade at 10.30 am

(details of Easter arrangements yet to be advised – see Circuit Plan when available and church notices).

***Remember to put your clocks forward one hour on 29<sup>th</sup> March***



## 'ECG – A Heart for the Nations'

Over recent weeks and months I have heard Methodist Colleagues say that they had either never heard of 'ECG – A Heart for the Nations' or didn't know how to find information about it. ([www.ecgevent.org.uk](http://www.ecgevent.org.uk))

So we thought it would be good to let you know about it, just to make sure that ECG 2015 had not passed you by. ECG is an event within the Methodist family. Its aim is to support and equip a church seeking to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission, exploring Biblically and practically how we live in our varying contemporary contexts and offering resources, training, encouragement and support for local ministry and engagement.

This year we will again gather in Scarborough (this will be our 8<sup>th</sup> gathering) for 5 days (April 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>) and we are so excited about our theme which is 'Together'. This will be an opportunity to explore together what it means to be a Christian, a disciple and how we can all be part of God's mission. Recognising that sometimes being 'together' is a struggle – but a struggle worth pursuing.



Working directly with leaders of the Methodist Church and drawing from expertise beyond it we will be blessed with a great wealth of wisdom and an ability to discern the movement of God's Spirit for today's church. Why not consider coming to share with us or passing this information to those within your congregations who would benefit from this amazing experience.

If you would like to know more then simply take a look at the website ([www.ecgevent.org.uk](http://www.ecgevent.org.uk)) or drop us an email and we will get back to you.

Rev Ashley Cooper (on behalf of the ECG Exec)

Some of the guests already on site with us are:-



Rev Dr Martyn Atkins – General Secretary of The Methodist Church

Celia Apeagyei-Collins - Founder and President of the Rehoboth Foundation

Tom Greggs - Professor of Historical and Doctrinal Theology at the University of Aberdeen

Calvin Samuel - Director of Wesley Study Centre, Durham

Kathryn Stephens – Methodist Minister based in Sunderland

Paul Smith - well known as a preacher throughout Methodism and beyond. He is now retired and living in west Devon.

Worship will be led by – Phil Nankivell (Phil is a worship Leader in Stoke-on Trent)  
Artists on site :-

Paul Field - Paul works as a Songwriter, Composer, Producer and Performer in the UK and around the world

Kristyna Myles - British singer-songwriter who is currently based in Manchester. Originally from Leicestershire, she came into prominence after winning Busk Idol, a 2005 nationwide singing competition organised by BBC Radio 5 Live.

Tony Vino - Pro comedian Tony Vino has been touring the comedy scene since early 2005 performing across the UK and internationally.

## Thursday Social Club

We met at the church on Thursday 4th December and were entertained by Don, Ken and Chris with a programme of short films produced by their film club, The South Essex Film Makers. The first film was a very humorous piece called Fishy Business. A man and a woman went to a smart local restaurant for the evening. They were greeted by the staff and shown to their seats. Their food orders were taken by the attendant waiter; the couple chatted away as they waited for their meals to arrive. Whilst they waited a bottle of wine was selected from the extensive wine list and brought to their table. As is the custom, a small amount of wine was poured into the man's glass awaiting his approval. This was duly given and the waiter retired from the table. So far, so good. Then the fun started. They must have wanted their meal well done as the usual eating implements of knife and fork were replaced. First a large hammer was produced and placed on the table. The couple looked at each

other, smiled, and had a little giggle. It must be a little joke by the restaurant. The waiter returned a few minutes later with a sharp saw which was expertly placed on the table. Another chuckle came from the couple but this time a bit nervously. Next an electric drill arrived and was placed alongside the hammer and saw. The couple looked at each other, nodded, and got up from the table simultaneously. Their coats were grabbed as they made a dash to the exit. This was a well produced film which built up the tension, and wry humour culminating in the couple's swift exit from the restaurant.

The second film was like a travelogue called "Postcards from Sydney," a series of shots from around the world including Sydney.

There was a change of topic for the third film with "The Man of Many Talents." This was a story about a Rayleigh man named Ron who turned his hand to many projects and all apparently with great success. He created a family history chart for his family and was also a very capable film maker.

We closed the evening which owed much to the iconic song "Is This the Way to Amarillo?" by Tony Christie. Many of us will remember that the comedian Peter Kay created a comedy video to accompany the song which created thousands for charity. In the video people joined in the singing as they walked through offices whilst wearing a cheesy grin and moving their arms up and down similar to a windmill movement. This was very much like an alternative conga. A very funny and clever film and a fitting way to end the evening.

Stan and Joyce were our hosts on Thursday 18th December as we met for our "Carols by Candlelight" evening. We all took turns in choosing carols, readings and the odd Christmas cracker joke and some of these Christmas cracker jokes were very odd. Amongst the popular carols we sang were: "Go tell it on the mountain," "O little town of Bethlehem," "Come and join the celebration," "Silent night," "See him lying on a bed of straw," "While shepherds watched their flocks by night," "I saw three ships come sailing in," "The holly and the ivy" and "Joy to the world." Who needs Bob Geldof and Band Aid?

Readings were heard from well known authors including Thomas Hardy, Sir John Betjeman, Joyce Grenfell and Sue Townsend. We also heard personal offerings from our members which included "Nobody likes an elf when she's eighty" and "A Thursday night in Hockley" which you can read at the end of this article.

The Christmas cracker jokes I will spare you from.

Always a popular evening which brings us a glimpse of how Christmas used to be many years ago, This was before big business took over with our TV's advertising Christmas on our return from summer holidays. A time before all the Christmas

repeats of such seasonal favourites such as "It's a wonderful life" and the ever popular Christmas film "The Great Escape."

### A Thursday Night in Hockley

In the village of Hockley on a Thursday we meet  
For carols by candlelight, we're in for a treat.  
We arrive at the home of young Joyce and Stan  
Not all of us drove, some of us ran.

Peter's playing keyboard as we all start to sing  
Stopping halfway, can't remember a thing.  
With song sheets in hand, to one and all  
We start once again, we feel such a fool.

Michael's our host and leads us along  
Poem following poem, and song after song.  
Carols by candlelight is tonight's theme  
The evening goes well, it goes like a dream.

The carols now over, it's time for a chat  
With mince pies to eat, we're sure to get fat.  
The end of the evening, an evening of note  
We say our goodbyes. Oi. Where's my coat?

Our competitive streaks were on show as we met at the home of Olive and Chris for "Indoor Games" on Thursday 8th January. Olive and Chris had certainly been busy as they had scoured the local charity shops and their well stocked attic for the games on display.

The air hockey was a personal favourite but unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control (the motor packed up) this game had to be withdrawn from competition.

The table football brought crowds from many a short distance as Michael triumphed in a well fought final.  
Snooker seems to be having a reincarnation on television and certainly in Hockley as despite many top scores, our overall winner was John.



Pistol shooting was next on the list and proved to be quite a challenge to all but Vivienne who was our very own Annie Oakley.

Look out Rory McElroy, you may be the world's top golfer at present but competition is on its way as Ian and Ray were our victors in the putting competition.

A lot of hard work from Olive and Chris in organising the Indoor games and a very good evening.

Next meetings;

22/01/15 "Holiday in Vietnam," at Ian & Vivienne's

05/02/15 "Reporter's Rambling" with Roger Buxton at Stan & Joyce's

**Wednesday** 11/02/15 Lunch at The Anchor, Danbury

19/02/15 "Walking With Elephants" with Sarah Coyte – Broomfield at church

05/03/15 "Photos from Antipodes" with Mike & Muriel at Church

19/03/15 "Travelling with the Theatre" with Florrie Holland at church

02/04/15 NO MEETING - MAUNDY THURSDAY

*Ray Williams*

### A Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

Rev Anne Brown (our district chair) is offering places on a Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi on 2-9<sup>th</sup> May 2016. This is four nights in Rome and three in Assisi,



combining worship and sightseeing. The pilgrimage is being offered in association with McCabe Pilgrimages.

Anne writes: - "After I have been to Jerusalem, I must also see Rome" (Acts of the Apostles).

In this pilgrimage we encounter some of the great saints who have shaped Western Christianity. We begin in Rome with four nights in the Eternal City where we focus on the city's patron saints, Peter and Paul. A comprehensive programme of sightseeing is included featuring the major sites of ancient and imperial Rome and the Vatican City and we will have the opportunity to participate in the weekly papal audience.

We then head north to Assisi stopping about half way to visit the beautiful hilltop town of Orvieto. We spend three nights in the medieval walled city of Assisi, home of St. Francis, set amidst the peace and tranquillity of the Umbrian countryside. The bustle of Rome is contrasted with the peace of Assisi where visits include the famous Basilica of St Francis, the church of St Clare, Santa Maria degli Angeli and other pilgrimage sites in and around the town.

The cost of this 8-day tour is £1,345 per person sharing a twin-bedded room and includes many items normally extra on a holiday. In Rome we stay at the four star Park Hotel de Massimi which is in a residential area of Rome about 20 minutes drive from the city centre.

We stay in the middle of Assisi at the Casa del Terziario Convent. All rooms have private facilities. The tour is on a half board basis with continental breakfast and evening meal being served either at our hotel or at a nearby local restaurant. We will travel around Rome in our own air-conditioned coach and our Italian tour manager will meet us on arrival and stay with us throughout our journey.

All entrance fees are included as well as British air passenger duty, all other airport taxes and gratuities. Flights are with Monarch Airlines from Luton Airport to Rome (return).

For a copy of the brochure, please ask Phil, or one of the stewards.



## 2015 PROGRAMME

Here's the programme for 2014 – we hope you can join us for some of these walks. We've got another mid-week walk in August during the School Holidays, linked to the Friendship Days programme, but it isn't just for children! Come along! And there are also a couple of other mid-week walks especially, but not exclusively for retired members.

### PLEASE PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

These details are also on the Church Calendar at

<http://www.hockleyhawkwelldist.org.uk/>

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April**  
*Easter Monday Bank Holiday*

**Benfleet** - 5½ miles.

Walk to Chalkwell Station from Benfleet Station, train back to Benfleet. Sandwiches  
Leave Church Car Park at 11:00am.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Althorne** - 5½ miles

Train from Hockley to Althorne, pub lunch before walk then train back. Leave Hockley Station 11:16am (unless the timetable is changed!) then walk a bit before a pub lunch

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May**  
*Spring Bank Holiday*

**Woodbridge**

Another visit to the Cogars; pub lunch and walk then tea chez Cogar. Details later. probably leave the Church Car Park mid-morning.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Sutton and Stambridge** - 5½ miles  
Walk through the countryside north of Southend. Start at Garon Park at 11:00am, leave Church Car Park at 10:30am. Bring sandwiches.

**Saturday 25th July**

**Steeple** - 4½ miles  
Part of St Peter's Way near Steeple, south east of Maldon. Pub lunch then walk. Leave Church Car Park at 11:30am

**Thursday 13th August**

**Family Walk & Picnic Lunch Hockley Woods.**  
Coffee Morning and Activities at Church at 10:00am, followed by a short buggy-friendly stroll through the Woods starting at 11:00am and picnic in the playground around 12 noon. In the Hall if it's wet.

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

**Bowers Marsh** - 5½ miles  
Walk through the bird sanctuary (no dogs!). Leave Church car park 11:45am. Pub Lunch in South Benfleet.

**Wednesday 30th Sept.**

**The Bursteads** - 5½ miles  
A short but pretty circular walk, starting and ending in Billericay, passing through woods and countryside. Leave Church car park 11:30am. Pub lunch

**Saturday 17th October**

**Ingatestone Loop** – 8 miles  
Undulating, scenic, circular walk starts and ends in Ingatestone and passes a windmill, several churches and old houses. Leave Church car park 11:30am  
Pub Lunch

### **There may also be a London Walk – date still to be set**

"Please make sure you have sturdy walking shoes (not "fashionable" trainers) or boots, plus waterproofs and something warm to wear. Always bring something to drink.

All these walks are fairly straightforward but any activity like rambling (even the inactive variety!) needs care so please watch what you're doing and keep an eye on any young people.



Contact Mike or Mu Pregnall on 01702 204748 or e-mail [mumic@pregnall.freemove.co.uk](mailto:mumic@pregnall.freemove.co.uk) if you want further details of any of these walks or need a lift.

### **Update from Revd. Brenda Gutberlet**

For the attention of:-  
Patrick McLoughlin, MP.  
Secretary of State,  
Department of Transport.

18<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for agreeing to meet with me on behalf of my family.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

As Rebecca Harris my MP will have explained this is due to the tragedy of having my niece, Natalie Wade killed and her mother, Christine Gutberlet severely injured whilst using a Pelican crossing. Natalie was 28 years old and they were going to buy her wedding dress. The collision occurred in daylight hours on a straight road with a dry surface. Natalie was placed on life support but died on Valentine's Day 14<sup>th</sup> February 2006. Following her funeral we stood round her grave, prayed and promised that as a family we would do all in our power to change the Law on medical fitness to drive so that our roads would be safer for pedestrians and road users and that others could be spared our daily, 'life sentence' of living without a cherished member of our family.

It was a further 2 years and 8 months before her Inquest in October 2008 conducted by Dr. Peter Dean. During the interim her killer (John Thorpe), who was 78 years of age, had died of one of his many illnesses. Although the CPS had begun prosecution for 'causing death through dangerous driving' the process was stopped due to his deteriorating health and some months later, his death. The Coroner's verdict on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008 was that of 'UNLAWFUL KILLING' because there was ample evidence that, 'John Thorpe, knowingly, deliberately and persistently continued to drive though he knew he was medically unfit to do so'.

Since the Inquest my family has campaigned tirelessly for changes in the Law regarding medical fitness to drive. We were horrified to read the medical notes and that of the two independent medical experts' submission to the Coroner which highlighted so many defects in the process which pointed to the fact that seventeen

opportunities to take away Thorpe's Licence were not acted upon. Fact: Thorpe had never reported to the DVLA or his insurance that he had one eye and more than forty defects in that one eye. Fact: he had deliberately lied when aged 73 and 76 years of age on his so called DVLA 'honesty declaration'. Fact: None of the many doctors he had consulted in those last 6 years of his life reported him to the DVLA as each believed 'someone else would do it'.

In addition, the Coroner questioned under oath Dr Heather Major who was the head of the medical section of the DVLA and she gave startling evidence only three points I record here:-

1. She stated that the DVLA was 'reactive and not proactive'.
2. The 1988 Road Traffic Act had never been updated.
3. This meant that although medical science and technology had improved the tests for eyesight were inadequate and did not take into account peripheral vision.

Since the Inquest we have pursued these issues and other related items in depth, exploring the driving licence procedures in other developed countries. From the thousands of emails and letters received we discovered that there are other problems which are being experienced such as those who are concerned about a family member's continuing ability to drive. Many spoke of the fact that General Practitioners could not discuss the person's medical conditions due to patient confidentiality.

Eye sight problems can occur at any age, but are more prevalent in those over 60 years of age due to the effects of ageing. Many of these can be remedied but not if the driver is either unaware or as in John Thorpe's case refuses to accept that they must cease driving for safety reasons.

With the above in mind and also being aware of financial austerity we present what follows for your careful consideration. We are aware that some of the items listed concern other Government Departments but thought you need to see the whole and pass to the relevant Ministers whatever falls into their domain.

1. Update 1988 Road Traffic Act to include:-  
Clear legal definition of what it means to be 'medically fit to drive'.  
Drivers eye sight testing to include peripheral vision in addition to visual acuity (as recommended by the Optical Council and other eye care professionals).
2. Legally enable and mandate optometrists to report directly to the DVLA those drivers who fail to reach the DVLA visual standard. We are pleased that the changes since February 2013 mean that Police Officers can report a driver

whom they believe to have a medical problem for testing by a doctor/DVLA but surely it is an anomaly to deny eye care professionals such as optometrists a similar role.

3. Legally mandate Doctors to report directly to the DVLA those drivers who have been told to cease driving. (At present the Doctors merely advise, recommend and try to persuade). Current practise permits doctors to 'wriggle through a legal loophole' to the detriment of public safety.
4. Abolish 70 years and every 3 years thereafter so called 'honesty declaration' and replace with a drivers medical check to include visual testing aged 60 years and thereafter every 3-5 years at the drivers expense. Most people in this age group are entitled to free eye care. In many European countries and in the USA there are mandatory eye tests for drivers throughout their lifetime. The present system only works if drivers are honest and as you are aware since Natalie's death there have been numerous others who have been killed by medically unfit drivers. These deaths are avoidable. To drive is a privilege, not a right
5. When a driver is told they must wear prescribed spectacles for driving, put this icon on their Licence as in the USA. If a police Officer finds they are not doing so, it is an instant penalty.
6. When Licence renewal or Road tax /MOT reminders are sent (now usually on line), include a reminder to have a vision test or a statement reminding drivers that they must be medically fit to control a vehicle
7. Department of Transport to keep statistics on elderly drivers who are causal in road collisions bearing in mind the extensive three year study by Warwick University(comparing young drivers under 25 years with elderly drivers and the fact that though the latter drive less miles they are causal in more road collisions than their younger counterparts, mile for mile). We have an ageing demography and the Government needs to plan for this in relation to elderly drivers.
8. Holding a Driver's Licence will mean that if involved in a serious or fatal collision the Police/CPS can discuss and view the medical notes of the driver s concerned (Thorpe fought to avoid this for obvious reasons).

9. In the event of a serious or fatal collision the Drivers Licence is immediately suspended pending an investigation (Thorpe continued to drive for a further five months trying to avoid testing).
10. Medical education on a doctor's duty of care is woefully inadequate. ROSPA carried out a survey with doctors giving different scenarios and asking what their professional advice would be. Sadly, it was no surprise to us to read that the overwhelming majority gave the wrong answers. That survey showed 'appalling ignorance amongst doctors' as to who and when to refer to the DVLA
11. Medical students should have in their curriculum compulsory teaching on their professional and legal responsibilities regarding drivers.
12. Doctors also have a duty of care to the public. This must include marking notes with a symbol to clarify that this person has been told not to drive so that other health care professionals are aware.
13. Patient confidentiality versus a doctor's duty of care to the public. Which should take precedence when road safety issues are considered?
14. Legal monitoring of doctors to ensure they are compliant with driving law and fitness to drive.
15. Mount a periodic and updated national campaign "STILL FIT TO DRIVE TODAY?"
16. Equivalent of 'Crime stoppers' so that those who have concerns for a family member's fitness to drive can report these for investigation by the DVLA.
17. As national finances improve make the DVLA proactive rather than reactive.

Sir, I could continue but trust the above will suffice. Thank you for reading and considering the above points in which we have concentrated on the visual requirements of driving but fully realise there are many other aspects to this subject. Natalie's death, like so many others was avoidable therefore Governmental action is required.

**We are not seeking sympathy but ACTION to update and change the Laws on medical fitness to drive.** I welcome discussion on the issues raised and what is delaying or obstructing these necessary changes.

Yours truly,

***Revd. Brenda Gutberlet,***  
on behalf of my family.

## **The Mouse Trap**

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house - like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness; she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral; the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness. So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember: when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry.

**Author Unknown**

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## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

<b>SUN</b>	Morning Worship	10.30 am
	JaM Club for children (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday each month)	10.00 – 12noon
<b>MON</b>	Brightstars Parent & Toddler Group, <i>contact Linda S 204309</i>	9.30 – 11.45 am
	Ballroom Sequence Dancing: IN THE HALL	7.30 – 10.00 pm
	<i>contact Fay 01268 780028</i>	
	Triple H Community Choir: IN CHURCH	7.30 – 9.30 pm
	<i>contact Ashley 07581390448</i>	
<b>TUE</b>	Dru Yoga Class: <i>contact Ruth on 07818599183</i>	10.00 – 11.30 am
	Hockley Ladies Keep Fit Club:	& 7.30 – 9.00 pm
	<i>contact Roselle 07709349695</i>	2.00 – 3.00 pm
	Messy Church	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month
		4.00 – 5.30 pm
<b>WED</b>	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
	Bible Study followed by a Communion Service 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.,	3.00 – 4.00 pm
	<i>contact Anne 01702202010</i>	
	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
<b>THU</b>	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>	6.30 – 8.00 pm
	or email <a href="mailto:Hockleycubs@yahoo.co.uk">Hockleycubs@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
	Thursday Social Club: <i>contact Joyce S 201635</i>	8.00 pm, alternate weeks
<b>FRI</b>	Booiaka Dance Exercise Class:	9.45 – 10.30 am
	<i>contact Vicki on 07779646945</i>	
	Friday Club (years 3-7)	6.00 – 7.30 pm
	Friday Club + (years 7 & upwards)	6.45 – 8.15 pm



Contact Muriel S 204748 or Wendy S 200484

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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  
**Web:** [www.hockleyhawkwelldist.org.uk](http://www.hockleyhawkwelldist.org.uk)