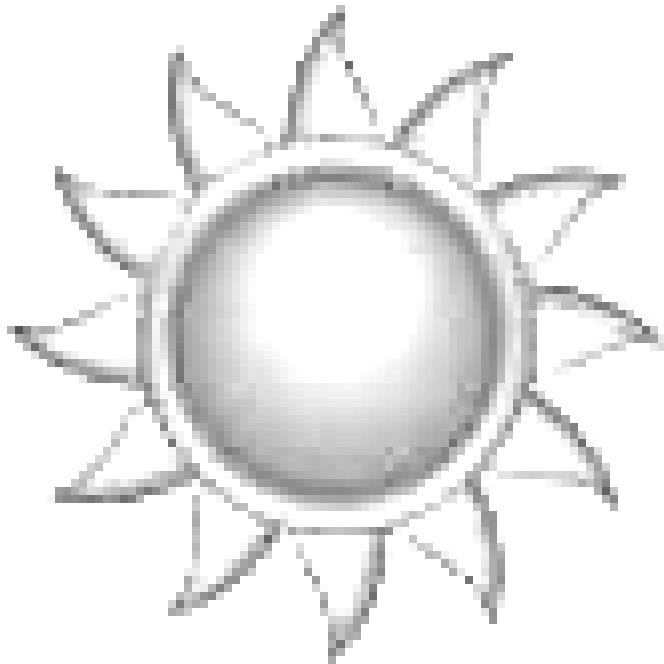


The Link

Between you and

Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church



Editor's Note

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of The Link.

The deadline for the October/November issue is **Monday 19th September.**

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

Message from the Manse

In you, Lord, my God I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.”

This week as I have hobbled around, I have jokingly been telling people that I have an ecumenical injury to my leg. What happened was that when playing rounders with the URC a few weeks ago, I hit the ball, which was such a shock to me, that in throwing the hard solid, heavy wooden rounders bat to the floor, I threw it at my calf instead. I know, a self-inflicted wound that you have no sympathy for!

Am I looking for sympathy? No not really, and although it is a little uncomfortable, I was amazed at how well I was treated, how quickly and efficiently I have been treated, by the hospital and the physiotherapy department, so my injury is really a good news story, especially when you compare it to the rest of the news that we have had in the last few weeks.

We have had the killing of Jo Cox MP, LGBTQI people in Orlando, we have had a car bomb in Iraq that has a death toll of 285, we have had the stabbing of a young black teenager in London, the 16th such death this year, we've seen the shooting by Police in USA of 2 black people and then 11 Police shot, and one civilian. (What else have I missed)?

We've had a referendum and political and financial turmoil in this country, a referendum, which regardless of the way any of us have voted, has caused a rise in bigotry, and racial violence and tension in this country. Postcards saying “leave this country” posted through the doors of Polish families, a butchers shop burnt to the ground, a Polish community centre vandalised, and many other incidents up and down our country targeting Europeans, and Asians.

We've had the Chilcott Enquiry release its findings saying we should not have gone to war. No real surprise there. We've had demonstrations in London by those who want to stay in Europe, and by Junior Doctors who have had a new contract forced upon them.

We've seen **some** of our politicians for what they really are greedy for power and prepared to lie and scheme and back stab, to get what they want.

In the middle of all of this, this last week we have had the Methodist Conference, and that is what I want to talk to you a little bit in this magazine article. I want to encourage you to engage with some of the exciting things that have come out of conference, and also share with you this morning some practical things that we can all do.

1000s of cups of tea

Last Saturday saw the installation of Rachel Lampard as our new Vice President and Revd Dr Roger Walton as the President of the Methodist [Conference] – hence Methodist Church. Rachel has a long Methodist heritage, her Father was in charge of the LP Office, and signed my LP bible in 1989. Rachel has been working for us for the last 15 years, and heads up the JPIT.

Rachel took the theme of “oceans of justice”, she read from the prophet Amos who told the people then, and us now, that God hates our religious meetings because it is just noise, if we are not people of justice and peace. Rachel reminded us, that behind all the noise from the media at the moment on immigration, migration, Europe and Political posturing and ISIS and everything else, we are still in the situation where 1 in 4 children in the UK live in poverty, 1 in every 222 people in the world is a refugee or internally displaced (3,700 people died trying to cross the Mediterranean in 2015). Water scarcity in the world affects 4 in 10 people. Every 90 seconds a child dies because of water related disease. There are places all over the world where people of all faiths face persecution, torture and death because of their beliefs.

Rachel says that one of the things we Methodists are good at is making cups of tea and talking, she wants us to talk, not about how we apportion blame for the situations we are in, but by getting to know people, and seeing how we can help and support them practically. When we get to know people she says, we move past the “what fault can I fix in you” questions, to asking the deeper “why” questions. Why are people sleeping on church steps and homeless? Why are people attending Church lunch clubs and foodbanks so deeply in debt? Why are so many people so lonely? Why don't young people have anywhere to go of an evening? And many more questions. So we are encouraged to have cups of tea with folk in our community and talk and help and support.

Safety Pins

One of the notices of motion that was passed this week at conference was prompted by the increase in racial tension following the referendum. Hopefully you all have sight of the letter that was handed out this morning. We were asked to read a letter out in all our churches. Caroline said to me, that they had been agonising over the words at conference, to try and ensure that it was a statement that we could all accept, regardless of the way people voted in the referendum. This is a statement calling for people to work together, to respect one another and to uphold the dignity of all. I was disappointed with some of the feedback I heard on the reading of this important letter.

We need to remind ourselves every now and again, that we are all made in the image of God, black, white, Asian, immigrant, migrant, refugee and even the

Scottish and the Welsh. I was ashamed to hear that 4 preachers had been arrested in the Bristol shopping Mall for inciting hatred for Muslims and Gays this week. One of the things they were shouting at Muslims was that “Allah” does not exist. Total ignorance, Allah is the Arabic word for God, a word that is linked to the Hebrew “El” which also means God. Arabic Christians, as they read they’re bibles and pray, will use the word Allah. We need to promote respect, justice and peace.

So please re-consider these words, they are by no means perfect, they are not trying to have a go at anyone who voted one way or another, but to encourage us to do something as Christians, and as Methodists to promote peace, respect, tolerance, love of the neighbour and hospitality to the stranger.

We are asked to do 2 things:-

- To wear a safety pin, to show when we are out in public, that we are a person of safety, that can be turned to if someone is facing racial abuse. (one internet commentator said – the best form of defence against that sort of abuse is to not challenge, but surround the person being abused by loving conversation – the abuser will then get bored and slink off).
- To write to our MP asking him to consider and act on this statement. You can do that via the internet and the website printed, or we have paper copies which we can send on your behalf.

Drastic Action - A cross and a crown

The last thing I want us to consider was Gareth Powell's very encouraging reflection on his first year in office.

“You will have probably got a bit fed up of me by now.....talking about how we beat ourselves up as a church, and constantly tell ourselves the story of decline and closing. We have been telling ourselves the story for so long now that we believe it to the core, despite any evidence to the contrary. Even this week, I have heard the litany, of how we are all getting older in the church and there are no children, there are no young people. Somehow we are not communicating the real story. Tell people about our growing Sunbeams, tell people, that we engaged with 20 children at our last messy Church, tell people that somewhere between 70 and 120 children pass through the doors of our church every week, tell people about our Puppet team and our crèche full of babies.”

Gareth wants us to stop telling the stories of decline, again, read his report, he wants us to realise that our foremost responsibility is to be “confident and imaginative”, he tells of a letter to Ellen Gratton from John Wesley in 1782, telling her to “proceed with much prayer, and your way will be made plain.”

He tells us that we may believe we have shortages in money and resources, but “we are not short of a body of Methodists raised up by God to proclaim the gospel”.

He then told the story of the Methodist conference in 1820, they were facing a crisis, they had lost 4,688 members, Jabez Bunting had a plan, apparently “He was good at that”. The Liverpool Minutes expanded on Wesley's ‘Rules of a Helper’ and those Minutes urged the preachers to undertake some drastic measures.

They pledged themselves to a renewal of field preaching, to home mission activities, public prayer meetings, attention to children, young people and ‘backsliders’, pastoral visiting and meetings with the class leaders, encouragement of Sabbath observance, attendance at the Lord's Supper, the preparation of catechesis and discouragement of ‘The spirit of strife and debate.’

So let us be encouraged and do something,

- whether it is in being the good Samaritan by
 - talking justice and peace over cups of tea,
 - or wearing a safety pin
 - or campaigning by writing to our MP
- whether it is renewing our trust in God by
 - not to talking of decline
 - looking at fresh ways of re-engaging and re-newing the people called Methodists
 - talking about the good news and the salvific (saving) love of God

Be encouraged and do something.

Rachel Lampard Speech – <http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/stop-trying-to-fix-the-poor-says-methodist-vice-president>
Statement from Methodist Church - <http://www.methodist.org.uk/nationallife>
Gareth Powell Reflection - <http://buff.ly/29oYsbq>

Regards

Phil Warrey (Rev)

Following on from the EU Referendum

The Revd Steve Wild and Jill Barber, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, released this [statement](#):

“The people have spoken through the democratic process. We recognise that the result will cause pain to some people who voted with passion and integrity and that now is the time to move forward together with goodwill. The structures have changed but our hopes for a fair, just and equal society continue. We must now gather the political will to tackle poverty, climate change and the refugee crisis.

“This referendum has shown both the best and the worst of our democracy. It is to be celebrated that major constitutional change has happened peacefully and transparently; something that is all too rare in the world even today. We are saddened that the referendum debate has at times promoted feelings of fear and even hatred and racism. We do not believe that most people, however they voted in the referendum, wanted this. It certainly does not represent the kind of country that Britain wants to be. We must be careful now that these narratives do not shape the way that we do politics in the future.

“As the future of our role in the EU is negotiated, we cannot cut ourselves off from Europe. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Europe, and particular in our sister Churches, and assure them that our love and commitment towards them is undiminished.”

Along with [a reflection on events](#) on its website, the Joint Public Issues Team offered this prayer:

God of every nation and people,
at this historic moment we pray for all
who are affected by the decision that we have made.
Whatever differences this has revealed within our own society,
may they not eclipse what we have in common.
Where the narratives of political debate have caused harm and division,
help us to reclaim the true values of our shared humanity.
Where exaggeration and distortion have generated suspicion and fear,
may truth and honesty restore hope and goodness.
We pray for all the nations of Europe
That you will help us to find ways of living and working together
to pursue the mercy and justice that you require.
We recommit ourselves – together – to the values of your eternal kingdom,
and pray that along with all people
we might help your world become more as you intended. Amen.

Maureen Hilda Blake

12th November – 26th May 2016

Eulogy given by Revd. Phil Warrey

Let us spend a moment in remembering Maureen. Maureen was a proud mother of three, grandmother to four and great-grandmother to five as well as good friend and church member to many here today. She came from a large family and enjoyed the company of people, young and old, wherever she went.

Maureen was born in Plymouth on 12th November 1929 to parents, Frederick and Florence Burley. She was the eldest of a family of seven and was joined in the following years by Fred, Cyril, Sylvia, Yvonne, Gordon and her youngest brother, Paul.

Maureen's early life was fairly normal and uneventful until war broke out in 1939. On becoming a teenager Maureen contracted rheumatic fever and was temporarily confined to a wheelchair. Plymouth was obviously a prime target for the Luftwaffe and, being unable to get down to the local air raid shelter with the rest of the family, left a mark on Maureen which remained with her well into her adult years.

Physically Maureen made a full recovery and went on to become a keen dancer towards the end of the war and the era of the Big Band Sound. She met Pat, a dashing young naval apprentice, at one of the local dances in 1945 when she was just 16. He invited her to his Passing Out Dance and from there romance quickly blossomed. They shared a love of ballroom dancing, particularly the Foxtrot, the Quickstep and, more surprisingly to their children, the Jitterbug! Pat was welcomed into the family and the couple were married on 29th November 1947, just nine days after the then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip of Greece. The two couples continued to live somewhat parallel lives (although not in similar style!) when both Pat and Prince Philip were posted to Malta with the Royal Navy. Maureen followed Pat to Malta where they lived happily in married quarters for five years. When their first child, Linda, was born, Maureen returned to Plymouth to set up home to care for her new daughter.

Linda was followed three years later, by Maureen's second daughter Sharon and eventually by their youngest, Denise. By this time, the family had moved to Woodford Avenue, Plympton where they were to form a long lasting friendship with their new next door neighbours, Peter, Joyce and their two children Graham and Jackie.



Pat came out of the Navy in 1965 and, after re-training as a mathematics teacher, found his first teaching job in Southend. Local teaching posts were hard to find and it was with a mixture of excitement for the future and sadness at leaving behind friends and family that Maureen, Pat and the girls left Devon, settling down here in Hockley in 1969.

In 1972, Maureen and Pat became local newspaper celebrities when the Evening Echo published an article on couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary at the same time as the Queen and Prince Philip. Maureen was very proud of this connection with the Queen. She was a lifelong Royalist and avidly followed anything on television or in the press concerning the Royal Family. Last week's celebrations for the Queen's 90th would have meant compulsory viewing of the wall to wall coverage!

With Maureen's family growing up (Linda had married and left home and Sharon was about to take her A-levels) a business opportunity arose to run a small hotel in Westcliff. Maureen had always wanted to enter the hospitality and catering trade and so in the autumn of 1973 the family moved to the Welbeck Hotel. The next few years were sometimes eventful, always entertaining and Maureen made many friends among the guests, some of whom would return year after year for their annual holiday. Sadly however, Maureen's marriage to Pat did not survive the demands of running a business and a teaching career and unfortunately they went their separate ways in 1980.

The family however continued to flourish and Maureen was delighted when she became a grandmother, first to Michael and Mark and then to Rachael and Ross. More recently she became a great-grandmother, first to McKenzie and Summer and then Faith, Aidan and Isabella. Maureen was never happier than when she was surrounded by all her family, being the centre of attention and being indulged as only grandmothers and great-grandmothers can be.

Maureen struggled for many years to come to terms with the breakdown of her marriage but found some solace in the many friendships she developed in the Southend and Hockley area through the Church and the local pensioner groups to which she belonged. Her greatest involvement and comfort came from the friends she made here in the Methodist Church and in particular the Sisterhood on moving back to Spa Court in Hockley [1992]? She often said that she looked on Kath as a sister and always looked forward to regular visits from Mavis, Shirley and Ron, Gill and Ivor, and many others.

As a child Maureen loved to knit but often had to hide the evidence from her Dad who considered such things a frivolous pastime. With a growing family Maureen would often knit for them - memories of the girls' matching green polo neck jumpers and the equally fashionable haircuts still haunt them! In her later years Maureen was rarely seen without her bag of wool, a crotchet hook and a multi-coloured blanket in her lap. These multi-coloured blankets were a little bit of

Maureen's love offered out to many, and my own daughter has one of Maureen's blankets for my grandson Eric.

Maybe as a result of the foray into the catering trade, but more likely an inherited family trait, Maureen was a keen cook and host. Her reputation for hot, "fresh-out-of-the-oven" Cornish pasties was legendary. A simple phone call to say "I'm making pasties" would result in guaranteed visits from all the family that day! Indeed they are hoping the recipe and talent has been passed to Mark, Maureen's grandson, who keeps promising to attempt to replicate his grandmother's high standards one day!

She always enjoyed a chat and her love of the telephone meant she could sometimes be hard to reach at weekends. I am sure BT's shareholders will be missing her almost as much as we are! Maureen always kept her cupboards stocked with various goodies "on the off chance that one or another of her many friends would pop by" and she would feel the need to have "something to offer them with tea". No-one believed this for a minute. It was no coincidence that the "goodies" on offer were cream cakes, biscuits and chocolates - all the items forbidden to her by her doctor! When Maureen became too poorly to come to church, we often took church to her, and she loved to host that, and the cakes and the chocolate éclairs would come out.

Maureen had kept in touch with her next door neighbours from Plymouth over the years, attending their respective children's weddings and also visiting each other from time to time for holidays. As a result of one such visit to family in Devon, Maureen visited Peter following the sad death of Joyce, his wife and Denise's Godmother. Over the coming months, their enduring friendship turned to something more and Peter and Maureen became engaged. They were later married in this church by Rev Brenda Gutberlet as many will remember in the spring of 2009.

In among the happy times there has also been great sadness in the family with the tragic loss of Michael, Maureen's first grandson, at the tender age of 21. This had a devastating and long-lasting effect on the whole family. Grief is always difficult but there are few things harder to watch than the grief of a grandparent, mother, daughter, brother or sister in the case of a child whose life was only just beginning.

Of course, most families have their ups and downs and Maureen's was no different in this respect. Life was not always happy and harmonious and most people who knew Maureen well would say she could be demanding and difficult to deal with at times. Some of Maureen's family relationships were strained at one time or another but all were happily reconciled before Maureen passed away. Following Peter's death in 2011 Maureen's own health had started to deteriorate. She fought back from many bouts of ill health and periods in hospital but continued to confound all medical expert opinion. For the last six months of

Maureen's life she conceded that she needed more help than her family and Jacqui, her carer and friend, could provide. Maureen chose to move into a local care home in Ashingdon where she was looked after well by Lianne and her team.

At the end she was ready to go, she was struggling with her lack of mobility, weariness and pain. She had her faith, and she told us that she was ready to be with the Lord. Maureen had a fall and broke her hip, and even though she survived the operation, she died in Southend Hospital on 26th May 2016.

As the many flowers today will remind us, Maureen's love of fresh and fragrant flowers was well known to everyone who knew her. In every home she had, Maureen always found space and time for her garden, no matter how small.

Maureen leaves her family and friends behind but she also leaves us with many fond memories. We can take some comfort from the knowledge that she has been reunited with all her beloved family and friends.

Thank you Denise and family for writing such a moving and fitting tribute to your mother. Thank you too for the Poem and the reading from the Psalms. Both reminds us, that although our life on earth is fleeting, and we are like but grass or the flowers of the fields, we have a God who is compassionate and gracious, abounding in love and compassion and forgiveness.

Poem – Where Do They Go? (read by Denise)

Where do they go to?

Where do they go to, the people who leave?
Are they around us, in the cool evening breeze?
Do they still hear us, and watch us each day?
I'd like you to think of them with us that way.

Where do they go to, when no longer here?
I think that they stay with us, calming our fear
Loving us always, holding our hands
Walking beside us, on grass or on sand.

Where do they go to, well it's my belief
They watch us and help us to cope with our grief
They comfort and stay with us, through each of our days
Guiding us always through life's mortal maze.

Where does the Money go?

Members and friends of Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church are very faithful in their giving and deserve to know for what purposes their donations are used. This outline of Church Funds may help to provide a better understanding of our needs.

There are five funds as follows:

Church Fund

This is used for all items of expenditure other than those paid from the specifically named fund detailed below. The major expense, which has first claim on the fund, is the Circuit Assessment, which for the financial year 2016/17 is £17,997.00. The amount needed to meet all the costs from this fund is in the region of £20,000.

Property Fund

This fund covers cleaning costs (including equipment), utilities, insurance and ongoing items of repair and maintenance. It is funded from letting fees and expenditure usually exceeds income by £2,000 - £3,000 a year.

Building Reserve Fund

This is used to meet the cost of emergencies and provide a fund to deposit money raised for specific projects. Its only regular income is £75 a month from committed monthly donations.

Benevolence Fund

This provides money to alleviate individual need and enables a speedy response to emergency situations e.g. earthquakes, typhoons. It is funded from donations for Sunday morning tea/coffee.

Youth Fund

An appeal is made at the beginning of the church year for financial support for this fund which covers all aspects of youth work. Circuit and other grants are obtained during the year and individual donations are sometimes received.

In addition to these funds the church acts as a forwarding agent for collections and donations for external organisations e.g. Christian Aid, All We Can.

Most readers will no doubt remember that at the beginning of this year the church was left a very generous legacy in the will of the late William Potter but some may not be aware that the terms of the legacy are restrictive and the money cannot be used for any and every purpose. The will decrees that the money is to be used 'for the maintenance upkeep and repair of the Hockley church building and its grounds'. This means that some, but not all expenses from the Property Fund can be claimed. In particular we can claim for cleaning, which will obviate the need to

transfer some £2,000 - £2,500 each year from the Church Fund. However, the Sunday offerings, at their present level, will not be sufficient to meet the total needs of the Church Fund and we shall need to give thought as to how best we can deal with this situation.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the church at Philippi, said: 'My God shall supply all you need'. In the past we have found this to be true. Sometimes it has been through unexpected means but mainly it has been through the constant support of members and friends of the church. Thank you all for your regular and generous giving.

Stan Rae
Church Treasurer

Harvest Supper

For the last few years we have invited members of St. Peter & St. Paul to join us for a harvest meal. This year they have invited us to join them for a Harvest Tea on Saturday 8 October. As they have no church hall for such occasions we shall be joining them at the Hockley Day Centre located in the Southend Road car park. The time has yet to be decided but do put the date in your diary now. There are few opportunities for Hockley Christians to get together so this will be a good opportunity to meet and enjoy food and fellowship.



Kay Deedman

Harvest Festival

Harvest festival will be on Sunday 9th October 2016; it will be All Age Worship and Parade service. Harvest gifts of non perishable produce will be appreciated

Margaret Byford
Worship Team Leader

Church Council

At its June meeting, Council:

- * welcomed the appointment of Mike Pregnall as Communications Officer;
- * recorded their thanks to retiring Church Steward Muriel Pregnall for all her work over the previous six years;
- * noted a report from Margaret Byford on the work of the worship teams established in April;
- * re-appointed Stan Rae as Treasurer for a further 12 months and welcomed the offer of assistance from David Clarke;
- * authorised the replacement of the boiler system, to commence at the end of July 2016;
- * agreed that the existing church noticeboard in the forecourt should be replaced by an illuminated model;
- * acknowledged with thanks the useful work done on the church garden by Anthony Cross;
- * heard that a junior branch of the Triple H Community Choir was being formed and would be using the premises from September 2016;
- * stood in memory of Maureen Blake whose death was reported in May.

Michael Deedman
Secretary to the Church Council

Family News

Welcome

To all regular attendees and all who may come to our church for whatever reason.

Illness

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are unwell or awaiting hospital treatment. Especially we think of Harold, Michael and Sheila, Val, Stan and Maureen's family. We think too of Lillian Bains who has moved to Kent.

Forthcoming Marriage

In September Holly and Stuart will marry at St. Andrews Church, Ashingdon. We wish them every blessing.

Afternoon Tea at Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church

On Saturday the 9th of July this year a tea was held at the Church in aid of the Church and Young Carers. According to all reports a great time was had by all and the sum of £360 was raised. As with all organisers, I can only report on how good it was from the feedback of those that attended.

I know that a lot of people worked very hard to make this something special and to reach out to those who would not normally enter the church. People came from far and wide having seen the advert on the internet; Ray's trading books and other advertisements about the area. One lady rung me to ask if this was the same church she came to many years ago for a talk on "The Titanic with tea afterwards". She had enjoyed it so much especially the ladies making the effort with white aprons and head bands.

Every effort was made yet again to provide something special that would attract people to come again, providing an atmosphere which was pleasing to sit in whilst enjoying lots of cake, sandwiches, strawberries, tea and coffee.

From the pleasant hum of noise a lot of talking was being done giving all a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Many comments were heard about the decoration and background music which some sung along with.

All this was only brought about by the team of helpers who made sandwiches, cakes, decorations, obtained and lent the crockery, bought the supplies and the hard working group that served on the day keeping all the plates and pots topped up.

Thank you to all the helpers who made the day just that bit special.

John Morrison



Flower Rota

1 st Sunday	Kay Deedman	S.202802
2 nd Sunday	Carolyn Sturgess	S.203964
3 rd Sunday	Linda Clarke	S.204559
4 th Sunday	Linda Williams	S.204309
5 th Sunday	Anne Sains	S.202010

Roger Walton - President of the Conference 2016/2017

Growing up in Pudsey, West Yorkshire, Roger Walton started attending a Methodist Sunday School at the age of seven. He became a Christian at 16, becoming a local preacher at 18 and offering for ministry whilst at university.

Married to Marion and with two children and three grandchildren, Roger has served in circuits in the West Midlands, Liverpool and St Albans. For ten years he was the Director of the Open Learning Centre, followed by eleven years of the Wesley Study Centre. He is currently Chair of the West Yorkshire District.

"Becoming President of the Conference is a wonderful gift and I am deeply honoured," said Roger. "I owe so much to the Methodist people and have learned the way of Jesus in this Church. I hope to encourage us to continue to be a learning, loving and outward-looking community for transformation of the world."



Rachel Lampard - Vice-President of the Conference 2016/2017

Rachel Lampard is the daughter of a Methodist minister and her early memories are of sitting at the manse kitchen table, discussing religion and politics. These twin passions have continued throughout her life. Growing up in London in the 1980s, she was deeply affected by increasing homelessness. On leaving university she found work with housing charities, including Catholic Housing Aid Society leading their policy and campaign work.

Rachel began working for the Methodist Church in 2000 and in 2008 became Team Leader of Joint Public Issues Team, a collaboration of four denominations, including the Methodist Church, campaigning and speaking out on issues of poverty, climate change and peace.

Rachel says, "Methodists care about God's world. I'm excited by how Methodists, inspired by God, get stuck

in and have such a passion for justice.”
In 2006 Rachel was appointed as a Commissioner with the Gambling Commission, responsible for regulating the gambling industry. She focused particularly on protecting children and vulnerable people. She was awarded an MBE for her efforts in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Rachel is married to Steve and they have three children.

Open Gardens

For some years Hockley Parish Council has organised a Hockley 'Best Garden' competition, with entries for large, medium and small gardens. This year it was decided to have a change and several owners were asked to open their gardens on the same afternoon in July. Five agreed to do so - about the right number to enable visitors to see them all in one afternoon.

There was one single charge to be divided equally among the participants and each garden owner selected a separate charity to receive their share, along with any money received from the sale of refreshments and plants. We were happy to take part, as were David and Linda Clarke.

We were blessed to have a warm, sunny day, so a large number of people were able to enjoy the very different gardens on show. We raised over £170 through the sale of plants and refreshments, so that with donations and receipts from programme sales, we shall be able to send about £330 to our chosen charity 'All We Can', the Methodist Relief and Development fund.

Many thanks to all the good friends and my son and granddaughter who were there to help. We couldn't have done it without them or indeed without the visitors.

Kay Deedman

Thursday Social Club

It was a trip to Elwy Lodge on Thursday 26th May for our club's annual garden visit. We set off by varied and devious routes to Woodham Walter to see the delightful garden at Elwy Lodge, specially opened for us by its owner, David Cox, who is an assistant county organiser of the National Gardens Scheme. He welcomed us with an introductory talk about the way the garden had developed over the last twenty years. There was a lot to see, with a lovely lawn, wildlife pond, unusual plants and trees, a summerhouse and a very productive kitchen garden, all in a wonderful setting with views over open countryside towards the Blackwater estuary, including a very distant view of the Bradwell Power Station. Maintaining the garden seemed to be virtually a full-time job but David found time to offer us his own home-made cakes along with a welcome cup of tea. A very inspiring garden and best of all, the rain held off.

With an absence of invites to the Queen's very own 90th birthday celebrations we were thankful for the very kind invitation from Stan and Joyce to hold our very own 90th birthday celebration at their home on Thursday 9th June. We were royally seated at tables in the lounge and provided with welcome cold drinks and nibbles before taking part in a Royal Quiz devised by Ray. The quiz consisted of related questions about our queen and major events during her reign. The knowledge shown by our members had to be seen to be believed.

These are a few of the questions with answers shown on page 20.

1. What is Prince Philip's nickname for the Queen? a) Broccoli, b) Cabbage, c) Cauliflower, d) Lettuce
2. Given the initials T.L.I.M.S. what is the Queen's favourite hymn?
3. In which English county is Prince Charles's home of Highgrove?
4. The Welsh national anthem is "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau". What does this translate to in English?

Our last club meeting for the season was an afternoon strawberry tea at the home of Kay and Michael on Thursday 23rd June. We had hoped to take part in a few outdoor games on their well manicured lawn but unfortunately the heavens opened as we were about to start and we had to retire inside as the rain came down.

With the EU referendum being held that day Michael had compiled a suitable quiz as a back up in case of inclement weather. With the rain ceasing to relent we settled down in teams to exercise our brain cells. We started with a picture round with famous sights from around Europe needing to be identified. Not as easy as it

seems. The second and final round was flags from around Europe. I'm almost certain that we all recognised the United Kingdom flag but the other flags were more difficult. Time to eat now and we were treated with various dishes of strawberry delights and an assortment of cakes. Kay and Michael did us proud and we all left with very full stomachs.

We have two summer outings planned this year and members are invited to join us on the following visits with dates to be advised later.

The first event is the Epping and Ongar Railway and we also have planned a trip to the Beth Chatto Gardens, near to Colchester.

Our AGM is in September.

Ray Williams



Thursday Club has recently changed its starting time to 7.30 pm when in a member's home **but** when in the church then the starting time is 8.15 pm (because the Cubs meet until 8 pm).

New members are always welcome.



Here's the programme for August & September in 2016

PLEASE PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

These details are also on the Church Calendar at

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

Thursday 18th August - Messy Holiday Walk

Family Walk & Picnic Lunch Hockley Woods. Coffee Morning and Activities at Church at 10.00am, followed by a short buggy-friendly stroll through the Woods starting at 11.00am and picnic in the playground around 12 noon. In the Hall if it's wet.

Monday 29th August - Danbury - 5½ miles

Danbury Country Park, Blakes Wood & Lingwood Common. Leave Church Car park 10:30am. Bring Sandwiches

Sunday 25th September - Hockley - 4½ miles

A short afternoon walk round Hockley and Hawkwelldist starting and finishing at 36 Orchard Avenue. Leave at 2:30pm.

Please make sure you have sturdy walking shoes (not "fashionable" trainers) or boots, plus waterproofs and something warm to wear. Always bring something to drink. All these walks are fairly straightforward but any activity like rambling (even the inactive variety!) needs care so please watch what you're doing and keep an eye on any young people.

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



Out of the Mouths of Innocents

The Good Samaritan

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up..."

Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Unanswered Prayer

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

Being Thankful

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

Dorothy Clifford

Answers to Thursday Club's 'Europe' Quiz

1. b) CABBAGE
2. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
3. GLOUCESTERSHIRE
4. LAND OF MY FATHERS

Please note that the deadline for the October/November issue of the LINK is Monday 19th September.

All articles will be gratefully received.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUN	Morning Worship Children's activities every Sunday	10.30 am 10.20 am
MON	Brightstars Parent & Toddler Group <i>contact Linda 07964 864872</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 12.00 – 1.00 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 gospelrocksc@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	PIYO Pilates & Yoga <i>contact Rachel Yates 07990513413</i> U3A Floral Art Group, 4 th Thursday in the month <i>contact Irene 202975.</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> church	9.30 – 10.30 am 1.30 – 4.30 pm 5.15 – 6.15 pm 6.30 – 8.00 pm 7.30pm, alternate weeks 8.15pm if in the
FRI	Pilates, <i>contact Tracy Bateman, contact 07916954966</i> Friday Club (years 3-7) <i>contact Wendy S 200484</i> Friday Club + (years 7 & upwards) Contact Rev Phil Warrey 01268 770333	9.15 – 10.45 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:**
phil.warrey@methodist.org.uk
Web: www.hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk