



HOCKLEY & HAWKWELL METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN ARMS OPEN HEART OPEN CHURCH

**FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE 11AM. TEA/COFFEE 10.30**



29th August 2021

No. 101 Edition 238

Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church Main Road Hockley Essex SS5 4QY

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Minister – Rev Dr Calvin Samuel

Rev. Calvin Samuel's Pastoral Letter

A year ago, I wrote my first pastoral letter to you at the beginning of September. None of us, of course, had any idea that the past year would be so dominated by the pandemic and that we would still be living with the various restrictions that we have voluntarily undertaken in order to keep ourselves and others safe.



For us Methodists, September, of course, marks the beginning of the new Connexional year and new beginnings for many ministerial colleagues. This week welcome into our Circuit here in Southend and Leigh a new ministerial colleague, the Revd Zena Smith. Zena comes to us from the Cumbria District and succeeds the Revd Chris Sandy. She will be working in the Castle Point Section of our Circuit. Please pray for Zena as she makes her home in the Benfleet Manse.

Much of what I had to say to you at the beginning of the last connexional year still stands.

One of the things that the pandemic and Lockdown have begun to teach us is how to live with uncertainty and ongoing change. In truth, the pandemic has not increased uncertainty. Rather, it's exposed how little we actually control, despite our best efforts to the contrary. This pandemic is a lesson in learning to live in the now, because the future is as unpredictable as it has ever been.

One of the ways we have learned to deal with uncertainty is to develop greater capacity for change. 18 months ago, many of us had barely heard of Zoom. Now it is an everyday part of our lives, and some Zoom meetings are likely to replace face to face meetings in the long term. We've experimented with online services, and found creative ways to do Messy Church, All Age Worship, and Friday Club despite the restrictions. We've developed capacity for change because we've had to.

My prayer is that we will continue to hold on to that capacity for new approaches.

Over the last few months, the Church Council has been giving some thought to mission planning to begin to explore how we might more effectively reach out to those who are part of our community networks. In the coming year our aim is to begin to flesh out and implement a mission plan that's appropriate for our congregating and relevant to our community. Please pray for the guiding of God's Spirit for that work to engage with new people.

The prayer below is the one is used in y pastoral letter a year ago. It feels appropriate to revisit it as we stand on the cusp of a new connexional year.

*God of beginnings and endings,
Creator of Time and Space:
in your Wisdom,
give us clarity of insight
to discern and to focus on
those things that matter most.
Enable by your Spirit us to elevate
the important above the immediate
and to expend our energies on
building a future better than our past. Amen.*

Calvin



Prayers

Pray for the family of Ron Holloway who passed away in the early hours of Monday 23rd August after a long illness. Remember also all those who have lost loved ones during the period of the pandemic, where caring and mourning has been difficult. Remember also those in our Church family who are frail, lonely, isolated or unwell.

Pray for the country of Afghanistan, in turmoil with many fearful for their safety and livelihoods. We pray that those in power both internationally and internally, will act wisely to bring peace and calm governance to its people.

Pray for all those children and young people taking the next steps on the educational ladder, facing new experiences but still with the pandemic's shadow hovering over them. Remember all the teachers and educational leaders who are tasked with bringing a rich curriculum that will inspire all to aim high after such a chequered time over the last eighteen months.

Pray for the world and all its people that we might become better custodians of all the riches it has to offer and be prepared to make changes and sacrifices to our lifestyle, to improve the environment and let the Earth recover from humanities excesses. **Amen**

Ian Mackenzie

Vivienne is hosting an Afternoon Tea in remembrance of Ian on Saturday 18th September, from 3:30pm in the Church Hall. Everybody who knew Ian is welcome but please let Vivienne know if you intend to come so that she can arrange catering – 01702 204550

From the Worship Team

On Sunday **5th September All Age Worship** will be a celebration of the achievements of the young people in Friday Club Plus, both educationally and within the Church. There will be presentations as part of an interactive and all- inclusive act of worship, including the band and the puppets. Please do your best to be there and support them and their families as they have all reached a milestone in their journey towards adulthood.

There will be **refreshments in the hall from 10.30am to 11:00am** as well as a few **activities to keep younger ones occupied**. Come and have a chat and catch up with the news. **The puppets will first show their faces around 11.00am for families with young children.**

The service will be led by the Worship Team and the **Rev Brenda Gutberlet** has been invited. She has accepted as she is feeling better after her serious operation earlier in the year although she has not returned to Envelopes will be distributed for donations to the Youth Fund, which supports all out work with Children and young people, from the youngest coming to Brightstars to the oldest going to local and Connexional events, as well as maintaining equipment, etc. here on the premises.

Donations may be made by cheque made payable to Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church or by bank notes – **BUT NOT CASH** please. Boxes will be placed at the back of Church for the next few weeks but if you are unable to be with us on that occasion please put your donation into the Church post box or send/deliver it to 33 Willow Walk, Hockley, SS5 5DQ.

Alternatively, you can make a donation by bank transfer online using these details:

Account: Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church

A/C No. 00895598 Sort Code 20-70-93 Reference "Gift Day"

If you donate in this way please inform Stan either by returning the envelope to him enclosing a note of the amount OR by bringing the envelope to Church OR by emailing hmethstreasurer@gmail.com with the amount and specifying "Youth Fund".

As you will know, the time of the refreshments on a Sunday has changed from being after the service to before the service, starting at 10.30am. As the time of the service itself has been pushed back, it was felt that continuing with these after the service was not very practical, because of the nearness to lunchtime. The refreshments are served in the hall because this is more spacious and airier and therefore more Covid secure than using the coffee room, although we recognise that it is not as cosy. The frequency of the **Wednesday Chats Zoom** will become monthly from

September, so please come on a Sunday before the service for tea and coffee and your weekly catch-up.

The **Harvest Festival and Parade** service has been planned for **10th October** and will be led by Rev Calvin Samuel. He will have (hopefully) completed the London Marathon the previous week, which he is entering

to raise funds for All We Can. As we are a Partner Church with All We Can this seems entirely appropriate and there will be the usual envelopes for adults to donate to All We Can in lieu of Harvest Gifts. The children and young people will be asked to bring tinned, packeted and dried food on the day for HARP.

At the last Church Council meeting, it was decided that Hockley Methodists could no longer support the Worship on the Move initiative at Rupert Jarvis Court. As you see from the item below concerning a recent **Extraordinary Circuit Meeting**, there is intense pressure at the moment on the ministers and it would be entirely our responsibility to lead the bi-monthly meeting. Audrey and Brian at Rupert Jarvis Court sent me the following email after I had told them of our decision.

Dear Muriel, thank you for replying to tell us how it is for you. How sad that worship on the move can no longer continue, we will miss you all and our work together for the kingdom. I was so looking forward to getting together again after the long COVID break, but we must move on into a new season. May God bless you and make you a blessing in your work with Him
With love

Audrey & Brian

Muriel (on behalf of the Worship Team)

Calvin's London Marathon

Please support Calvin in his marathon run on behalf of All We Can:

"I'm fundraising for All We Can by running the London Marathon on 3rd October 2021. Here's my JustGiving page - if you'd like to donate to support All We

Can: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/calvin-samuel?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=calvin-samuel&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp&utm_term=c30c0cb0e21848cb9df7924f567e2820



Calvin"

Stan Rae's 90th Birthday

Stan was 90 on Sunday 22nd August. He had a surprise party in the Church Hall on Saturday 21st August when he was persuaded to come to Church by Anne Sains for an imaginary property risk assessment!



Tea and cake were provided and he seemed genuinely surprised and pleased – and, of course, he made a little speech. Then, at the Sunday Service on his birthday – at Rayleigh Methodists – he was serenaded with “Happy Birthday”. Congratulations Stan – and we're all looking forward to your ton!

A Lasting Memory

Some events are so meaningful that they leave an indelible memory on the mind that remains for the rest of our lives. For me, last Saturday morning was the occasion of such an event. Lured to the church, supposedly to help carry out a risk assessment, I was amazed to find myself being warmly welcomed by a group of friends who had gathered to share my 90th birthday the following day.

It was lovely to be in a relaxed atmosphere with friends, some of whom I have known and worked with for many years and others, equally valued, who have more recently come into my life. I give you all my deepest thanks and wish you God's blessing in the days to come.

Stan

Brightstars

It's planned to re-open Brightstars on Monday 13th September. 9:00am – 11:30am. More details later

Brightstars

Station Approach

I wonder if we shall still have a use for cash in the future. At present I only use real money to pay people like the window cleaner and the lad who mows our lawn. For us that sometimes means a trip to the cash machine at Hockley railway station to raid the ATM. Earlier this month we were particularly glad we went there as we would otherwise have missed the lovely floral displays, hanging baskets, tubs of flowers etc around the entrance, largely due I believe to the work of U3A members. As well as these to admire there is an excellent show of photos recording the early construction of the line between Wickford and Southend and the development of Hockley Woods as a visitor attraction. All well worth seeing.

Kay Deedman

Church Council

A couple of points from the meeting on Tuesday 17th August:

- For the time being the arrangements for Sunday morning worship – masks etc., requested not required – will continue
- The **Wednesday Chat** and **Friday Quizzoom** will be **monthly** events from September – the second Wednesday and fourth Friday respectively. The next Wednesday Chat will be on Wednesday 8th September. There will be a Quizzoom on Friday 27th then after that the next Quizzoom will be on 24th September. Details will be circulated as usual.
- Ros Hayman has agreed to be Church Council Secretary



Extraordinary Circuit Meeting on Zoom

Stan, Ros and I attended an Extraordinary Circuit Meeting on Zoom on 18th August and I would like to share some of the information and explanations that came our way. This is a paraphrasing of part of the draft minutes of the meeting:

Recently decisions outside the control of the Circuit, in the wider Church, have had a considerable and unexpected impact on our pastoral situation from September 2021. In addition, Covid has impacted finances hard at church and circuit level. As a result, the ability of the Circuit to plan was seriously impaired until the full facts surfaced. Following a similar Connexional impact in 2020 we knew we were in no position to employ additional ministers and, having had success with both Local Pastor and Pastor/Preacher (P/P) appointments we decided the way forward was to seek to appoint another P/P.

Subsequently, due to lockdowns, many churches lost a lot of income and it was decided we could not afford to employ even a P/P.

The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) continued to seek ways out of the situation but only had one month to revise Pastoral oversight for September and the necessary actions have had to be taken immediately. We are effectively 2 members of staff under our preferred complement and the extra pastoral load falls on ministerial staff, supernumeraries and their families. For example the Superintendent currently has five churches plus the superintendency – a situation which fails to give the support the churches and the Superintendent deserve.

The lack of staff impacts not only pastorally, but also on the Plan – we are down 24 Sunday main service preaching appointments. The Plan is also impacted by the fact that several Local Preachers have passed on, moved away, retired or candidated for ministry giving a loss of 33 Sunday Morning appointments per quarter since the Plan of October 2015. Ministers want to be in the main church services more, but this can only be done if people work with the Ministers about the timing of their main service - some churches have already done this, some feel they can't. However, we must have some movement in service times or there will be more Local Arrangements per quarter Churches that move their main service will find less LAs and a radical move away from Sunday morning could unlock considerable opportunities. **Circuit Meeting members and churches were encouraged to consider possible changes to timings of services**

Here at Hockley we have already made changes to the service time and legacies as well as your consistent giving during lockdown have largely cushioned us from the financial effects of the pandemic. In the discussions about how to deal with the situation, it is inevitable that closing some

churches might be one course of action, although this was not desired by anyone. However, as one of the small churches, we would be vulnerable, if membership alone was the criteria. This is not even on the agenda at present but is something you should all be aware of and bear in mind when ministers are unavailable, or difficult to contact and your prayers are needed, especially for Rev Peter Moorhouse, who has five churches at the moment and with whom the responsibility rests, when difficult decisions have to be made.

Muriel

1st Hockley Rainbows

1st Hockley Rainbows was established back in the 1980's and met at Bramerton Road Church Hall. It is the section for the youngest girls 5- 7 years old wishing to start their journey with Guiding, they can then progress through Brownies, Guides and Rangers before joining as adults. We are one of two Rainbow groups in the Hockley and Hawkwell area.



We would like to thank Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church for allowing us to relocate. It has been an interesting 18 months, with the meetings going on through Zoom and then going outside to Plumberow Mount. The small group of girls embraced the changes and challenges and successfully completed a wide range of badges from the Rainbow programme. The Rainbow Guide programme they follow allows for a wide range of topics to be covered, from cheerleading to recycling and everything in between.

This wouldn't be possible without a dedicated band of volunteers including Young Leaders still studying at school and Leaders who have been Guiding for many years.

We hope to return to the church hall in September when we will be joined by some new members. We will still be following strict guidelines from Guiding around Covid to keep everyone as safe as possible. The girls will embark on new challenges following the programme working towards a whole new set of badges. There will be games, art and craft as well as lots of fun as we settle into our new home.

We currently work with a waiting list system and if you have a daughter who would like to join us, please register her through the Guiding website: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/rainbows-5-7>. If you have any questions, please do ask, or just drop me an email.

Sally-Ann Elkington – Unit Leader
sally_elkington@yahoo.co.uk



JMA Collection Box

If anybody has a JMA collecting box that needs emptying could they please let me have it (or at least the contents) in the next few weeks so that I can sort out the coin in one go. Thanks.

David Clarke.

A ‘Thank You’ from June Waterfield

I would like to say a big ‘Thank You’ to everyone who has kept the Church running over the last 18 months – with Links, Notices and phone calls it has helped me to keep in touch with people.

When I lost Arthur in 2020 everything he and I talked about came to a stop, we both had planned to carry on, but the Church was closed, also the Library, the Day Centre and the Scrabble Club. I kept his carer on, Fay, to

keep me sane as for 2 years I had only been out when he had carers with him.

So I've been going down memory lane. When we moved house here in 1955 I transferred my membership from Goodmayes Church, Ilford to Hockley. Goodmayes Church was a very large church – 4 or 5 halls, and a balcony round the Church. Any large Circuit events were held in that Church and it was often full. I got involved in Hockley when Rikki was 3 in 1969, joining Beginners Sunday School; there were also Primary, Junior and Seniors. With Kay Deedman, Brenda Cuthbert, Shirley Neale and Christine Gameson in Beginners Rikki made lifetime friends with Simon Whittock.

When I decided to give up Sunday School in the 1980s, Malcolm Clark asked me to go into the vestry and Don Walker took me under his wing. I remember all the parties in the 1970s. For Harvest and Christmas you had to put your name down early as the Hall only held 100.

There were Anne and Dennis White, Isobel and Tom Murphy (Father Christmas) (*I remember Tom as Father Christmas! Ed.*) and Don and Kath Walker arranging everything. It seems with Kath passing away with Covid that she was the last of the group and is missed.

I hope that the Zoom goes on a little longer – I'm not sure when I'll be back with you.

God Bless

June Waterfield

A Thousand Years and all on your Clone

As you probably know I used to attend The Palace Writers Group based at The Cliffs Pavilion in Southend. Instead of going back to the past editions of The Link magazine I have chosen one of my pieces of work from my days at this group.

This is an article from the Future Times newspaper dated Sunday 24th August 3000

Welcome to the year 3000 and Turkey have just joined the European Union. Not a great surprise as former British Prime Minister , David Cameron had predicted this in 2016, a mere 984 years ago.

Turkey have now brought the membership up to four, joining the ever-present triumvirate of France, Germany and Belgium. It is fair to say that it has had some troubled times and since the United Kingdom commenced divorce proceedings in 2016 it has dwindled from its strength of 28 nations. There are however nations that are looking to join the European Union with Scotland most prominent amongst the interested parties. Scotland are having its 289th referendum on leaving the United Kingdom and applying to join the EU. I'm sure we all wish them luck.

Science and technology have advanced at an alarming pace bringing with it enormous opportunities to travel around our wondrous solar system. The most popular form of transport these days is solar powered clones and over the years this popularity means that every home has one. One thousand years ago it used to be trains and boats and planes with the humble motor car relegated to history.

When first developed the clone caused problems with aircraft in particular, this was due to its basic design which today would be most laughable. It is hard to think today how we have ever coped without them as they are a part of our everyday life. Our clones today are far more advanced and sophisticated with built in radar systems which can detect any obstacles in its vicinity and thus automatically taking avoiding action.

They are now so popular that it is a legal requirement that all places of work provide clone docking stations for their staff. A typical journey from Southend to London Liverpool Street takes less than five minutes, a vast improvement on a thousand years ago.

Holidays a thousand years ago used to be a trip to Southend or Canvey Island or further afield to the west country and the Lake District. Spain and Greece became very popular for sunlovers before a cruise in the Med or sailing in the Caribbean became the norm. Now in the year 3000 that has all changed. Airports have now become redundant and they are kept open for historical reference with interested tourists and numerous school trips making many visits.

Space stations are springing up all over the country with the vast majority using vacated airports. Locally, London Southend services

a daily service to Mars which can be reached in an unbelievable eight hours. The larger space stations of London Heathrow and London Gatwick have longer twenty-four hour trips to the least accessible planets. Perhaps as an alternative you could book an all-inclusive flight on Virgin Atlantic's Solar System Elite, which takes off from the exclusive Necker Island. This is a once in a lifetime trip to all the popular planets in our solar system, allowing visitors up to six hours at each port of call. Remember to take your special solar system camera.

The wellbeing of people's health is of paramount importance and a modern clinical programme known as F A C T is now accepted without thinking. As you know, F A C T stands for Freezing Adults Clock Timing. This was developed quite by accident in Switzerland and was a side-shoot of the Dignitas programme. During the early 2000's people in severe ill health went to Switzerland to end their days under the programme Dignitas. As a result of this it was discovered that a reasonably fit person could be frozen in time with intermittent short breaks allowing them to join the living world before returning to the freezer. This however was a costly exercise not open to the normal man in the street.

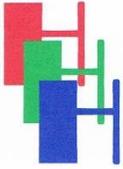
Amongst the many well off celebrities joining the F. A. C. T. scheme were Sir Bruce Forsyth, Rod Stewart and David Attenborough. Known for his catch phrases and his compering of many shows, Bruce is unfrozen each Christmas for a special edition of Strictly Come Dancing before going back into deep freeze. He has now been in show business for an amazing 1,066 years.

Rod Stewart is still touring the UK and singing his hits such as "Maggie May", "Sailing" and "If You Think I'm Sexy." He has been married fifty times with many of his wives much younger than him, sometimes by over two hundred years.

Documentaries would not be the same without David Attenborough's dulcet tones describing creatures in the wild or in the frozen icecap of Antarctica. He has just started writing his 1,000th autobiography and it is a book not to be missed.

I hope you enjoyed our new magazine. Look out for our next edition in 100 years time.

Ray Williams



Triple H Choir Summer Concert

“The Golden Age of Musical Theatre”

25th September at 8:00pm

Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell SS5 4EH

Tickets: Adults - £10 Children under 16 - £5

For tickets phone 07876416567 or 07581395998

or emailtriplehcommunitychoir@hotmail.co.uk

The Climate Sunday initiative



Climate Sunday is a Churches Together initiative calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26 (November 2021).

So far over 1,000 churches have joined in; **could Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church add its voice this year by holding a climate-focused service to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation, care and action on climate, to pray, and to commit to action?**

The vision is to leave a lasting legacy of thousands of churches better equipped to address this critical issue as part of their discipleship and mission and to make a significant contribution to civil society efforts to secure adequate national and international action at COP26.

More than 1,600 churches have held a Climate Sunday service, a testament to churches' desire to show love for God and neighbour by caring for creation and acting on climate change.

On Sunday 5 September 2021, at 4:00pm churches from across Britain and Ireland will come together online and in Glasgow Cathedral to celebrate, challenge and commit ahead of COP26.

The service will be broadcast live from Glasgow Cathedral - at the heart of the city where the UN climate talks will take place in November - with contributions from Christians around the nations.

Sign up to watch the service live online [here](#).

The Joint Public Issues Team

Most of the press in this country is owned by individuals and companies who have their own agenda. Some are known to be scurrilous and pay little attention or are antagonistic toward issues like the climate crisis, world debt, poverty or refugees. There's an alternative if you want to read a more balanced and fair consideration of such issues and learn what media stories aren't true look at the website of **The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)**. This is a partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, and the United Reformed Church. Its purpose is to help the Churches to work together for peace and justice through listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public policy issues. Their [website](#) gives a different perspective.

Child's Travel Cot

A child's travelling cot is looking for a good home! Contact Gill 07518 027291

Newsletter No. 37

Thank you, once again, to everybody who's contributed especially Billy for his imaginative art work. Don't forget that The Link is now on a two monthly cycle and it will usually be issued at the end of the month. Please send any items for The Link to hmethslink@gmail.com by the Wednesday before publication.

The Notices will be produced fortnightly provided there is enough material. Anything you think should be included in the Notices needs to be sent to Nicola at hmmc1883@gmail.com by the Wednesday morning prior to their issue.

Muriel & Mike
26th August 2021

