

HOPE

Replace your worry with hope.

And fulfil your hope with action.

Send positive thoughts to your most troubling situation.

Soon you'll find yourself starting to act on those thoughts.

Instead of worrying about the worst that could happen,

Allow yourself to hope for the best that can happen.

In your mind, make the most positive outcome real.

Hope for the best, with passion, conviction and faith.

For when you do, you'll begin to see real,

Workable ways to get there.

There is no situation so desperate that it cannot be turned around.

Always, there is a place and a purpose for hope.

Hope for the best, and let that hope push you forward.

With hope in your heart, you're well on your way.

Author unknown

The Link

Between you and

Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church



October/November 2017

No.51

Editor's Note

I am grateful to all who have contributed to this issue of The Link.

The deadline for our December/January magazine is
Monday 13th November.

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

Issue: 189



HOCKMIRA takes to the water!

On Thursday 24th August 26 of us went aboard The Hydrogen, a Thames sailing barge, in Maldon and enjoyed a two hour cruise with afternoon tea. It made a change from walking – we're thinking of rebranding as **HOCKMISA**—Hockley Methodist's Infrequent Sailing Association. Next year RMS Queen Mary 2!!





PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY

Details of the walk will also be on the Church website

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

LAST WALK OF 2017

Saturday 21st October - Matching -5½ miles

Pub lunch then a rural walk through fields, woodland and gently-rolling countryside.

Leave the Church car park at 11:30am.

Contact Mike or Mu Pregnall on 01702 204748 or e-mail hockleymeths@live.co.uk if you want further details of this walk or need a lift.

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.



Greetings

To all the People of Hockley & Hawkwelldist Methodist Church

May I present myself and my wife Valerie as we come to live and work amongst you. There will be those whom I have already met but I suspect a great number of you have yet to make our acquaintance. It will take time to remember all the names including those I have already been given.

It has been a difficult time of transition for all of us for different reasons. You have lost a minister very close to your hearts who has done great things whilst he was here. He has now moved on, which happens in Methodism frequently and been replaced by someone new that you do not know. All I would say to you is that my wife and I will do our best to serve you, despite our limitations.

As you well know I am coming to terms with having had emergency spinal cord surgery and although it has been deemed a success, it will be sometime before the nerves begin to work together again or so I am told. Obviously this gives me limited movement but the brain is still there as those who have met me I hope will testify to.

Both Valerie and I are looking forward to working at Hockley with the exciting things you have going for you. You have a good mix of people who seem to get on well with each other showing a certain amount of tolerance.

This first letter is just a taster for what is to come. I will take time to tell you my life story, breaking up into little manageable pieces so that you are not bored or fall asleep.

All I would want to say in closing is that I am here because I saw a need in the church generally which was short of about sixty ministers, and decided that I would respond to God's call once again. We both look forward to the times ahead at Hockley. It will not be all plain sailing but I think you realise that. Let us man the oars together, turn our helm towards to deep and trust in the Lord to guide us and protect us.

Every Blessing

Steve and Valerie

Welcome to Steve and Valerie

It has been a great pleasure to welcome Steve and Val to our church. A number of us went to the welcome service at Rayleigh when Steve and Val were welcomed along with two other ministers for the circuit and a youth worker and a mission enabler. Steve is still recovering from his emergency operation in July and we wish him well for a continued return to full mobility.

We enjoyed our first service together, which was the youth service, on September 10th. Steve played and led the band as well as leading worship. Afterwards we all enjoyed sharing food from the barbecue and it was an opportunity for us all to chat to the children and hear about their exploits through the summer. A number of our older group are now at work but they made sure they were free so they could help out and share in this special time together. Well done to them!!!

The service was most enjoyable. Our 'Hand in glove puppets' performed two items. They have had a lot of practices through the summer and really excelled in this service. Our thanks to Muriel and all the young people and their parents who give up their time.

The band, too, was much appreciated and their contribution to our special services is always welcomed. We are lucky to have such talented musicians. Our thanks to all of them.

We are very grateful that Steve was led to offer himself again for circuit ministry and really hope that he and Val will enjoy their time with us.

Don't forget to keep the weekend of October 7th and 8th free when we celebrate Harvest Festival with parade and gifts and All Age worship. Steve will be leading worship on that day.

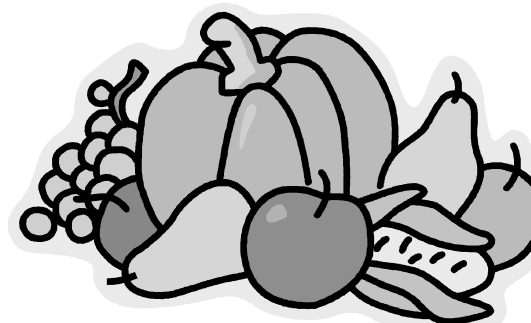
Anne Sains

HARVEST SUPPER

On

Saturday 7th October

We will be joined by the folk from St. Peter & St. Paul's Church.



HARVEST FESTIVAL & PARADE SERVICE

On

Sunday 8th October at 10.30am

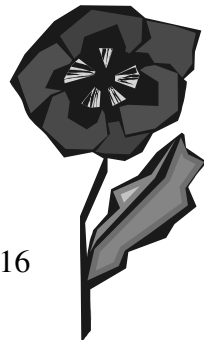
led by Revd. Steve Watts

All are warmly invited to share in the weekend of harvest celebration

REMEMBRANCE 1914 to....?

*The call has come; they gather as one,
From mill and factory, from farm and home
Little they know of the years ahead,
Many will sadly soon be dead.
After the training the Channel is crossed,
Foreign soil is where most are lost.
The killing fields beckon; the enemy's there,
Shells are dropping, noise everywhere.
They dive for cover and hit the ground,
Bullets fly, smoke all around.
On the attack - the brave lads try,
Many fall; so many die!
Remember them - yes, but learn from our history,
In countless conflicts, mad human misery.
When will the blood no longer be spilled,
When will the earth with peace be filled?
Remember and honour them; we're their tomorrow.
Remember their sacrifice, where many will follow.
As we see it repeated more and more,
Remember and honour them, stop the war!*

Alan Edwards



Church Family

Welcome

To everyone who comes to our church for worship, social events or any of the many activities held here. If you would like a home visit please speak to a church steward.

Illness

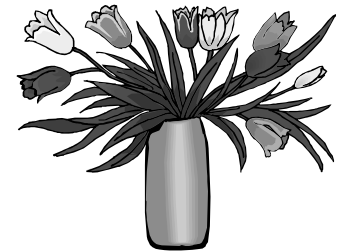
Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are unwell, having hospital treatment or facing difficult times. Especially we think of Sheila Hayman who is in a care home for the time being, Harold Collingridge and Ruth Tilleray. We give thanks for Vivienne Mackenzie's quick recovery from surgery.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Heartiest congratulations to Sandra and Colin Allison who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversar

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 Sunay	Anne Sains	S.202010



Coffee Rota

October	November	December
1 st Kath	5 th Kath	3 rd Kath
8 th Di & June	12 th Kay & Michael	10 th Kay & Michael
15 th Kay & Michael	19 th June & Joyce	17 th June & Joyce
22 nd June & Joyce	26 th Di & June	24 th Di & June
29 th Di & June		31 st Kay & Michael

Thursday Social Club Report, 2016/17

The year began with the traditional annual general meeting at which Ray was elected Chairman; Michael minutes secretary, Joyce programme secretary, Chris treasurer and Jean, Vivien, Linda and Kay committee members. At that meeting Phil Warrey cast a retrospective look over his four years in the circuit. When he eventually left for Ledbury in July, the Club presented him with a picture of the church, one which had in fact been presented to one of his predecessors, Rev Sam Connolly, some years before and had subsequently found its way back to Hockley following his death. As a picture of the Phil's first church as an ordained minister it seemed appropriate to pass it on to him. There is a photo record of the occasion by the side entrance, close to the new automatic doors.



Our meetings then followed a pattern of talks and outings, punctuated with those evenings when we entertained ourselves. Our speakers included David Clarke with his fine garden photographs, Nick Hart on Havens Hospices, David Williams on the River Thames, Chris and Olive on their trip to Canada, Laura Cook on the charity , All we Can, Judith Cook on Essex churches, Rosemary Springer on the SOS Bus project and our Superintendent minister Peter Moorhouse. There were trips to museums at Rayleigh and Southchurch, to a clinic in Rochford, to the Meadow Croft Garden Centre and to the Hawkwell Astronomy Centre on a particularly cloudy evening. In December we held a Christmas celebration in the church, an evening of carols, poems and readings enjoyed too by a number of visitors, with the bonus of solos performed by Ros Hayman.

The annual lunch was once again held at the Anchor at Runsell Green and Chris and, Olive provided a wonderful strawberry tea at their June garden party, an occasion when we also said farewell to Peter Cuthbert, a long-standing member, on the eve of his move to Chiswick. In August visits were arranged to Writtle University College for a conducted tour of the gardens and to the World War I airfield at Stow Maries.

You can see we had a full and varied programme and as usual we are indebted to those who arranged each event, to those providing refreshments and to those who allowed us into their homes. Having a start time of 8.15 for meetings on church premises is not ideal so the support of members who might understandably be reluctant to turn out at that time on a winter's night is very rewarding and indeed necessary to encourage those who arrive earlier to set up the meeting, greet the speaker and lock up afterwards. Thank you all very much.

Michael Deedman

On the Home Front World War II

My earliest memory is that of the bomb. Not the bang, I don't remember that, but of being thrown by my mother into our Anderson shelter and landing on top of my sister who my mother had thrown down the steps a split second before. My older sister was screaming and my mother was telling us to sing and I couldn't make out what the problem was, why was my sister crying? Why was my mother telling us to sing?

What I don't remember was that earlier in the day my mother had taken us into town shopping and on the way there we met the lady from next door but one with her little girl. The little girl was highly excited and showed us her new pair of bright red shoes and told us that when she got home she was going to put them on and dance and dance and dance.

Then came the afternoon, we were in the garden and my mother was taking the washing from the line when 'Tugboat Annie' sounded. 'Tugboat Annie' was the imminent warning that sounded just like a ship's hooter and followed the usual air raid siren, but that day there'd been no time for sirens to tell us something bad was on the way. Dad ran next door to make sure that the old lady who lived there was safe just as a dive bomber started his attack. Mum picked my sister and me up and threw us into the Anderson just as the bomb went off.

My dad was really lucky, as he was going into next door the bomb exploded and the only injury he had was a bump on the head when his head smacked into the door, my mum said later that she didn't expect to see him alive again. The old lady was uninjured but only next door to them, the little girl along with her mother and seven other people died.

I often think of that little girl and she is always the first person that comes to mind on Remembrance Day. She'd have probably been a grandmother by now but I like to imagine her in her own little patch of heaven wearing those bright red shoes and dancing, dancing, dancing.

Roger Stapenhill
taken from the Parish Window

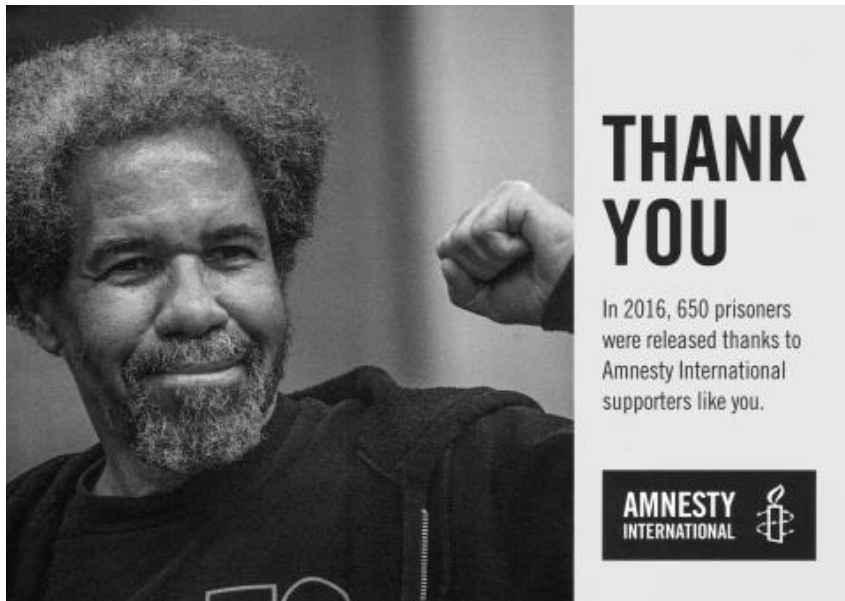
Remembrance Day Service

The annual Remembrance Day Service will take place at Hockley War Memorial on Sunday 12th November at 2pm.

Amnesty International Southend Group

Every so often members and friends support the work Muriel and I do on behalf of Amnesty with the Southend Group. We appreciate that support and thought you should see this evidence that our efforts do bear fruit.

This is a card sent to us by Amnesty's UK Section. "Thank you" to anybody who's helped us by writing or making a donation.



Albert Woodfox was one of 650 prisoners released last year. Held in solitary confinement for 44 years by the US state of Louisiana, Albert was finally released in February 2016. This is his message to you:

"Even when it feels like you are not going to win, when you grow disillusioned with politics which put greed before people's human rights, when you don't think you can make a difference -please remember that if you had not taken a stand and joined hundreds of thousands of activists around the world, I may not have been able to write this to you today."

Mike Pregnall

This is a "thank you" letter sent to Kay and Michael who donated their proceeds from the Open Gardens held in July to 'All We Can'

11 August 2017

Dear Mr Deedman



Thank you very much for your recent donation of £300.00 and for choosing to make a difference to people in some of the world's poorest communities through All We Can.

It is because of the generosity of our supporters that last year, together, we have helped change the lives of more than 587,000 men, women and children in poor communities, supporting them to become all that they can. From providing lifesaving aid to Syrian refugees, to helping marginalised elderly people in Cameroon find friendship and gain a livelihood, everything is possible because of your generosity combined with the generosity of other supporters.

You are making all the difference for people like Hannah Nayah, a 90-year-old widow in Cameroon, who singlehandedly takes care of three children and seven grandchildren, including the children of one of her deceased children. Thanks to amazing support like yours, despite her inability to read or write, Hannah was able to join a group run by a local organisation All We Can works with to learn about medicinal plant cultivation, bee farming and gardening. She now successfully runs a private garden, two bee hives and raises an income through the production and sale of medicinal ointment. As Hannah explains, "I used to sit and see no future for my family. Now, I see a big future. I know that even if I die today, work will continue and my family will be fine."

This is just one example of All We Can's work helping people in some of the world's poorest communities to become all that they can. Once again, thank you for helping this change become possible.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Beresford

Head of Fundraising and Supporter Services

Shoeboxes for the Homeless

Friday Club and Friday Club + are collecting shoe boxes with Christmas contents to give to the homeless in our local area and would be pleased if our congregation could join in too.

The shoe boxes would need to be wrapped so that the lid can open and filled with a varied assortment of treats. Suggested items could be:-

- Adult sized Christmas socks
- Small packs of sweets like haribous
- Sachets of hot chocolate, tea, coffee, sugar
- Small packs of biscuits
- Chocolate Christmas tree decorations
- Toiletry items

This is not a complete list and you may come across something that you feel would be ideal.

It may be that if you have a box ready you could start soon and pick up things through October and November to complete the donation. Even if you manage a part filled box we can make sure it will be completed in time for Christmas.

Many thanks.

Friday Club and Friday Club +



Knitted baby blankets for the neo natal unit at Basildon

In light of recent world events, this year the Friday Club youth groups will be focusing on the topic "Be kind to one another".

To kick this off over the autumn/winter months we were hoping to replicate and possibly beat last year's efforts, which saw our Friday plus group knit squares that ultimately made up 6 baby blankets. These lovely bright blankets were donated to the Neo natal baby unit at Basildon hospital in time for Christmas 2016. Please see the photo of them proudly displaying the finished articles.

As I'm sure there are a few more proficient knitters in the congregation, we would be very appreciative of their help in trying to reach a possible 10 blanket drive this year (or more)! Last year we did a square pattern, this year we're going for stripes.

The basic pattern is:

Double knit wool - primary colours

Size 8 needles

Plain stitch, single coloured strips measuring 5 inches by 25 inches.

Each blanket will consist of 7 brightly coloured stripes.

Sally Ann and I will then stitch them together and get the Youth club members to crochet around the edges to finish them off! That's the plan ... and to hand them all over in time for Christmas 2017.

If you would like to help or have any questions please grab either Sally Ann or me and hopefully we'll have an answer!

Thanks in advance from the Friday Clubs.

Merle



At present our church meetings are scheduled to commence at 8.15pm but this could be brought forward to an earlier start. Any change in time will be informed to all members.

Sept 28	- Rev. Michael Moon	- Time In Australia
Oct 12	- Lisa or Mark	- HARP
Oct 26	- Olive and Chris	- Canadian Holiday (part 2)
Nov 9	- Ron Holloway	- 32 Years A Policeman
Nov 23	- Theatre Visit	- "Singing in the Rain" - Details to follow
Dec 7	- Christine Holloway	- Coalhouse Fort and Me
Dec 14	- Christmas Festivity	

Ray Williams



SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Bazaar Saturday 18th November at Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church from 10am

This year we are having an early Christmas bazaar and would like the support of the church with various items to help our event to be a great success.

The stalls will be:

*Home Made Cakes and Jams
Toys and a Children's Tombola
Books and Jig saws
A Gift Stall
Hand Made Crafts and Cards
Jewellery
Tombola*

If you have any suitable items that you may care to donate for any of these stalls it will be much appreciated.

Christmas Hamper

We are also going to make up a Christmas Hamper for the raffle prize and we are asking if you would all donate an item to help fill the hamper. At the back of the church there will be a list of items that we are asking for so please put your name against your choice and place your gift in the hamper.

Thank you.

Thursday Social Club

On Wednesday 2nd August 2017 our group paid a visit to Writtle Agricultural College near Chelmsford. Our first port of call however was the nearby Lordship Tea Rooms which is part of the Wilkins Tea Rooms group. This is just across the road from the college and a perfect place to stop for tea and cakes.



On arrival at the tea rooms it was comparatively quiet but within a short time it soon began to fill. Despite being busy we were soon served by the courteous staff and were enjoying the pleasant atmosphere. With the time ticking on we left The Lordship Tea Rooms for the short drive to Writtle Agricultural College.

We parked at the entrance to the college and were met by our guide. After a preliminary introduction we were then shown around the extensive grounds where students had been put to work digging the plots and planting hundreds of plants. Japanese knotweed had been a persistent problem and the words that kept returning were "double digging". This apparently is the only way to resolve the problem. The students' quarters were pointed out and from the description it seemed more like a top class hotel. As we walked round the grounds the sky above us became darker by the minute. With perfect timing our guided walk came to an end as the first spots of rain began to fall. If you want to know about plants make sure you book a visit now. Lovely natural surroundings and a most informative guide.

A completely different venue for our second summer outing on Wednesday 23rd August 2017 as we visited the Stow Maries Aerodrome near Maldon. In World War 1 this aerodrome was paramount in protecting our region in the face of provocation from German forces.

Arriving at the aerodrome we met up in the car park before the short walk to the reception area to be greeted by their volunteer staff. Our guides introduced themselves as we were shown the way to the Airmen's Mess where our tables had been prepared for us. The staff took our orders and within minutes had brought us our teas and coffees supplemented by plates of biscuits placed on our tables. Models of World War 1 planes were suspended from the ceiling helping to recreate an atmosphere of yesteryear.

A full programme had been arranged and we were then introduced to Russell Savory who was to give us a talk on the wildlife in the area. You may know Russell from his many appearances on TV's Springwatch and Autumnwatch programmes. We were due to be taken around their conservation area by Russell but he had recently had a

knee operation and was confined to a wheelchair. A screen had been set up in an adjoining room and on finishing our teas and coffees we joined Russell for his film show. Owls are prevalent in this area and films of barn owls, tawny owls, and snowy owls entertained us. An amusing film of weasels playing was one of my favourites closely followed by films of rabbits chasing around the aerodrome. The films completed we had time to spare before our pre booked lunch.

This gave us the opportunity to explore the well stocked gift shop and the museum next door. Stow Maries was an important aerodrome in the defence of Britain and many of the young airmen were local lads.

Time for lunch and we made our way back to the Airmen's Mess. On entering we were impressed by the presentation of our reserved tables. Our pre booked orders of cottage pie, salmon or jacket potatoes with various fillings were soon brought in to us. We were spoilt by the offering before us. We somehow had to find room for our desserts of either profiteroles or apple crumble and custard. I must recommend the apple crumble and custard which you would find hard to beat. Teas and coffees followed adding to our culinary pleasure. Before we were able to leave our tables an unexpected gift of After Eights were placed on our table.

Our aerodrome guide arrived and we joined him for a walk around the hangars which displayed many features of interest. It is hard to believe that one hundred years ago many airmen died protecting our country and many of these airmen did not see their twentieth birthday. The final hangar visited contained reproductions of Sopwith Camels, Sopwith Pups and many more World War One planes. The expertise shown by the volunteers was phenomenal.

If you ever get the chance to visit this historic site you must go. We completed our visit by purchasing souvenirs from the well stocked gift shop before saying goodbye to Stow Maries Aerodrome.

On Thursday 14th September 2017 we held our AGM at the home of Stan and Joyce. After many years of being our hard working secretary, Joyce has decided to stand down and we could not let her go without rewarding her exemplary service with a small gift. We are fortunate in being able to welcome Viv Allmey to take up the post of being our new secretary. All other committee members remain in their original posts and Olive Davis has kindly agreed to join our committee. With increasing costs for external speakers we have agreed to increase member's annual subscriptions to £20-00. With no further business we closed our meeting.

Meetings to come:-

With the exception of our theatre visit all meetings will be at our church.

The deadline for the next issue of The Link is November 13th

Please make a note of this in your diary

NOTICES

Holly is taking care of the Church Notices. Contributions will need to be given to her, left in the box at the back of Church or sent to hmmc1883@gmail.com. Please have regard to the deadline that appears in the Notices each week - it will usually be the preceding Thursday.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUN	Morning Worship	10.30 am
	Children's activities every Sunday	10.20 am
MON	Brightstars Parent & Toddler Group	9.30 – 11.45 am
	contact Linda 07964 864872	
	Ballroom Sequence Dancing (in the hall)	7.30 – 9.30 pm
	contact Fay 01268 780028	
	Triple H Community Choir (in church)	7.30 – 9.30 pm
	contact Ashley 07581390448	
TUE	Dru Yoga Class contact Ruth on 07818599183	10.00–11.30 am & 7.30 – 9.00 pm
	Messy Church (3 rd Tuesday each month)	4.00 – 5.30 pm
	Contact Anne S. 202010	
WED	PIYO Pilates & Yoga contact Rachel Yates 07990513413	9.30 – 10.30 am
	Bible Study followed by a Communion Service 2 nd Wed.	3.00 – 4.00 pm
	contact Anne S 202010 or 07739184627	
	2nd Hockley Brownie Pack: contact Amy Ensum, S 470134	5.30 – 7.00 pm
	amyensum@hotmail.com	
	Badminton Club: contact Wendy S 200484	7.30 – 9.30 pm
	Gospel Rocks Choir (in Church)	8.00 – 10.00 pm
	Contact: Hannah Conacher gospelrockscs@gmail.com	
THU	50+ Keep fit, contact Julie 07912622483	9.15–10.00 am
	50+ Stretch & Trim: contact Julie 07912622483	10.15–11.00 am
	U3A Floral Art Group, 4 th Thursday in the month	1.30 – 4.30 pm
	contact Irene Morris 01787 310265.	
	1st Hockley Beaver Colony: contact Jane S 203739	5.15 – 6.15 pm
	1st Hockley Cub Scout Pack contact Mike, 01702 201253	6.30 – 8.00 pm
	or email hockleycubs@yahoo.co.uk	
	Thursday Social Club: contact Joyce S 201635	7.30pm, alternate weeks 8.15pm if in the church
FRI	Pilates. Contact Mrs Tracy Bateman 07961 954966	9.15 – 10.45am
	Email tracybateman1107@aol.com	
	U3A Play Reading Group (every 3 rd Friday)	11.00 - 1.00pm
	Contact Coral Kathro 01702 201252	
	Email coralkathro@gmail.com	
	Friday Club (years 3-7) Contact Merie Kebbell 07796 958343	6.00 – 7.30 pm
	Friday Club + (years 7 & upwards) ,, ,,	6.45 – 8.15 pm

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