

The Link

Between you and the Church



Editor's Note

I am grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of The Link sadly, a thinner one this time. Please note that the next issue will be our Easter one and the deadline is Monday 12th March.

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: 191

Invitation to everybody in the Circuit

Mission is...On the cards

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

What does, and what might, Mission look like in your Church, in the Circuit?

Come along and explore mission in a relaxed, friendly way, using a resource (a card game) produced by the Church Mission Society...

Saturday 10 February 10.00 – 12.00 at Highlands Methodist Church

The plan is -

- gathering and prayer**
- a game of 'Cards' through which we hope to chat about:**
 - o **where we are at – sharing and celebrating the good things we are doing**
 - o **where we might go next**
 - o **what we would need to go further, or in a new direction**
 - o **how we might help each other**
- coffee and cake**
- conclusion/prayer**

RSVP to Pam (Pamela Smith - 01702 557702 or psmithp148@aol.com) asap

If somebody from your church could come and play once before the day it would really help! If a few people have played the game we can spend more time on the day having the conversations and less time worrying about the rules. If each church in the Circuit could have one or more players who know what they are doing on the morning we would be off to a flying start!

So if you can come to a preview, on **Thursday 1st February at 148 Highlands Boulevard at 8.00pm** please join us! Let Pam know so there is enough cake to go round...

More information may follow but, if you have any questions ...do ask Luke Dobson or Pamela Smith...

We believe every Christian – and ultimately every person – is called to join in God's mission and has the potential to bring challenge, change, hope and freedom to the world. We all have a part to play.

The call today

We believe all of God's people are called to join in God's mission. But there are lots of things that keep people from putting this call into action: confusion, fear, busy-ness, lack of resources, lack of support; the list goes on. We want to cross things off that list and help set people free from whatever is holding them back from mission

Church Family

Bereavement: We send our love, prayers and deepest sympathy to the families of Ray Williams and Colin Allison whose mothers have recently passed away.

Illness: Our prayers are asked for Harold Collingridge, Sheila Hayman, Eunice Burge, June and Arthur Waterfield and all who are experiencing difficult times.

Coffee Rota

February

4th Kath
11th June & John
18th Di & June
25th Kay & Michael

March

3rd Kath
11th June & John
18th Di & June
25th Kay & Michael



Flower Rota

1 st Sunday	Kay Deedman	S.202802
2 nd Sunday	T.B.A.	
3 rd Sunday	Linda Clarke	S.204559
4 th Sunday	Linda Williams	S.204309
5 th Sunday	Anne Sains	S.202010



Lunchtime Concerts

Chelmsford has become a very good shopping centre, especially with the arrival of John Lewis, all the new shops in Bond Street and a large underground car park. On Fridays there is the added attraction of market stalls, including quality bread, fish and greengrocery. An additional perk which Michael and I enjoy is the lunchtime concert in the cathedral, with performances by choirs, instrumentalists and organists. Although the concert starts at 12.30 (and lasts about three-quarters of an hour) it's best to be there soon after midday to make sure of a seat; it is a very popular event. Before the start of the concert the Cathedral ladies offer sandwiches, cakes and hot drinks for sale which you can sit and enjoy before the performance. The concert itself is free, just a collection plate at the door as you leave. You can look on the cathedral website for concert details but here are details for the next two months:

- 9 February: Forest School Chamber Orchestra
- 16 February: Stondon Singers (mixed voice choir)
- 23 February: The Stavias Trio (violin, cello, piano)
- 2 March: Organ Recital
- 9 March: Kristina Lian (soprano)
- 16 March: St. Cedd's School
- 23 March: Christine Stevenson (piano)

A Vicar's Life

It's rare to find a television programme about real church life. Michael and I have been enjoying "A Vicar's Life" on BBC2 on Fridays at 8.30pm. The series, filmed in Herefordshire, began on 19 January and is scheduled to run for 6 weeks. It's well worth watching.



Fairtrade Fortnight

Look out for Fairtrade products during Fairtrade Fortnight which this year runs from 26 February to 11 March.

Kay Deedman

Thursday Social Club

On Thursday 23rd November we visited the Palace Theatre in Westcliff for the "S.O.Ds" production of the well known musical "Singin in the Rain." The original 1952 film starred Gene Kelly and Donald O'Connor with Debbie Reynolds and Cyd Charisse. The exaggerated American accents were maintained throughout the show and the cast must be congratulated for their tap dancing skills and the inventiveness of their acting. The show featured many popular songs from the original film including "Make Em Laugh", "You Were Meant for Me" and the title number "Singin in the Rain." It is always a pleasure to see this local group and look forward to their next production "Kiss Me Kate" in April 2018.

It was a return to our church on Thursday 7th December for a talk by Christine Holloway entitled "Coalhouse Fort and Me." To anyone unaware, Coalhouse Fort is in East Tilbury and for much of Christine's childhood this was her home. The original construction was during the reign of Henry the Eighth (who else) and was built to protect us from our enemies across the channel. How times have changed. Over the years it did need a lot of work done to renovate this fortress and the latest reconstruction was built in the 1960s. For a number of years this was used as a storage facility by Bata Shoes. However since 1962 it has been taken over by Thurrock Council.

A week later we celebrated Christmas early with our very own "Christmas Festivity." We were delighted that both Peter Bennett and Ros Hayman were able to join us. A number of readings were heard together with some Christmas stories and the inevitable Christmas cracker jokes and these are a few examples.

"How do you toast bread in the jungle? Answer - "You find a gorilla"
And a golden oldie "What do you call a blind reindeer ?" Answer - "No eye deer."

I think I will leave it there.

The New Year programme opened on Thursday 11th January with our very own version of TV's "Room 101" held at our church. For the uninitiated Room 101 was featured in George Orwell's famous novel "1984." Room 101 was the designated site for any unwanted items in the novel. George Orwell completed this book in 1948 and it was published the following year.

Room 101 originally appeared on our TV screens in 1994 and was presented until 1997 by Nick Hancock. There was a few years gap before it hit our screens again in 1999 this time presented by Paul Merton who acted as presenter until 2007. Five years elapsed before Frank Skinner took over as presenter in 2012 and is still the current host.

I must thank all our members who volunteered to speak of their chosen subjects and who spoke so eloquently and passionately on their chosen subjects.

Amongst the subjects chosen were: Politicians, Southend, Supermarkets, Queuing, Rudeness, Cycling, Doctor's Surgeries, Quizzes, Home Fireworks and Political Correctness.

What would you put in Room 101?

Our next meetings are as follows

Thurs 25th January - A talk by Keith Price on "A Year of Trees." - at the church 7.30 p.m.

Wed 7th February - Lunch at the Anchor P.H, Danbury - Meet at The Anchor 12.30 p.m.

Thurs 22nd February - A talk by Mark Holland on "TBA" - at the church 7.30 p.m.

Thurs 8th March - "A Games Afternoon" with Chris and Olive at their home 2.30 p.m.

Thurs 22nd March - "Say What You See" with Chris and Olive at their home 2.30 p.m.



Ray Williams

Remembrance Sunday

Each Remembrance Sunday the church lays a wreath at the service held on the Sunday afternoon at Hockley's War Memorial.

This year the wreath was laid by Jessica and Annabelle Elkington, two young members of our church who proudly and perfectly laid the wreath at the foot of the memorial on behalf of the church.

Carolyn Sturgess

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting is on **Saturday 17th March**.

We will start with tea and coffee at 10.00am and the meeting will start at 10.30am.

This is a very important meeting where reports are received on the work of the Church over the last twelve months, where specific appointments are made and plans laid down. It is the chance for everybody to have the say about things past, present and future.

In the past we have had a five year plan which was reviewed annually. Now that Steve has joined us, it is time to set out a new plan together. There are five areas of our calling to consider, and each divided into short, medium and long term goals. The areas are (briefly)

- improving worship
- developing our community involvement
- developing our life together in learning
- plans for making more followers of Jesus Christ
- encouraging fresh ways of being Church
- developing a life together in caring

This plan gives the Church a framework within which the leadership team and minister can work together, knowing that it has been approved by the ACM.

Please do your best to be at this meeting and stay to share a light lunch together.

Muriel Pregnall & Anne Sains

Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church

Invites you to a

Pancake Morning

in the church hall 10-12 noon

on Saturday 17th February.

Buy two; get one free, various
fillings.



Weather Report 2017

Quite an odd year in many ways although in the end and, taken as a whole, it turned out to be pretty average. The first six months were much sunnier than usual, the last six months less so. It was actually the sunniest January since 2001, whereas September was the duller since that same year. Overall we enjoyed 1,700 hours of sunshine (just slightly better than the average of 1685hrs). June was the best month, February the worst (65 hours).

'Hot' days are those where the thermometer reaches 25°C. The first hot day fell on 16 May, earlier than usual and the last on 29 August. Altogether there were 25 such days in the year (about average) with the hottest day on 18 June. (30°). Indeed for one whole week in June, the maximum daytime temperature exceeded 25° every day. The coldest day was 26 January when the thermometer stayed below freezing for 36 hours. There was a late frost on 27 April, an early frost on 6 November and 75mm of snow on 10 December. The maximum daily temperature for the year was 14.9° (average 14.5°).

Rainfall over the year at 569mm was below average (610mm). March, April, October and November were markedly dry (the 14mm recorded for October was the lowest figure so far recorded for that month). May and September were markedly wet. 33mm of rain fell over two days on 11 and 12 July.

Back to June for a moment; in 2016 there were just 131 hours of sun. In 2017 there were 222 hours. It doesn't make fixing holidays in UK an easy matter.

Michael Deedman

CHURCH HEATING

At the moment I am the only person programming the heating for the church, coffee room and hall.

If anyone feels that they are able to help please let me know as I feel there should be more than one person available.

There are occasions when I am not around to reset the temperatures and I would be grateful if anyone felt able to assist.

Many thanks

Ray Williams

A Hymn for Mothering Sunday 11th March

(Taken from Singing the Faith)

- 1 We gladly celebrate and praise,
the gift so great and good,
through which God's kindness is made known:
the gift of motherhood.
- 2 We sing of Mary's mother-love:
for she, of all on earth,
received the privilege to bear
and bring God's Son to birth.
- 3 We pray that God's own mother-love
will hold in gentleness,
all children who have never known
a mother's tenderness.
- 4 For mothers, who with broken hearts,
are faced with grief and loss
we pray the Son of ~God will give
deep comfort from his cross.
- 5 We trust the mother-love of God,
who bears, in Mary's boy,
our pain and sorrow, to secure
our everlasting joy.

Alan Gaunt (b.1935)

FOR SALE – A Wii Rock Band - Drum Kit and Guitar - £50

Rock Band Drum Kit (model 19092) with drum sticks, pedal, dongle, microphone, etc.
Guitar (model no. 19091).

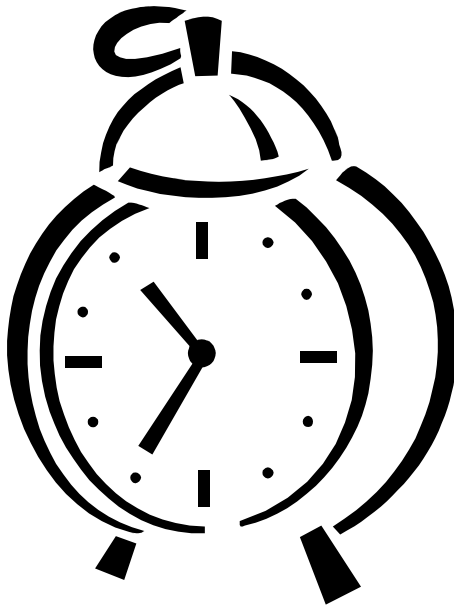


Includes The Beatles Rockband and Band Hero.
Given to Friday Club but only used occasionally.
Good condition.

Contact Mike 204748 if you're interested

Don't forget.

25th March – British Summer Time begins,
advance your clocks by one hour.



Future Dates to Note:

Palm Sunday 25th March

Good Friday 30th March

Easter Day 1st April

(No details of services are yet to hand)

**The deadline for the next issue of
The Link is Monday March 12th**

Please make a note of this in your diary

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 –9.30 pm 7.30 –9.30 pm
TUE	Dru Yoga Class <i>contact Ruth on 07818599183</i> Dru Yoga Class <i>contact Ruth on 07818599183</i> Messy Church (3 rd Tuesday each month) Contact Anne S. 202010	10.00–11.30 am 7.30 – 9.00 pm 4.00 – 5.30 pm
WED	PIYO Pilates & Yoga <i>contact Rachel Yates 07990513413</i> Bible Study followed by a Communion Service 2 nd Wed. <i>contact Anne S 202010 or 07739184627</i> 2nd Hockley Brownie Pack: <i>contact Amy Ensum, S 470134</i> amyensum@hotmail.com Badminton Club: <i>contact Wendy S 200484</i> Gospel Rocks Choir (in Church) Contact: Hannah Conacher gospelrocksc@gmail.com	9.30 – 10.30 am 3.00 – 4.00 pm 5.30 – 7.00 pm 7.30 – 9.30 pm 8.00 – 10.00 pm
THU	50+ Keep fit, <i>contact Julie 07912622483</i> 50+ Stretch & Trim: <i>contact Julie 07912622483</i> U3A Floral Art Group, 4 th Thursday in the month <i>contact Irene Morris 01787 310265.</i> 1st Hockley Beaver Colony: <i>contact Jane S 203739</i> 1st Hockley Cub Scout Pack <i>contact Mike, 01702 201253</i> or email hockleycubs@yahoo.co.uk Thursday Social Club: <i>contact Joyce S 201635</i>	9.15–10.00 am 10.15–11.00 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 church
FRI	Pilates. Contact Mrs Tracy Bateman 07961 954966 Email tracybateman1107@aol.com U3A Play Reading Group (every 3 rd Friday) Contact Coral Kathro 01702 201252 Email coralkathro@gmail.com Friday Club (years 3-7) Contact Merie Kebbell 07796 958343 Friday Club + (years 7 & upwards)	9.15 – 10.45am 11.00 - 1.00pm 6.00 – 7.30 pm 6.45 – 8.15 pm

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