

The Link

Between you and the Church



My thanks to all contributors of this copy of The Link. The deadline for the February/March issue is Monday January 21st, I look forward to your contribution.

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



Message from the Manse

Dear Friends,

It comes around so fast its like 'Groundhog Day' (Google it) and however quickly we get our act together, we are way behind the retail giants.

When I was a lad we used to visit Blackpool on a regular basis, often as part of a coach party, and before anybody gets cheeky, I mean a motor coach and not one which needs horses! Anyway we used to play the game of 'who can spot the tower' (Blackpool has a tower modelled on that one in Paris). It's quite flat as you drive into Lancashire from Yorkshire, so you are about 10 miles out when you first spot it. The excitement would build until someone screamed 'I see it!' and many of those looking found they were focussed in the wrong direction! It's the sort of game you often play when approaching the seaside, it keeps up the anticipation.

How long will it be before we start a similar game in respect of Christmas? It just gets earlier and earlier, who knows, one year it might get so bad it overlaps!

About a month ago, I remember listening to someone at church who was very tired. He had come straight from work to the meeting and for a week he had been preparing the store for Christmas. I have yet to be convinced that this early bird catches the worm. Yes I know that in the bible we are urged to be ready, to be prepared, Oh come on, its one thing to be prepared and another to be bored because you have been waiting too long.

I have a message this Christmas, and it's a message for retailers the world over,,,,,give us a break. In these days of technology life is much quicker in its delivery. Do we really need to start the process so early? And what's more, I don't think it makes an iota of difference to the consumer. Surely we could become less stressed, more laid back with time for each other rather than racing around like headless chickens if we really took the time to consider how much better life would be, not just for those delivering the goods, but for all who are involved in what should be a great part of the year.

If you are looking for a traditional message, I guess you might think you are looking in the wrong place, well maybe you are. That message has not altered in its format, content or its outcome in the last two thousand years, and guess what, its not going to. We are the ones putting new twists to it, changing it and trying to bring it up to date so that a modern society can understand it.

Well I do not think we need bother. I think we can credit people with an understanding that the message they want to hear is the original message.

I hope you enjoy Christmas as it is meant to be and that you will welcome the Christ Child into your homes and lives as you always have. In this age of up cycling and recycling, lets recycle this one time and time again. Christmas blessings on you all from myself and my special lady.

Every Blessing

Steve Watts

Church Family

Our prayerful thoughts remain with Stan and his family, especially at this time of the year and with all who are unwell, remembering those who are caring for them.

Our prayers are asked for Linda Williams, Arthur Waterfield, Colin Sains, Ron Holloway, Eunice Burge, Sheila Hayman and Vivienne Mackenzie who is due to have an operation.



Thanks

To all who worked very hard to make our Christmas Bazaar so successful, a great deal of planning was rewarded by the splendid result of £522.16 for church funds.

Well done to Gill, her band of helpers and all who participated on the day.

Council Meeting

At its October meeting Council members:

* agreed procedures to advertise and interview applicants for the post of administrative assistant recently vacated by Holly Miller;

* noted that consideration was still being given to the employment of a part-time youth worker;

* discussed the possibility of sharing a Good Friday service with Emmanuel Church and also heard that next year's Church Anniversary service would be held on 2 June;

* agreed that the Finance and Property committee should proceed with the restoration of the car park now that preliminary drainage work had been completed.

Michael Deedman

Secretary to the Church Council

Hockley Library

Once again this Christmas I will be placing a crib in the library as a reminder of what we celebrate on 25 December. There will also be a poster with the promise of a welcome to any of the Christmas services detailed at the three Hockley churches.

The library has a great collection of Christmas cards for sale in aid of different charities so do take a look when you are nearby.

You may have heard that the County Council is proposing to close up to one-third of its libraries; we hope not ours. Every visit is counted so if we don't use it we may lose it. The library is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 5.30pm.

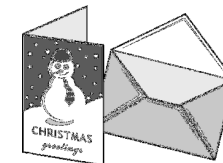
Kay Deedman

From The Worship Team

It might be a good idea if you got your diary out before you started to read this article!!

Coming Up

Christmas Cards. As in previous years, there will be a display for "one card to all" and a box for donations in lieu of postage to All We Can's campaign for solar panels in Malawi, which support us as a Partner Church..



The Carol Service this year is on 16th December at 4pm. Remember, there will be no morning service that day. The Triple H Choir has agreed to support us with a group of volunteers, and they will be contributing to the singing. This is at the request of both the Leadership team and the Church Council, who felt that the older voices of the congregation needed a boost for a service heavily reliant on singing. The puppets will also be there and there will be a special pass the parcel element, so you can invite all your family, friends and neighbours to this time of celebration. There will be something for all, including hot drinks and mince pies afterwards.

We have invited Hannah Bucke to lead the service on 23rd December and we have asked Hannah for a quiet contemplative service, which will include Communion. Hannah is leaving the Circuit at the end of the Connexional year. We are hoping that she will be able to visit us once more before then, so make the most of the opportunities to enjoy her services.



There is no service here at Hockley on Christmas Day. If you would like to go to Rayleigh for 10am and you do not have transport, then we will be compiling a list which Steve will take to Rayleigh and ask people there to take you. Watch out for a sign-up sheet.

The Christingle Service will be on Christmas Eve at 4pm, as usual and is for everybody. The puppets will be there, and if you want to see the Church full and buzzing with families and young people, then this is your chance!! Please bring an orange!



There is a section service (all Steve's churches combined) at Rayleigh on Sunday 30th December at 10.45am. If you want transport to that, then you need to get in touch with members of our own congregation. The first service of the New Year at Hockley will be on 6th January.

The visit by the Chair of the District on 20th January and The Covenant service on 27th January is covered elsewhere in the magazine.

News from the Circuit.

We have at last received information about the night shelter and hopefully, a cooking and hosting team from Hockley will be on duty on 9th February and 9th March. If you are interested in being a host (welcoming, keeping the tea and coffee topped up and chatting) or sharing in the preparation and cooking, then speak to Muriel or Mike, on 01702 204748 or email hockleysteward@hotmail.co.uk



For anyone who knows Paul McDowell, an organist at Leigh Wesley and Circuit events, but more well known as a member of The Famous Potatoes is moving out of the Circuit.

There is a Carol Service at Westerley on 18th December at 10am to which you are warmly invited. If you don't know anything about Westerley or where it is, speak to any of the Worship Team.

Luke Dobson, the Circuit Mission Enabler, will lead a small group course called Time to Talk to God, if we ask him. Let Muriel know if you are interested, then the Worship and Leadership team can discuss it at the next meetings.

During Lent 2019, there will be a Circuit Lent Course, weekly on Wednesday evenings at Highlands.

Reporting Back

The first of our new style Café church afternoon services will now be on 30th June. It was originally planned for 31st March but then we realised that day is Mothering Sunday, and not a good day to start something new.

Muriel

Jean Hodges

Congratulations to Jean Hodges, who celebrated her 100th birthday in September.



Jean was born in Hadleigh Essex in 1918. Her grandfather came from Norfolk originally, to manage the greenhouses on the Salvation Army colony, and her mother was a teacher on the colony until she transferred to Hadleigh School when it opened in 1910.

Jean was educated at Hadleigh School in Church Road until she won a scholarship to St Bernard's High school in 1929.

Jean and Ben married at Hadleigh Congregational Church in February 1956 and moved to St Peter's Road in Hockley. Jean then began worshipping at Hockley Methodist church, later becoming the president of the Sisterhood, a position she held for 19 years. Jean left Hockley Methodist church when she moved to Bramerton Road in 1993.

Last year Jean decided it was unsafe for her to remain at home and moved into Bradbury Salvation Army care home, where she celebrated 100 years with family, care home staff and friends. Residents joined in with singing Happy Birthday, as the cake was cut and the highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the Queen's telegram. Jean was thrilled. The afternoon concluded with some lusty singing of well loved hymns," How great thou Art" being a firm favourite.

Di Jacobs

Thanks to Kath Walker

After many years of sterling service, Kath Walker has reluctantly decided the time has come to hang up her tea towel, and will no longer be providing us with refreshments on Sundays.

How many pots of tea and cups of coffee has she has made over the years I wonder? Far too many to even begin to calculate!

Shirley James has been an enormous help, assisting Kath, and the pair of them have also willingly set out the cups and filled the kettles etc Every Sunday morning, we have been spoiled!

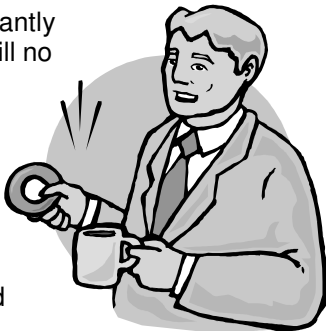
I'm sure everyone will echo my sincere and grateful thanks for their commitment every month.

Shirley will continue to help out as and when she can.

As you will know, the first Sunday in the month was always Kath's spot, and the coffee money given to JMA I am hoping this will still be the case.

So, once again, many thanks to both Kath and Shirley for their valuable contribution over the years. Sit back, and let us wait on you now.

Di Jacobs



Coffee Rota

As you will have seen, Kath and Shirley have "retired" from their coffee duties, leaving a space that must be filled! It does not have to be the first Sunday in the month, the team are very flexible, and the task not too onerous. The more of us there are, the less frequent the duty.

I shall be compiling a new list shortly, so if you feel you could help out approximately once a month please let me know, and I will add you to our small but willing band of helpers!

Please phone or text me on 7483839546, or 01702 206507 or even e mail twps1946@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you.....

Di Jacobs

Christmas Post Box

On behalf of everyone at church, thank you, Kath, Eunice, Sandra and everyone who has taken care of the post box every Christmas and for the efficient way you sorted out the cards. How many years do you think you did that for Kath?

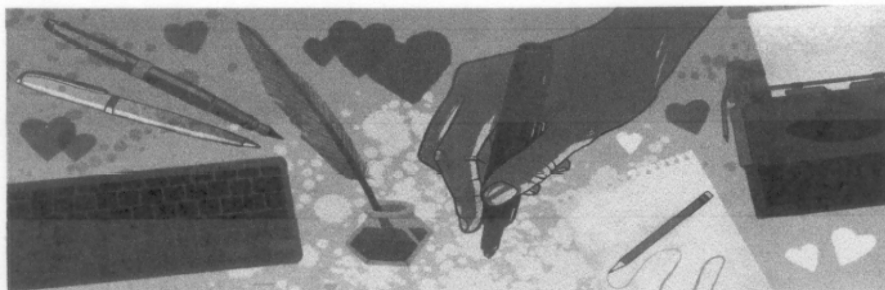
June Waterfield

Flower Rota

1 st Sunday	Kay Deedman	S.202802
2 nd Sunday	Kay Deedman	
3 rd Sunday	Linda Clarke	S.204559
4 th Sunday	Linda Clarke	
5 th Sunday	(Dried flowers)	



Amnesty International Southend Group



Write for Rights 2018

SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER

10:00am – 1:00pm

The Balmoral Centre

Salisbury Ave, Westcliff SS0 7AU

(Off-street car parking available)

Send a message to someone who has
suffered injustice. It doesn't take long, but
it can make a world of difference.

Show them they're not alone.

Cards and stamps provided along with details of
who to write to and whereand there's tea/coffee
and cake!

For more details - 01702 204748 or
amnestysouthend@googlemail.com

Southend Group meets on the second Thursday
of each month at 7:30pm at The Balmoral Centre,
Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

Christmas 2018

at



Sunday - 16th December 4:00pm

**Carol Service supported
by Triple H Choir and Hand
in Glove Puppets**



Tuesday 18th

December 4:00pm

Messy Nativity

Party time for all!



Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December 4:00pm

**Christingles with Hand in Glove
Puppets. Bring an :Orange and all
the family!**





Messy Christmas - Tuesday December 18th at 4pm

Next month will be our special Christmas celebration.

We will have a shorter time of craft activities and then share in the Nativity story. If possible, can you bring a headdress for your child or if you can do a whole costume that will be great.

Everyone will take part in telling the story. We will need angels, shepherds and Kings. We will need Mary too. If we have more than one Mary we will make sure they each get a turn.

We will finish with a longer time of sharing food and we will be in party mode!!

Hope you can make it. All are welcome. The more the merrier.

Best wishes from Messy Church

Written by an 83 year old lady to her best friend

My dear friend

I am reading more and dusting less.
I am sitting in the garden and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds.
I am spending more time with my family and friends and less time working.

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savour, not to endure.
I am trying to recognise the moments now and cherish them.

I am not saving anything; I use my good china and wine glasses to celebrate every special event such as losing a pound in weight, getting the sink unblocked or the first Amaryllis blossom.

I wear my best coat to the market. My theory is that if I look prosperous I can shell out £20 for a small bag of shopping.

I am not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for the check-out staff in the supermarket and cashiers in the bank.

"Someday" and "one of these days" are no longer in my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now.

I'm not sure what others would have done had they known that they would not be here for the tomorrow that we take for granted. I think that they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might even have called a few former friends to apologise and mend fences for past squabbles. I'd like to think that they would have gone out for a Chinese meal or whatever their favourite food was.

I'm guessing because I will never know. But it's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write 'one of these days'. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly loved them.

I am trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and lustre to our lives, Every morning when I open my eyes I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath is truly a gift from God.

People say that true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don't need to hold hands because they know that the other hand will always be there.

David Clarke



We've enjoyed some good walks this year - although it was just the two of us on a few of them – and a couple of good pub meals as well. We walked around Roxwell, Mountnessing, Longford, Mill Green and Matching. The annual trip to Woodbridge had to be cancelled for a number of reasons but Peter and Anne joined us for another walk. We had a good turnout again for the Messy Holiday Walk (despite pretty awful weather) and for the first time 4 of us took part in the Christian Aid "Circle the City" Sponsored Walk. We'll include that again (Sunday 19th May), in next year's programme, hopefully along with another trip to Woodbridge. Our first HOCKMIRA meal was well-attended but spoilt by poor service; we'll probably try it again - but not at the George and Dragon in Mountnessing! We hope to have next year's programme in the next edition of The Link.



Muriel & Mike

Visit by the Chairman of the District

Our morning Service on Sunday 20th January will be led by Rev Dr David Chairman, who is the Chairman of the Bedford, Essex and Hertfordshire District. The band will be playing. More information in the New Year

Annual Covenant Service

Our 2019 Annual Covenant Service and Commissioning of Pastoral Visitors will be at 10:30am on Sunday 27th January and will be led by Rev Steve Watts.



The Church Heating System

We need somebody to learn how to operate the Church Heating system (setting the timings, etc.) with a view to assisting or taking over from Ray, who has been making sure we're warm for a while now.



If you think you can help please contact Anne on 07739184627

HARP

We have had an email from HARP thanking the Church for donations of food. Thank you too to all the individuals who leave food in the box in the porch and everybody who donated at the Harvest.



Thursday Social Club

The Club is settling in to its revised timetable of meetings on Thursday afternoons.

In October we visited Prittlewell Priory, greatly changed over the years but currently reflecting two distinctly different periods in its history; on one hand an area conserved to show the life of the 12th century Cluniac monks, the original occupants of the site and on the other an area restored in the 19th century as a family dwelling.

Two weeks later we drove to Maldon to take a tour of the Combined Services Museum, with its impressive display of armour and arms through the ages, from medieval swords and muskets to a couple of tanks liberated from army sources. It was interesting to see a special exhibit of devices and equipment used by spies, including items from James Bond movies.

In November we had two 'at home' afternoons, the first at the home of Chris and Olive Davis, with another of Chris's fiendish quizzes and the second at Jean Saunders where Kay and Vivienne gave us a potted history of their lives in the style of 'Who Do You Think You Are', complete with fascinating photographs.

Next month we shall be off to the pantomime and then another change to our pattern of previous years. With a smaller membership our normal Christmas celebration of carols and reading is regrettably no longer sustainable so we will be going instead to the Triple H Choir's Christmas concert at the church.

Michael Deedman



Silent Night

It was the night before Christmas 1818, in the little village of Oberndorf, Austria. Joseph Mohr, the vicar, had just read the Christmas passage from Luke chapter 2, when a few verses inspired by the reading came into his mind. It would be pleasant, he thought, if they could be used at the Christmas Eve service, and so he called on the organist and handed him the verses.

Franz Gruber, the organist, thereupon composed a tune to which the verses could be sung and that was how one of the greatest Christmas carols - Silent Night - was created.

That evening, the organ broke down but, not to be outdone, the vicar and the organist sang the hymn as a duet. There the story might have ended had it not been for the organ.

When the instrument had been repaired, the organist sat down to test it and played the tune composed by Gruber. He liked it and asked for a copy, which he took back to his home town. There a ladies' choir added it to their repertoire and it was included when they sang in other towns as well.

Gradually it became known by more and more people and it increased in popularity until today it must surely be the most frequently sung Christmas carol. Moreover, it is sung, not only in the language in which it was first written, but it has been translated into others too, so that, all over the world, people are united at Christmas in singing Silent Night in their own language.

Author Unknown



Christmas Cards

I enjoy drawing and offer drawings that make suitable cards for any occasion including birthday, get-well and of course Christmas cards.

A suitable greeting can be added or left blank.

I am happy to bring them to your home for you to choose, for a donation to Church Funds.



Gill Cross, 07518027291

Spare a Thought

Decorations in house and street,
inducing thoughts of festive treat.
Christmas cards with usual rhymes
bring usual greetings for auld lang syne.

But spare a thought for Jesus.

Food collected, drinks in store,
there's never room for any more.
Fun and games to make you jolly,
crackers, parties, balloons and holly.

But spare a thought for Jesus.

Wrapping paper, a secret thought,
hiding away the gifts you've bought.
Singing carols, they're pleasant on ear
and they sound right for this time of year.

But spare a thought for Jesus.

Exciting times on Christmas morn,
opening presents from early dawn.
Stockings and dear old Santa Clause,
Christmas pudding and brandy sauce.

But spare a thought for Jesus

Scattered toys throughout the day,
awaiting time for new owner's play.

Fairy lights on Christmas trees
and families sharing memories.

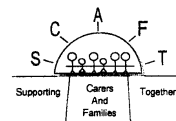
But spare a thought for Jesus, spare a thought.

Roger Stapenhill

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



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



Supporting Carers And Families Together

First Floor C
Rear of 140a
Rayleigh, Essex SS
Tel no: 01268 7
Fax: 01268 7
Email: info@scaft.org
Website: www.scaft.org

Mr Stan Rae
33 Willow Walk
Hockley
Essex
SS5 5DQ

11th November 201

Dear Mr Rae,

Re: Donation to SCAFT Young Carers

We are writing to thank you for your generous donation received on 14th August 2018.

Once again we would like to pass on special thanks to June Pankhurst and everyone involved in organising the Afternoon tea and of course to those that contributed in raising the funds.

Your donation contributed to our Summer activities for our Young Carers. They had an afternoon bouncing at BASEJUMP with a hotdog and drink, they had a morning of team work activities at Belchamps Scout Activity Centre followed by a family BBQ and finally an afternoon of Crazy football fun and games at the Len Forge Centre in Eastwood.

Our sincere thanks on behalf of the Trustees, Staff, Volunteers and most importantly the Carers supported by SCAFT.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Trewern

Andrew Trewern
Service Delivery Manager

JW x:thank you letters\june pankhurst 2018.doc

Hon President: Rt Hon Mark Francois MP
Hon Vice-President: James Duddridge MP
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Registered Charity No. 1136245



The deadline for the next Magazine (February/March) is Monday January 21st

Please make a note of this in your diary

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUN	Morning Worship	10.30 am
MON	Brightstars Parent & Toddler Group <i>contact Linda 07964 864872</i>	9.30 – 11.45 am
	Ballroom Sequence Dancing (in the hall) <i>contact Fay 01268 780028</i>	7.30 – 9.30 pm
	Triple H Community Choir (in church) <i>contact Ashley 07581390448</i>	7.30 – 9.30 pm
TUE	YogaFit Class <i>contact Julie on 07912622483</i>	6.15 – 7.15 am
	Dru Yoga Class <i>contact Ruth on 07818599183</i>	10.00–11.30 am. 7.30-9.00 pm
	Lingotots <i>contact Mrs Kate Thorne 07792790586</i> southend@lingotot.com	12.30 – 2.30pm
	Messy Church (3 rd Tuesday each month) <i>Contact Anne S. 202010</i>	4.00 – 5.30 pm
WED	PIYO Pilates & Yoga <i>contact Rachel Yates 07990513413</i>	9.30 – 10.30 am
	2nd Hockley Brownie Pack: <i>contact Amy Ensum, S 470134</i> amyensum@hotmail.com	5.30 – 7.00 pm
	Badminton Club: <i>contact Wendy S 225203</i>	7.30 – 9.30 pm
	Gospel Rocks Choir (in Church) <i>Contact: Hannah Conacher gospelrocksc@gmail.com</i>	8.00 – 10.00 pm
THU	50+ Keep fit, <i>contact Julie 07912622483</i>	9.15–10.00 am
	50+ Stretch & Trim: <i>contact Julie 07912622483</i>	10.15–11.00 am
	U3A Floral Art Group, 4 th Thursday in the month <i>contact Irene Morris 01787 310265.</i>	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 Mike, S 201253</i> or email hockleycubs@yahoo.co.uk	6.30 – 8.00 pm
	Thursday Social Club: <i>contact Vivien, S 203997</i>	2.30pm, alternate wks
FRI	Pilates. <i>Contact Mrs Tracy Bateman 07961 954966</i>	9.15 – 10.45am
	Email tracybateman1107@aol.com	
	U3A Play Reading Group (every 2 nd Friday)	11.00 - 1.00pm
	<i>Contact Coral S 201252 Email coralkathro@gmail.com</i>	
	Friday Club+ years 7 & upwards <i>contact Merie 07796 958343</i>	6.45 – 8.15 pm
SAT	Yoga 4 all. <i>Contact Keely 07984801726</i>	8.30 – 9.30 am

Minister: Revd. Stephen Watts **Tel:** 01268 770333 **Mobile:** 07940882886
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Web: www.hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk