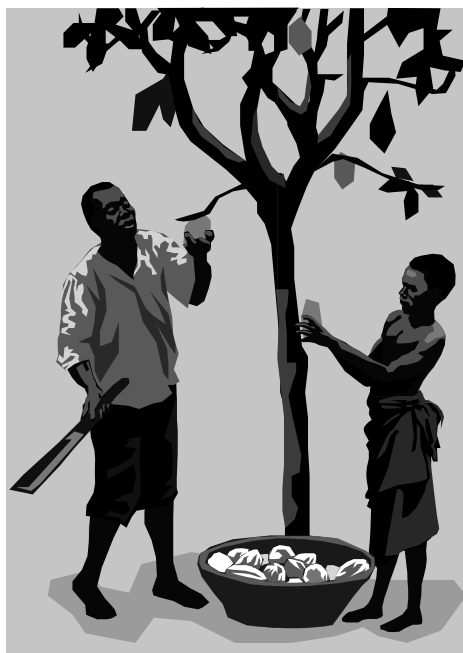


The Link

Between you and

Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church



Editor's Note

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of The Link; slightly less items this time but let's ensure the next issue is a bumper one covering Christmas and the New year.

The deadline is **Monday 16th November**. Please either post items to me, Ron Chidwick, or send by email to:

thelink@hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk

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



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

What's Coming Up

Between now and Christmas, we enter the Season of Invitation. This is the latest version of the Back to Church Sunday campaign and to which Hockley Methodists has subscribed. The thinking behind the change from one particular Sunday to a series of Sundays is that research shows people are more likely to come to church and keep coming if they are invited several times. A Season of Invitation has five invitational moments coming one after the other, building momentum. It is this momentum that we hope will encourage guests to keep coming back to church, even after the events above have finished.

The Sundays in the series are Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas starts and Christmas. There is an invitation pack for everyone to take away, with a list of services and the relevant details, along with an invitation card to hand out to the person who you are inviting. The children's cards can be used by children or for children for any service in the series.

There is a lot of talk within the Methodist Church about the "lost generation". This is the 20s to 50s age group, who dropped out when the Church did not move and change fast enough to new forms of worship and modern music or adapt to new work/life patterns and the revolution in technology. Embarking on this season of invitation is one way of encouraging this group to return and experience again what it is to be part of the church family. We have successfully developed our contacts with families through Brightstars, Messy Church and Friday Club, so now the focus can move on to a different group. The growth of our church is not just about young people and their families.

In the front of the booklet about the Season of Invitation, there is a letter from the Bishop of Hertford which I reproduce here. I can't explain things any better than this.

"We believe that the simple invitation is a powerful way for you to introduce a friend to Christ. An invitation is natural because it begins with "Would you.....What about Why not....." It's personal because you have a relationship with the person you're inviting.

In John's Gospel, we see the power of invitation in action. Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well and she comes to believe in him. So she goes and spreads the news around her town. Many in that town responded to the woman's invitation by coming to meet Jesus, and then they said to her:

"We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world" (John4:42).

This is the key to the spontaneous expansion of the church – an ordinary Christian inviting an ordinary non-Christian to take a closer look at Christ.

Holding your own season of Invitation is about encouraging your church family to invite someone they know to come to the church they love."

Bishop Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford

Thank you to everybody for your help and support.

Muriel
Co-ordinating steward

Family News

Welcome

To all who join us for worship, social events or one of our many regular activities; if you would like a home visit please speak to a church steward.

Illness

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are unwell. Especially we think of Sheila & Michael Hayman and Maureen Blake.

Congratulations

To Phil & Caroline who are now grandparents. Eric was born at 7.15 am Saturday 5th September weighing 8lb 14oz. Best wishes to them and the proud parents.

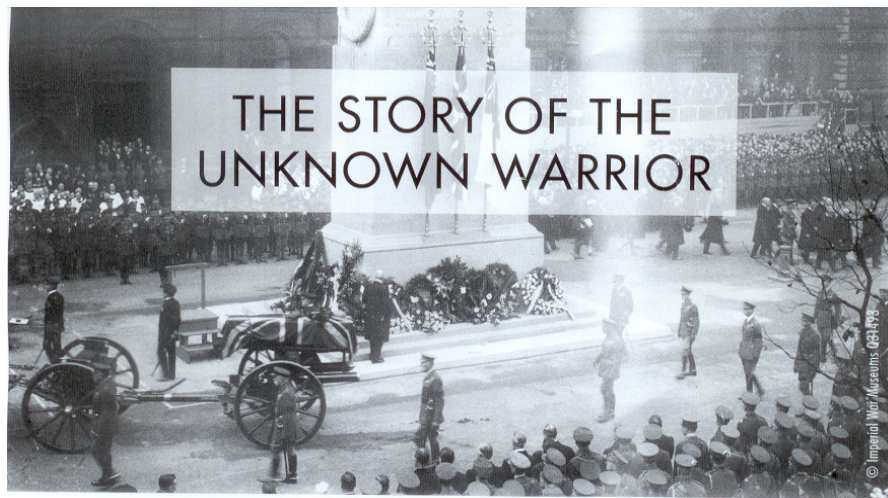
To Ian Mackenzie who has gained his Open University Law Degree after a long period of study. Well done!

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

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





In 1916 the Reverend David Railton, a chaplain at the Front, noticed a grave in a garden in Armentieres with a rough cross bearing the words: *An Unknown British Soldier.* After the War, in 1920, he suggested that Britain honour its unknown war dead officially.

Between four and six bodies were exhumed from four battle areas, the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres.

The remains were covered with Union Flags and brought to the chapel at St Pol. Brigadier General I. J. Wyatt, who was the commander of British troops in France and Flanders then selected one. The officers placed the body in a plain coffin made of oak from Hampton Court, and it was transported to Dover on the destroyer HMS Verdun.

On the morning of 11 November 1920, the Unknown Warrior was drawn through crowd-lined streets on a gun carriage in a procession to the Cenotaph where King George V placed a wreath on the coffin. At 11.00am the nation observed the Two Minute Silence and then the body was taken to Westminster Abbey and buried. The grave contains soil from France and is covered by a slab of black Belgian marble, inscribed with these words from the Bible:

'They buried him among the Kings because he had done good toward God and toward his house.' (2 Chronicles 24:16).

Within the first week an estimated 1,250,000 people filed past the Unknown Warrior to pay their respects to all the unidentified war dead. It is now one of the most visited war graves in the world and is the only part of the Abbey floor that is never walked on.

The Royal British Legion

Thursday Social Club

Sat-navs and road maps at the ready we prepared for our club's summer outing on Saturday 15th August 2015. Our destination this year was the delightful old woollen town of Lavenham in Suffolk. We set out from Hockley intending to all meet at 11.00 a.m. for our tea/coffee break at Greensted Green Farm which we calculated to be about an hour's drive away. Our planned route took us along the A12 before going through the busy town of Witham, which has a statue of well known author Dorothy L Sayers in the town centre, as she lived in Witham for a number of years. It was on trying to leave Witham we came across our first obstacle. On a busy crossroads, near to the station, were the dreaded temporary traffic lights that prevented car visitors from leaving the town. Thankfully this cunning ploy by the town council only delayed us by fifteen minutes.

Continuing on our way we had no further hold ups and as we approached Halstead we turned off down a country road that was an adventure in itself as the road narrowed with pull ins available in case we met oncoming traffic. Luckily we only met one pheasant, one pigeon, two cyclists and one farm truck before we reached our first stop at Greensted Green Farm. This was a welcome break after an hour's drive as we ordered our teas and coffees with the most inviting accompaniment of cake. It was a pleasant day and we walked out into a welcoming garden to our tables and took our seats. On placing our orders we were given large planters with flower names for identification purposes. As the waitress only had a small notepad, all flower names were quite short, so no chrysanthemums, polyanthus or agapanthus. Eventually the last of our party arrived and should all be congratulated on reaching this remote waterhole. The service was exemplary and the home made cakes were thoroughly recommended especially the rocky road cake and the coffee and walnut cake. We had a look around their small gift shop before leaving and making our way back to our cars for our onward journey to Lavenham.

Turning left out of the farm, we made our way towards Halstead. Halstead was navigated trouble free as we headed towards Sudbury. A short delay was encountered at Sudbury before we saw the signs to Lavenham. It is only a short drive from Sudbury to Lavenham and we were soon entering this delightful old woollen town and passing the iconic church of St. Peter and St. Paul. What is most unusual here is that the car parks are free. An honesty box is located in each car park and donations are welcome. We parked up in or near the market square before our pre-planned meet on the green near to the Angel Hotel.

We were all well prepared as we set up our chairs and opened up our lunch boxes for our picnic feast. Despite Lavenham being quite busy we were able to set up on the green as there was only one other family there. Sandwiches, rolls, salads and veal and ham pies were devoured with great relish followed by crisps, yogurts and fruit salads, by the more healthy ones among us. You can't beat a light picnic

lunch. After a short rest we all made our separate ways to explore all that Lavenham has to offer. We agreed to meet up again at 4.00 p.m. for refreshments in the Guildhall tea rooms.

St. Peter and St. Paul Church is a must to visit and only a short walk away. On entering the church, the flower arranger was busy preparing her creation for the Sunday service. This is a very enterprising and enlightened church as at the rear of the church were items for sale with all monies going to much needed church funds as well as various charities. Items available were books, bookmarkers, cards, pens and much more. Children were made most welcome as a wooden train set was on display in a permanent play area. Organisations and groups supported the church which was commemorated by specially designed cushions with their emblem displayed.

Tea rooms and antique shops could be found on every corner together with numerous arts and gift shops. The Guildhall is looked after by the National Trust and it depicts bygone days when Lavenham was a rich woollen town, but it also told of its decline and how people were imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread and far worst punishment for more serious crimes. As arranged we met for tea at 4.00 p.m. to quench our thirst before our journey home. It was a lovely day out with good weather and good company.

We held our AGM on Thursday 10th September and the present committee members were all elected to stand again with additional help from newly elected committee members, Jean Saunders and Vivien Allmey. The Harvest supper and Christmas preparations were discussed and both are in hand. A club holiday was proposed and will be discussed further by interested parties.

Following our AGM we then invited members to talk of their other interests. A vast range of interests were revealed which included books and reading, World Education Authority, pencils and drawing, collecting of old coins and story writing, World War archives, Citizen's Advice Bureau, stamp collecting and old postcards and photographs.

Meetings to Come

8/10/15 At Viv Allmey's 7.30 pm: A talk by Paula Short on "South Africa - It's Highs and Lows"

22/10/15 At Vivienne & Ian's: Vietnam Holiday Part 2.

5/11/15 At Joyce & Stan's 7.30 pm. A talk by Clare Harvey on "Jocelyn's Beach"

19/11/15 At church 8.15 pm: A talk by Colin Gabell on being "Chaplain volunteer to Chelmsford Prison"

3/12/15 At church: 8.15 pm: A talk by Jessica Wakelin 'Malawi Project'.

17/12/15 At Joyce & Stan's 7.30 pm: Carols by Candlelight

Ray Williams



LAST WALK OF 2015!

Saturday 17th October

Ingateston Loop

An undulating, scenic, circular walk of about 8 miles starts and ends in Ingatestone and passes a windmill, several churches and old houses.

Leave Church car park 11:30am

Pub Lunch

Contact Mike or Mu Pregnall on 01702 204748 or e-mail mumic@pregnall.freeseve.co.uk if you want further details or need a lift.



Brightstars



Brightstars Parent and Toddler Group goes from strength to strength. On a Monday morning, using both the Church and the Hall, we regularly have up to 30 families turning up - the toddlers all enjoying and "learning through play and equipment" while the adults interact as well – and enjoy a chat and a cup of tea.



We have an enthusiastic band of leaders and helpers but would always welcome more support - even 5 minutes spared to come along and talk to parents and grandparents would help.



Brightstars is for toddlers aged 0-3 years - and parents. We meet from 9:30am – 11:45am. For more information, or if you can help, contact Linda on 01702 204309.



Photos by John Morrison



We Are Survivors (For those born before 1940...)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dish-washers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes...and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?) We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an over-sized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker bus to the terminus. In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coalhouse, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock Music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice-cream, a 'gay' person was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. 'No wonder there is a generation gap today ... BUT

'By the grace of God' ...
we have survived!

The article on the opposite page appeared in The Daily Telegraph and permission has been given to reproduce it. Thank you, Harold for spotting it.

Keeping Sundays Special

An update of the Government's new proposals for further deregulation of Sunday Trading.

I have set out below an extract from a letter that I have received giving the response of the KSS team at Cambridge to the new proposals.



Harold Collingridge

August 19th, 2015

Dear Mr Collingridge,

It was hugely disappointing to hear in the Chancellor's post-election budget speech that the government wants to deregulate Sunday trading. I have to tell you that we at the Keep Sunday Special Campaign regard this attempt to overthrow the compromise which, at present, restrains the worst excesses of commercialism and secularism on Sunday as the most serious threat for a generation. So, yet again, the KSS Campaign must take the fight to those who want fundamentally to alter the balance and harmony of our national life.

The government is making its case on the grounds of 'localism' but there can be no doubt that this is a disingenuous argument and that the real intention is to achieve a national change. If the proposed legislation is passed through Parliament then all shops will open all hours on Sundays: plans to give local authorities powers to relax national Sunday trading law will inevitably provoke a 'domino effect' throughout the country.

But worse than just being hugely disappointing the government's recent announcement of its intentions flies in the face of what the Keep Sunday Special Campaign was told on April 10th this year. We had written to the leaders of all the political parties asking if they had any plans to further deregulate Sunday trading. In a reply written "on behalf of the Prime Minister" from the Conservatives' campaign headquarters we received this pledge:

" I can assure you that we have no current plans to relax the Sunday trading laws. We believe that the current system provides a reasonable balance between those who wish to see more opportunity to shop in large stores on a Sunday, and those who would like to see further restrictions."

It is a terrible thing to doubt the word of the government of one's own country but such, sadly, is the position.

However, you will, I am sure, be encouraged to learn that the historic coalition to Keep Sunday Special is contesting the government's plans with vigour and determination. We are already in a process of upgrading our means of communication, commissioning research and appearing in the press and media. And we shall go much further to give a voice to all those who do not want to see further change. Indeed, all the evidence available to us suggests that this is the vast majority of people in the country. We do not detect any enthusiasm for further change from any quarter except from some giant national superstores which have formed themselves together as a powerful lobby behind closed doors in the Treasury. So, the Keep Sunday Special Campaign has already met with our traditional allies, including churches, small businesses, trades unions and prominent individuals. In particular I am delighted to report that Dr Michael Schluter CBE, the founder of our Campaign, has pledged his full and active support for the cause.

What is at the heart of this campaign is the whole nature of our national life and the matter will have to be settled in our national Parliament. This is one area where the Keep Sunday Special Campaign will concentrate its efforts - at Westminster. The other main area we shall focus on is to provide a focal point for churches and people of faith to get their voice heard nationally.

The government must understand that it is in for a fight with individuals and organisations that represent the wider interests of our country. How we live together in our common home is a core issue of national importance and has always been treated as such. And Members of Parliament need to recognise that there is no clamour from their constituents to destroy the rhythm of our national life in order to benefit the large storekeepers.

Memories of Theddlethorpe in the RAF

I was stationed at Flying College Manby keeping the accumulators charged up for the Glim Lamps which lined the runways at Manby.

One day in 1954 I was told to report to the sergeant in charge of the department and told I would be posted to a camp on the Lincolnshire coast called Theddlethorpe.

I didn't know such small camps existed, just one large building with two barrack rooms of airmen and a Warrant Officer as C.O.

The camp was a bombing range on the coast for aircraft to practice on. I don't know why they wanted an electrician on such a small camp. I kept out of the way during the day in an old armoury building with a civilian odd job man as company. I cleared out a spare room in the armoury and asked if they could install heating in it, comfort at last.

One day a batch of old out of date explosives and ammunition was delivered to be destroyed on the beach with a hand controlled detonator. I was allowed to press the button while the Warrant Officer watched nearer to the explosive site.

I left the camp in 1956 when I was demobbed. The camp was closed in 1973 due to it's proximity to a natural gas terminal. I always said I would like to have revisited the area again but I think I have left it rather late.

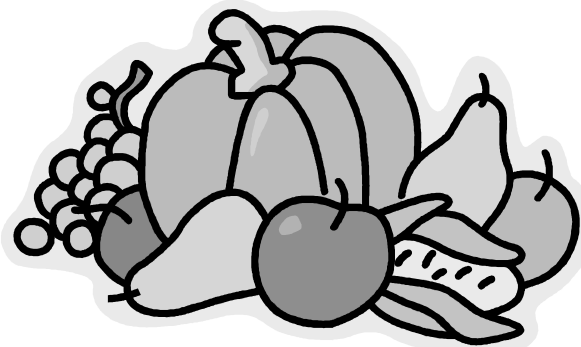
Ron Chidwick



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 10th October: Harvest Festival Tea, 4.30pm for 5.00pm.

Sunday 11th October: Harvest Festival All Age Service and Parade, 10.30am. Led by Revd. Phil Warrey.



Tuesday 13th October: Church Council Meeting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday 8th November: Remembrance Service at 10.30am. Led by Anne Sains and Carolyn Sturgess.

There will also be an interdenominational Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial, Southend Road at 2 pm.

Saturday 21st November: Hockley Christmas Lights Switch On from 3 pm – 6 pm.

Saturday 28th November: Decorating our church for Christmas from 10 – 12 noon.

-WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUN	Morning Worship Children's activities every Sunday	10.30 am 10.20 am
MON	Brightstars Parent & Toddler Group <i>contact Linda S 204309</i> Ballroom Sequence Dancing: IN THE HALL <i>contact Fay 01268 780028</i> Triple H Community Choir: IN CHURCH <i>contact Ashley 07581390448</i>	9.30 – 11.45 am 7.30 – 10.00 pm 7.30 – 9.30 pm
TUE	Dru Yoga Class: <i>contact Ruth on 07818599183</i> Hockley Ladies Keep Fit Club: <i>contact Roselle 07709349695</i> Messy Church (3 rd Tuesday each month) Contact Anne S 202010	10.00 – 11.30 am & 7.30 – 9.00 pm 2.00 – 3.00 pm 4.00 – 5.30 pm
WED	50+ Keep Fit: <i>contact Julie 07912622483</i> 50+ Stretch & Tone: <i>contact Julie 07912622483</i> Bible Study followed by a Communion Service 2 nd Wed., <i>contact Anne S 202010</i> 2nd Hockley Brownie Pack: <i>contact Vivienne S 204550</i> Badminton Club: <i>contact Wendy S 200484</i> Gospel Rocks Choir (in Church) Contact: Hannah Conacher gospelrocksccl@gmail.com	10.30 – 11.30 am 11.45 – 12.30 pm 3.00 – 4.00 pm 5.30 – 7.00 pm 7.30 – 9.30 pm 8.00 – 10.00 pm
THU	Active You, <i>contact Mrs. J Toll, S 567327,</i> U3A Floral Art Group, <i>contact Irene 202975, last Thursday</i> 1st Hockley Beaver Colony: <i>contact Jane S 203739</i> 1st Hockley Cub Scout Pack <i>contact Dan, 07802 193936</i> or email Hockleycubs@yahoo.co.uk Thursday Social Club: <i>contact Joyce S 201635</i>	9.30 – 10.30 am 1.30 – 4.30 pm 5.15 – 6.15 pm 6.30 – 8.00 pm 8.00 pm, alternate weeks
FRI	Pilates, <i>contact Mrs. T. Bateman,</i> Friday Club (years 3-7) <i>contact Wendy S 200484</i> Friday Club + (years 7 & upwards) Contact Rev Phil Warrey 01268 770333	9.30 – 10.30 am 6.00 – 7.30 pm 6.45 – 8.15 pm

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