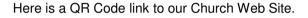


Editors Note

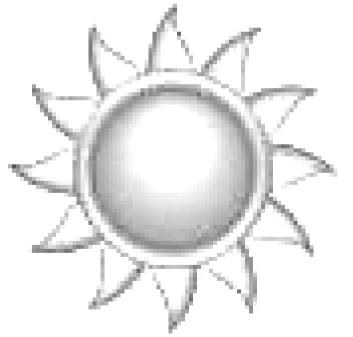
My thanks to all contributors of this August/September copy of The Link. The deadline for the October/November issue is Monday September 17th, I look forward to your contribution.

The Link

Between you and the Church







August/September 2018

No.56

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

Issue: 194

1

Message from the Manse

Dear Friends,

While most of you were watching the Men's Final on Sunday I remembered that it was nearly time for a newsletter again and so I wandered into the study leaving Valerie with the TV, something she rarely has control over; I just hope she does not want to change the channel or I shall be summoned back to the lounge.

Its not that I don't like tennis, I do. I like most sport but I often switch if off unless it is very exciting. We should all have a little excitement in our lives to the very end otherwise I think we become boring. You can only tell your life story so often and then people start to yawn.

I have been known to tease now and again and I used to love it when people asked me about my discoloured leg. Depending on the situation I have been known to tell them it happened when I was caught by a great white shark in South Africa. There would be a brief look of what I saw as someone being really impressed, but the bubble would burst milliseconds later as Valerie said 'STEPHEN!' Then back to reality, the truth, bitten by a snake on a river bank in Cambridgeshire leaving me with a suspected thrombosis and a great deal of cellulitis. In fact the truth was just as dangerous, because but for a quick thinking doctor, I would have died.

Well that's enough excitement for one day and we still have the World Cup final to come. Credit where credit is due, our boys gave their all and we should be proud of them. There has been so much positive about the performance I feel that when I have put my bit in, the nation will be at my door, demanding that I be charged with treason. But I am going to anyway.....does anybody else think that our keeper saw more of the ball than anyone else on the pitch? It just seemed that every time we got forward, if we lost momentum, the ball went all the way back to him. We did it so often and so well that we seemed to prefer going back to going forward, not that it was always safe to do so.

After a while I began to realise why. We are good at looking back, especially in church matters. It's safer to think and talk about the known, rather that than embark on the unknown. And so it has spread like a creeping mist of nostalgia snuffing out things new and ensuring that we always have something to talk about. Well, I'm sorry, nostalgia is not what it used to be. If we move forward or at least try to encourage the younger end to tell us what it is they want from church, or even better still, tell us what they can bring to it.

We have the chance to make a difference, but it will not come from lying back letting it all happen around you or even standing aside and hoping others will do it. We really do need to move forward. I have also invited the England squad to pop in if they are available. Who knows, if it's something which takes off I may have to join the team as say...Forward thinking coach or something like that..

Every Blessing

Steve

Church Family

Baptism

It was lovely to welcome Amelia Joan Youd into the church family on 3rd June and to have her family and such a large gathering to support her Baptism. The beautiful poem, written and read by Lucy is printed in this magazine for those who were unable to be there.

Illness

We continue to remember all who are unwell, especially we think of Linda Williams awaiting an urgent operation, Arthur Waterfield, Colin Sains, Kay Deedman, Ron Holloway, Eunice Burge, Sheila Hayman and all their families.

Bereavement

Our heartfelt sympathy to Stan Rae and his family following the unexpected passing of Joyce who had been very unwell since the tragic accident on 23rd April. A tribute to Joyce will be printed in the next Link.

Invitation

Father Ken Havey and his parishioners of St. Peter and St. Paul have given an open invitation to join them on Saturday 6th October for their Harvest Supper. This will take place at the 55+ Day Centre in Hockley. Please make a note of this date; numbers of those hoping to attend will be required in due course.



A couple of thank-yous

On 20th May members of HOCKMIRA did the



Christian Aid "Walk the City" sponsored walk round parts of Central London. Several members of the Church sponsored us and we raised £155. Christian Aid has written to say "Thank you" – and invited us to do it again

next year! Maybe But "thank you" to everybody who sponsored us.

The Church has also had a "thank you" from HARP, Southend's



Homeless Charity, for the donations of food that we make. Such donations are clearly important to HARP

Amelia Joan how gorgeous you are, Number four of my gang, another superstar. The apples of my eye you all continue to be, How my heart leaps with every glimpse of you I see.

To meet you at only a few hours old, An experience with emotion as strong as I was told. The love in your mummy and daddy's eyes, I will never forget, don't ever break those ties.

4

Precious miracle number two you see! One day you'll understand how precious a life can be. As you grow with a smile, Love and laughter, For all the attention you need you will never barter.

Your big sister is already doing her job so well, Never more than a few feet away if you ring that bell. Jessica and Amelia what a team you'll be, Taking on the world with fervour and glee.

As cousins the bond is already clear, When we see you on skype I want to hold you near. Never allow that love to falter, It is so true that blood is thicker than water. You have so much ahead to take in, How you do that will determine how much you win. A journey, an adventure, a passage, a story, Please take with both hands and revel in its glory.

Grandparents will never see you without, You'll soon learn that and will use it, no doubt. In fact, your aunties and uncles aren't so strong, So give them a smile and you'll do no wrong!

Pictures you will see all over the place, Special people who are still there when we need to feel safe, You may not meet them but they are always with you, Enjoy those bright stars, and take in the view.

God Parents by title, that makes us proud, Even from distance I promise our love will shroud. Advice could be good, advice could be bad, Please enjoy every day and seldom be sad.

Open your eyes to all that you can, Already they've learnt but so much more to scan. Be inquisitive and not afraid to ask, The world is your oyster and in it you must bask.

Today is your christening, a great big affair All those who love you are here to share Enjoy your day; we will make sure you do, The third of June 2018 is made for you. Senior Church Stewards Southend & Leigh Circuit Churches

10th May 2018 Dear Friends,

Pastoral Oversight

As many of you will be aware the Circuit has been experiencing a number of issues around pastoral oversight and Stationing for 2018. We entered the 2018 Stationing process seeking an experienced presbyter for Wesley and Belfairs – but were unsuccessful, due to the national shortage of available Methodist presbyters (154 posts, but only 94 staff).

During the year issues have arisen, notably finance, manse and health related, which mean we need to revert, temporarily, in parts of the Circuit to the 1:3 ratio of ministers to churches whilst we address these issues. The aim remains to source another Pastor & Preacher as initially planned – the Vision remains – 1:2 target and our focus on mission, not maintenance – albeit we are reaching the target via the scenic route!

As a result of all this the following is the plan for Circuit Pastoral Oversight changes going forward into 2018:-

Already:

Rev Steve Watts has added Chalkwell Park (with assistance from Rev Margaret Deans) to his work at Rayleigh & Hockley. Rev Nana Thomford has oversight of Trinity. Rev Michael Moon has oversight of UMC.

From 7th May 2018 (earlier than the anticipated Sept 2018 date due to need for sick leave cover)

Pastor Steve Mayo will add Wesley & Belfairs to his work at Rochford. Rev Norman Hooks will have Highlands - 2 days/week, 2 Sundays/month on the Plan

Lucy Byford

From 1st September

Rev Chris Sandy will assume oversight of Thundersley in addition to Benfleet and Canvey Island.

Rev Julia Monaghan will have left the Circuit.

All other presbyters remain on staff.

This letter is to convey some of the detail to you as Senior Church Stewards. We would ask your prayers – for Julia as she tackles her health issues and for the Circuit as we seek to move forward together to fulfil the vision God has given us for the Circuit and its future.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Rev Peter Moorhouse Superintendent Minister



Sr David's is Britain's smallest city having been granted city status in 1995, it is named after the patron saint of Wales, St David's, St Patrick is said to have set sail for Ireland from here. One of my cycling friends suggested this to me as a good training ride, so domestic pass negotiated I planned my route out.

St Davids to Lowestoft with a Surprise

MONDAY 19TH MARCH 2018

I caught the 11.42 train to Liverpool Street, and then cycled from there to Paddington around lots of back streets, it was interesting.

Now began the difficult bit, the train journey with a bike, it was hard to find the socalled cycle storage, when found my bike wheels were too big for the hooks, I had to wedge the bike in and the door was not lockable. At every stop to Swansea I had to get up and guard my bike.

From Swansea it was a local train to Fishguard and Goodwick, with no problems for having a bike with you. Unfortunately, the road system at the station did not match up with the route Google had given me. A visit to a pub resulted in a very helpful local showing me the correct route and I enjoyed an undulating route through delightful countryside to St David's, getting to the digs at 20.20.

The B/B owner insisted in giving me a lift to the pub so that I could get my evening meal, this I enjoyed as it was just like home cooked. It was only a short walk back to the digs and I got to bed just after 22.00. **MILEAGE 25**

TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2018 ST DAVIDS TO BRECON

The couple who ran the digs were interested in what I was doing and I spent too long chatting, the lady insisted in giving me some food for the journey. After taking a photo to prove I was on the coast I left at 09.20.

The route was along the A487 to Haverford West although a main road was more like a country lane, the digs owner had described it very well and it was very hilly. It ran alongside St Brides Bay, I was glad that I had some low gears and rode up the steep hill at Solva, it cleared the lungs out nicely! There was an alpine type descent at Newgate and then the route went inland.

After Haverford West the only route available is the A40 which was not that scenic or interesting. When I had passed St Clears, I spotted a sign saying pub doing meals in a little village called Bancyfelin. The food was good and I was the only customer, the waitress told me of a cycle path which avoided having to return to the A40 and took me to the outskirts of Carmathen.

After an initial climb out of the town the route was pleasantly undulating and I stopped at Landover in an old-fashioned cafe that did good food at silly prices. Suitably refreshed I found the route to Brecon not as hilly as I had expected, I could see snow on the mountain tops.

On reaching the outskirts of Brecon I discovered that when planning the route, I had not realised that Brecon youth Hostel was not at Brecon! I stopped a motorist to ask directions and luckily, he knew where the hostel was. I phoned up to say I was en route but would be a bit late, to my surprise the driver insisted in giving me and bike a lift to the Hostel. As I had done 117 hard miles I did not refuse. It turned out that he had cycled a bit in the area; he would not accept any payment.

On arriving at the Hostel, I was surprised to see snow on the driveway and had to walk the last bit very carefully. I booked in, stored my bike, showered, room had ensuite and I was sole occupant, and the enjoyed my booked evening meal talking to a young couple who had come to do some walking. **MILEAGE 117**

WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH 2018 BRECON TO MORETON IN MARSH

I had a good breakfast at 08.00 and left at 08.40, I walked the snow covered bit of the road out and then rode up the steep hill to the main road. The main road, the A470 back towards Brecon was mainly all down hill and I was soon riding around Brecon Bypass. I soon turned off on the A438 to Glasbury, and then onto a nice country lane route on the B4348 and B4352 to Clehanger, this went through delightful countryside and had hardly any traffic.

I eventually joined the A465 into Hereford, here I had safely negotiated the traffic and roundabouts and was riding along the A438 to Tewkesbury at 12.25 and was opposite to the Police Station when from nowhere a car suddenly was in front of me, I did not have time to brake and hit it, my head striking the bonnet, luckily I was wearing a helmet. I got up, to my surprise I had only two minor grazes, unfortunately the front forks of my bike were badly bent and the bike was unrideable. A young male admitted to being the driver, I took pictures of him, the vehicle and the road. Two witnesses came forward who both told me it was his fault, I obtained the drivers details, and the witnesses, the driver admitted liability and stated he wished to pay me direct and not go through his insurance company.

The main witness stated that she was waiting near the centre of the road to turn right, the offender was on her inside also waiting to turn right. She saw me approaching so waited, the offender suddenly accelerated round in front of her and straight in front of me.

She then insisted in loading me and bike into her car and driving me to a cycle shop that could help. We ended up at a Shop called Mastercraft Cycles, the owner did not

have any replacement forks. He did however have a hand made frame assembled, a Craftsman touring cycle the same frame size as my damaged one. I arranged for him to put my saddle, pannier rack, and lights onto this whilst I went to get something to eat.

When I returned it was all ready to go, after getting directions to get back onto the Tewkesbury road I was soon on my way. The new bike was very comfortable, had a good range of gears and was a real pleasure to ride.

I had phoned ahead whist at the shop to let my digs in Moreton in the Marsh know that I would be late, they told me that as long a I got there before 9 pm I could still get my dinner. To Ledbury the A438 was a main road but then it became a back-type road, through Holly Bush and other small hamlets. The traffic around Tewkesbury was terrible so I stopped off at a garage café and had a rest and some refreshment.

When I came to leave the traffic had eased, I rode a short distance on the A 48 and then turned onto the B 4077 which was more like a country lane with little traffic. I knew that soon I would have to climb up the escarpment of the Cotswolds.

Not long after passing through the village of Toddington I saw vehicles which appeared to be in the sky and realised that they were descending a steep climb. This gave me time to select a suitable gear for the climb; it seemed to go on for ever. It was like a climb in the Alps, I think there were about 12 corners, each time I thought I was at the top, another one appeared, and eventually I could see the sky ahead and emerged rather short of breath at the top.

It was by now getting rather late and I stopped to check my GPS to see where I was, location confirmed by enquiries in a pub. There was still snow piled up at the side of the road, a lot of water about, but no ice, fortunately. Soon I found the short cut to avoid going into Stow on the Wold , it was through a village called Condicote, the direct road to which was closed due to snow but I found another way round and was soon back on route, the road was very narrow covered in mud and very hilly , I crossed the A 424 and began the descent towards Moreton in the Marsh through the village of Longborough, a glance at my watch spurred me on to go faster as I could see that I would arrive before 9pm if I hurried.

I arrived at the pub at 8.45 pm, parked my bike in the dining room, ordered my meal, unpacked and went down to eat. I then phoned home to tell Vivienne of the day's happenings and to let her know I was ok. The meal was excellent although eating was difficult as I was very dehydrated. A nice shower and I was soon in bed. **MILEAGE 90**

THURSDAY 22ND MARCH 2018 MORETON IN THE MARSH TO THAXTED.

After a good breakfast I left at 08.40 but soon had to stop to take my winter leggings off as it was very warm. The route along the A361 to Banbury was quite hilly but enjoyable with some very fast descents as well as slow climbs.

After Banbury what should have been a simple route along the A422 to Brackley and then A421 to Milton Keynes turned into a frustrating set of road works and diversions designed for motorist and not cyclist and took me miles round.

I stopped for a lunch snack at 12.10 and resumed at 12.50, I always fear Milton Keynes, unfortunately the road network had been changed and I could not find my intended route so ended up having to ride along the A421 and A428 towards Cambridge, luckily the weather was good and the wind was helpful so I made good time.

I stopped for food at a garage where the A428 and A1198 met, and then I soon turned off and made my way slowly round the lanes through Grantchester of TV Vicar fame and Trumpington to Sawston. Then the A1031 and B184 to Saffron Walden. By now I was feeling very shattered and it was a very slow struggle round the hilly lanes to Debden, Cutlers Green and Thaxted.

I arrived at he Pub near the Church and was relieved to find that they were still doing food,

I phoned my digs to say I would be there about 10 pm and Vivienne to let her know I had arrived and was ok.

After a very nice fish pie, I arrived at the digs at 22.10 it was difficult to find in the dark. I found my key in the place as described and let myself into the conservatory type corridor which ran along the outside of the accommodations.

The owners had said that I could leave my bike in here outside my accommodation. I was soon inside and the place was huge, downstairs was the dining/sitting room upstairs was the bedroom and bathroom. Once unpacked I enjoyed a relaxing shower and was soon in bed. **MILEAGE 140.**

FRIDAY 23RD MARCH2018. THAXTED TO LOWESTOFT NESS POINT.

The breakfast was a self-service Continental Style which suited me as it meant I could leave when I liked. I got up at 05.50, enjoyed a relaxed breakfast and left at 07.30. The route was really nice through little lanes to Great Bardfield, Waltham's Cross and the Sible Hedingham, then Bulmer Tye and A131 into Sudbury.

After finding my way round a diversion for road works, I was soon on the B115 which would take me across to Needham Market. At the delightful village of Monks Eleigh after asking in the post office, I found a really good café and enjoyed a huge breakfast which even I struggled to eat as I was by now very dehydrated.

Feeling rather full I resumed and took it steady for a while till I reached Needham Market, here I decided to change my route a little, in order to avoid too many miles on the A12. It was difficult to find but I found a lanes route from Cottenham to A1120 to get to Yoxford.

I stopped at a pub in Earl Soham, unfortunately that had just stopped doing cooked meals so I had to have a not too good snack of crisps and biscuits. It seemed to take a long time to ride to Yoxford. There was a sign saying there was a good café open in the high street, I could not find it despite a careful search. I ended up having a sandwich, chocolate bar and some Iron Brew at the garage near to the railway crossing at Yoxford on the A12.

It must have been the caffeine in the Iron Brew because I felt re-energised and with a tail wind did the last 25 miles in 1 hour 20 minutes! arriving at Ness Point at 18.00. It was hard to find as it is now buried in a new industrial estate, it is the most easterly point of England.

I took photos with the bike in front of the sign and then made my way to the main square near the station. I phoned Vivienne from a call box to let her know I would be getting the 19.07 train and that I should get back to Hockley by about 22.00.

Despite my best efforts I could not get a cup of coffee so had to make do with the drink in my water bottles. The train had a good purpose constructed bike storage area and the journey to Ipswich was very relaxing. At Ipswich the train stopped immediately opposite the Guards Brake on the main line train to Chelmsford. At Chelmsford I swapped to a normal train and took the bike into the carriage with me. It was amusing to watch the young women on the platform dressed in silly clothes and shoes.

At Shenfield I was lucky enough to arrive at the Southend Bound Platform just before the train left, I got off at Rayleigh and rode home arriving at 22.00 <u>MILEAGE 114</u>

TOTAL MILEAGE ABOUT 490 MILES

Ian Mackenzie





Thursday 16th August Messy Holiday Walk

Family Walk & Picnic Lunch in 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.

Saturday 1st September Longford near Maldon) - 4½ miles Start with a pub lunch in Maldon (yet to be selected!) then a walk through the fields and along the Chelmer Navigation. Some lovely stretches of countryside. Leave Church car park 11:30am.

Thursday 20th September Mill Green - 41/2 miles

Pub lunch then a walk taking in ancient woodland and common near Writtle. Leave Church car park at 11:30am.

Saturday 13th October Matching - 51/2 miles

Pub lunch then a rural walk through fields, woodland and gently-rolling countryside. Leave the Church car park at 11:30am.

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 <u>mumic@pregnall.freeserve.co.uk</u> if you want further details of any of these walks or need a lift.



Thursday Social Club

On Wednesday 16th May we made the short visit to the old Hockley School in Church Road which is adjacent to St Peter & St Paul Church.

When driving down to Hullbridge.via Folly Lane, I am sure many of us have not given much thought about the Old School House which is now a residential property. Its use as a school house ended when Hockley's population grew and a larger school was needed. With a new building estate on Betts Farm it was decided that a new school would be situated in this area backing onto Betts Woods.

The old school was then sold to a local couple who made this their new home. When driving past it is hard to realise the size of this property..

We were shown around the various rooms which were now missing, the old school chairs, desks and blackboard. It has now been made into a lovely modern home but still with a few quirky features. We were shown a few old school reports from over fifty years ago and it made for most interesting reading. Walking into the garden we were surprised at how large it was with well kept borders being a gardener's delight. There had been a swimming pool there but it was no longer in use. Behind the swimming pool was a full sized lawn tennis court but unfortunately we had all forgotten to bring our tennis rackets. The Old School House sits up quite high from the road giving fantastic views for miles around. This was a real eye opener to the history that lies on our very own doorstep. A lovely place to visit.

Our very own minister, Steve Watts and his wife Valerie visited us at the church on Thursday 31st May. Steve has had a most interesting life as a police officer rising through the ranks to become a Chief Inspector. In his early days he was not sure if this was the right career path as he did not come from a privileged background unlike many of his colleagues who been through university and been fast tracked through the ranks. There were many well known cases Steve was involved in but unfortunately privacy rules prevail.

During his time in the police Steve held very strong Christian beliefs and felt the calling to join the Methodist church after he had served in the police for many years.

Steve is an accomplished musician who is equally at home on the guitar or piano. Watch out Hank Marvin and Elton John! It was a most illuminating talk and we thank Steve and Valerie.

Eating is a favourite subject amongst our members and with this in mind we visited Chris and Olive on Thursday 28th June for a Strawberry Cream Tea. Chris and Olive really did us proud with an amazing assortment of strawberry cakes and gateaus, trifles, tarts, pies and anything else you would associate with strawberries. Who needs Wimbledon! We all sat in the garden in glorious sunshine under our parasols sampling the delights of all on offer. The scones were fantastic especially accompanied with bountiful spoonfuls of cream and of course strawberries. I don't know what the word is for people who don't like strawberries. Is it antistrawberrian? Well whatever it is there were also plate upon plate of various sandwiches (these did not contain strawberries), sausage rolls, chicken dippers, samosas, crisps and nuts. Have I missed anything out? It really was a fantastic spread. Lots of drink available of the fruit juice variety (no alcohol allowed), water and other soft drinks. We did our best but in the end the food won. Rumour has it Olive and Chris are now into making Strawberry Wine out of any surplus. So impressed were we with our Strawberry Cream Tea that word has got round and the Wimbledon Tennis authorities are trying to book Chris and Olive for next year. Thank you Chris and Olive we did really enjoy it.

Our next meeting will be the AGM in September.

Ray Williams





The deadline for the next Magazine (October/November) is Monday <u>September 17th</u>

Please make a note of this in your diary

	o 1	10.30 am 10.20 am
MON		9.30 –11.45 am
		7.30 –9.30 pm
	contact Fay 01268 780028 Triple H Community Choir (in church) contact Ashley 07581390448	7.30 –9.30 pm
TUE		6.15 – 7.15 am 1.30 am. 7.30-9.00 pm 4.00 – 5.30 pm
WED	PIYO Pilates & Yoga contact Rachel Yates 07990513413 2nd Hockley Brownie Pack: <i>contact Amy Ensum, S 470134</i> amyensum@hotmail.com	9.30 – 10.30 am 5.30 – 7.00 pm
	Badminton Club: contact Wendy S 200484	7.30 – 9.30 pm
	Gospel Rocks Choir (in Church) Contact: Hannah Conacher gospelrockscc@gmail.com	8.00 – 10.00 pm
THU	50+ Keep fit, contact Julie 07912622483	9.15–10.00 am
	50+ Stretch & Trim: <i>contact Julie 07912622483</i> U3A Floral Art Group, 4 th Thursday in the month contact Irene Morris 01787 310265.	10.15–11.00 am 1.30 – 4.30 pm
	1st Hockley Beaver Colony: contact Jane S 203739	5.15 – 6.15 pm
	1st Hockley Cub Scout Pack contact Mike, S 201253	6.30 – 8.00 pm
	or email <u>hockleycubs@yahoo.co.uk</u> Thursday Social Club: <i>contact Vivien, S 203997</i>	7.30pm, alternate wks
FRI	Pilates. Contact Mrs Tracy Bateman 07961 954966 Email <u>tracybateman1107@aol.com</u>	9.15 – 10.45am
	U3A Play Reading Group (every 2 nd Friday) Contact Coral Kathro S 201252	11.00 - 1.00pm
	Email coralkathro@gmail.com Friday Club (years 3-7) Contact Merie Kebbell 07796 958343	6.00 - 7.30 pm
	Friday Club + (years 7 & upwards) ,, ,,	6.45 – 8.15 pm
SAT	Yoga 4 all. Contact Keely 07984801726	8.30 – 9.30 am
Mini		le: 07940882886
Web	 259 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, SS6 7LF, Email: revs www.hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org 	watts@btopenworld.cc

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