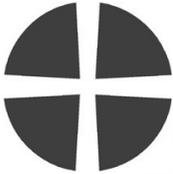


# ANNUAL REPORTS 2017-18



Hand in Glove Puppets



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

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# *Brightstars*

## **Worship team report**

Going over the year, it shows we have had a very busy time! Margaret Byford had been leading the Worship team really well but then, it was necessary for her to move to make it easier for Stuart's commute. We were very sorry to say goodbye but glad that she is able to visit us from time to time. Our grateful thanks to Margaret.

In April Laura Cook from Allwecan came and led worship. She introduced us to the idea of becoming a partner church and eventually we set this in motion. One thing that you can be certain with Allwecan is that your money will be targeted to deserving cases and will not be wasted.

Our Church Anniversary was a busy affair. Rev Phil led our worship with the puppets and the band. We enjoyed quiches, beef, ham, and salads with warm new potatoes and French bread. A large photo of the church family was taken and a good time was had by all. We then embarked on the long farewell, first with a circuit service at Rayleigh, then our farewell at Hockley and finally a section farewell at Rayleigh.

In amongst this we also welcomed the Scot's Boys brigade. We always enjoy having them as they are so polite and interesting to talk to. They were camping at Belchamps. Gill finished as a steward at the end of August and Muriel took her place. Our grateful thanks to Gill for all her hard work. She will still help out in an emergency and will attend some of our meetings.

In September we welcomed Rev Steve and Valerie to Hockley and Rayleigh. Steve had an emergency operation in July which meant he was not particularly mobile and his recovery is still ongoing. He has not let this stand in his way and has many good ideas and innovations that we are enjoying trying out.

At the beginning of September we had our Youth weekend with a barbecue afterwards when Steve and Valerie met our young people from Friday club and Friday club +

In October we shared our harvest tea with St Peter and St Paul and the food and fellowship were much enjoyed. Our organisations decorated the windows and at our Sunday Harvest festival service the uniformed organisations paraded and brought gifts of food for HARP. A couple of us handed out flyers and sweets at the Switching on of Hockley Lights. It was the coldest evening but very busy.

December is always a very busy month and December 2017 was no exception!

On the first weekend in December we had a great morning decorating the church. The Friday clubs had arranged a children's bazaar in the hall where they were selling items that they had made on their club evenings. They were also selling bacon rolls which were a big success. In no time at all the church was looking beautiful and all set for the season of advent.

The next day, we had a lovely service with plenty of children and families and toys and gifts were brought, Family Solutions who received our gifts came and collected the gifts after the service and were delighted. They have many needy families on their list

That evening we shared carols at Rupert Jarvis Court with Emanuel and St Mary's Hawkwell. It was a lovely gathering and very comfortable surroundings. If you have never been to Worship on the Move at Rupert Jarvis Court you should really give it a try.

### **Friday Night Out**

One of the special evenings that Steve had suggested we try was held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6.15pm. There were puppets, food and singing. We had lasagnes and coleslaw with salad, and a vegetarian choice. It proved to be a very enjoyable evening with families and friends from church and from our Friday clubs sharing the fun together.

We held our traditional Carol service on 17<sup>th</sup> December with Mince pies and refreshments.

Christingle and Christmas Day We had our full church as usual for our Christingle service. It is always a delight to see the children and their families there for the service and to see their faces when the candles are lit and we sing Away in a manger. The service on Christmas morning to celebrate Christ's birth was led by Rev Steve.

As a Worship Team we review services and meetings to see how we can improve. After Christmas we discussed any problems we had encountered.

We discussed the following:-

- a) As we didn't have a morning service on Christmas Eve we could not be sure that members were informed about the joint service at Rayleigh on 31<sup>st</sup> December. We need to have an up to date contact list and texting or other method to be able to quickly contact everyone.
- b) The congregation for the carol service at 6pm On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec was small. Do we encourage more families with the puppets and having it at 4pm?

The Worship team would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped, in any way with any of the many activities throughout the year. Without your help and support it would not be possible to do so much. Thank you all.

Anne Sains

Muriel Pregnall

Chris Holloway

Carolyn Sturgess

Gill Cross

I know the following really will belong in next year's report but I just want to encourage you to join in for as many of our Easter week services as possible.

Now Easter is fast approaching and we have a number of special services over the Easter season. We have a large advert in Hockley Living. Please bring friends and neighbours and families along. Can I specially recommend Palm Sunday – 25<sup>th</sup> March for parade and All-age worship, Maundy Thursday at **8pm** in our church for a reflective gathering with Rayleigh and Easter Day at **9.30am** , when a light breakfast will be part of the service.

On Good Friday the church will be open between **11am and 2pm** for personal reflection and mediation through art. It is being set up by Anne Briant and is something very special. Please come along.

**Anne Sains**  
**Worship Team Leader**

## **Cradle Roll**

I continue to remember Cradle roll children's birthdays; I also give them their copy of "The Link" to keep in touch.

We look forward to Amelia Youd's Baptism and welcoming her into our Church family in June, another very happy family occasion in the life of our Church.

**Gill Cross**  
**Cradle Roll Secretary**

## **Pastoral Visitors**

It is with sadness that we have to report the deaths of The Rev. Michael Hayman and Mr Harold Collingridge.

Michael came as a retired minister to live in Hockley and during his time here, he and his wife, Shelia, supported the church. He would often talk about the places he had worked and the people he had met. One of the things he worked hard for was the Whitechapel Mission.

Harold was a -long member of our Church and at one time he helped to run the church Scouts. Harold and I would have a laugh every January - we both made our own marmalade and after we had finished we would check who had made the most, even after his wife Jean died, he still carried on making it.

Both Michael and Harold, during their last few months, lived in local care homes where they were visited and supported by either Rev. Phil Warrey or members of the Church.

Mr Peter Cuthbert, another long-time member of the Church moved to London be nearer his son, and Mrs Mavis Nicholas moved to Scotland to live with her daughter as she needed more help with her husband Michael who is now in a wheel chair.

Margaret Byford has moved to Potters Bar but still supports us when she is in Hockley visiting the family.

Mrs Shelia Hayman is now in the Salvation Army care home in Southend residing along with Mrs Jean Hodges another former member of our Church.

Mr and Mrs Youd had a daughter, Amelia and Mr and Mrs Miller had a daughter, Maria.

I will not name anyone but at the moment a lot of our members and friends need a lot of support. It might be just a phone call or doing some shopping for them. Our church members are getting older and that brings a lot of support required to help them manage everyday life.

As you can see our church numbers have, due to various reasons, gone down this year. We said goodbye to the Rev. Phil Warrey and his wife Caroline and welcomed the Rev. Steve Watts and his wife Val. Due to Steve being unable to visit anyone it has fallen onto the Pastoral visitors to take over all the visiting so please support us if you are able to visit someone in hospital or in a rest home. Each pastoral visitor is

responsible for ten families and if you hear that someone needs support please let me know so that I can inform their Pastoral visitors.

The Pastoral visitors are Vivien Allmay, Gill Cross, Carolyn Sturgess, Kay Deedman, Muriel Pregnall and Anne Sains.

**Carolyn Sturgess**

## **Brightstars**

With the group getting ever popular we have now in the interests of safety closed during holiday times due to extended numbers.

New families seem to be joining each week to replace the older three year olds who have moved on up to pre-school.

Many of our parents have been with us for a number of years and now help to clear the tables and also pack away the toys in preparation for our group singalong. Parents have donated unwanted toys to our group to use in our activities or to pass on to charity shops.

We are very health and safety focused due to only catering for the age group 0 to 3 years. With this in mind tables and toys etc are sterilised on a regular basis. We receive great support from the parents and one of our fathers built a wooden sand tray for the group.

We see many parents making good friends with each other and it is good to see such good community spirit.

**Linda Williams**

## **Messy Church**

It seems amazing that we have shared our fourth Messy Christmas with a lovely group of families. Our nativity may not be polished but it allows all the children and adults to share in the wonderful magic of the Christmas story.

The tea party that follows is also much enjoyed.

Here, it is important to record grateful thanks to everyone who helps, in any way. It would be impossible without our many helpers.

Messy Church has a regular structure which starts with a welcome, then activities related to the story, the telling of the story and worship followed by sharing a meal together.

I think that many of our congregation would be amazed at the number of children and their families who are welcomed at our church, through the week to learn more of the Christ's love for us and to hear bible stories that we all grew up with.

Messy Church is every third Tuesday at 4pm – 5.30pm at the moment. It may be necessary to change this at some point so watch this space. There are a wide variety of arts and crafts and we have suitable toys and books for any little ones. Wonderful volunteers produce food for everyone to enjoy.

All are welcome.

**Anne Sains**

## **Property report 2017**

Our committee is made up of:-

Rev Steve Watts(Chair) Stan Rae (Treasurer) Michael Deedman, Ray Williams, Linda Williams, Carolyn Sturgess (Lettings) June Parkhurst, Anne Sains and Dave Jacobs

### **Church refurbishment.**

We had a very busy time, especially through the summer holiday. Some of the improvements have taken a while to get used to!!

The Automatic doors to the side entrance had some teething problems but have proved very useful for more convenient access. We were able to have them adjusted so that they didn't open from a distance. It was very difficult at first for Brightstars particularly.

The Movable wall on the stage will make a big difference for anyone who needs an extra area which is virtually soundproof. Linda will be able to use it for stories and special times with the older children at Brightstars.

The corridor was repainted and new carpet tiles laid to brighten up the entrance and the boards in the corridor were replaced.

A small group met in January to spring clean the church and everyone worked very hard. Grateful thanks to those who were able to come along. It happened to be Steve's birthday and he and Valerie provided a very enjoyable lunch.

Gill did her part on the Friday and left some delicious cakes with candles to add to the celebration.

### **Kitchen**

A committee, led by Mike Pregnall, has been formed to explore the possibilities for the complete refurbishment of the kitchen. They will seek estimates and then a decision will be made.

### **Quinquennial**

Our quinquennial survey was held in November

#### **The most urgent works were:-**

- a) The servicing of the boilers which was arranged immediately and completed soon after.
- b) Commissioning CCTV inspection of the drains which has been completed. We will seek three estimates for the work and then

we will undertake works to the drains and for drainage works to the carpark. After this we can arrange resurfacing.

- c) Instigating annual servicing of automatic doors. This will be arranged for August.

### **Essential within the next twelve months**

1. Replace broken external panel to disused church flue with air brick.
2. Overhaul rainwater goods and replace damaged cast iron downpipe.
3. Undertake external redecoration work.
4. Clean tanks and install additional fan to gent's toilet.
5. Undertake repairs to car park surface and remark the spaces

We will seek permission from the circuit at the next circuit meeting to undertake the works from the quinquennial so that TMCP will be able to pay from Bill's legacy.

### **The heating**

We have had a bit of a problem keeping the hall hot enough for activities but hopefully have resolved the problem. Ray has asked for more people to sign up to help with the heating. Ray asked that if there are unexpected lets or use of the premises when we have meetings could we let him know in plenty of time.

### **The grounds**

We are very grateful to Anthony who has been working on the grounds and keeping them neat and tidy. It is a huge job and has required a great deal of effort. Our thanks to Anthony.

### **Lettings**

There have been minor changes in our lettings and there are still many people requesting slots. There have been a good number of parties and Carolyn has worked very hard with opening up for these and checking everything is left tidy at the end. Our thanks to Carolyn.

### **Final thought**

Thanks to all the members of the committee who give up their time to help to ensure that the church premises are kept up to date. Grateful thanks, too, to the people who step up when things need doing, We couldn't do it without you!!

Thanks to, to Tamsyn our cleaner and her mum , who helps her and also to Steve H who comes in to keep the hall floor clean.

**Anne Sains  
Property Secretary**

### **Thursday Club**

Another very busy year has passed and I must take this opportunity to thank Joyce Rae for her many years service as our hard working secretary. We are most fortunate that we have a most able replacement as secretary in Vivian Allmey. We have had speakers on many differing subjects and our own club organised activities together with visits to theatres and also other places of interest. For various reasons we are down on membership to seventeen members. To accommodate our members we have started to organise afternoon events as an alternative to our normal evening meetings. We look forward to receiving any suggestions as to our organised programmes and also what we can all do to increase our membership.

**Ray Williams**

## **Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the balance sheet for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 follows this report. Details of receipts and payments in the various funds during that financial year can be found on papers pinned to the notice board in the coffee room and a personal copy can be made available on request.

The legacy left by William Potter made possible the installation of an improved heating system and automatically operated doors, as well as the replacement of the stage doors with a moveable wall. It also financed some ongoing property expenses which obviated the necessity to transfer money from the Church Fund to the Property Fund which had been necessary in previous years. However, the legacy cannot be used to pay the circuit assessment, which is funded mainly from Sunday offerings and income tax refunds on Gift Aided donations. This year there is likely to be a shortfall of some £2800 at a time when reserves are low. Gift Day and fundraising events, which are generously supported by friends of the Church as well as Church members, will help to alleviate this shortfall to some extent and we are grateful to those who give so willingly and cheerfully of their time and energy to organise these profitable and enjoyable occasions.

I should like to express my warmest thanks to David Clarke for the invaluable assistance he gives me throughout the year – the Assistant Treasurer without the title!

**Stan Rae**  
**Church Treasurer**

**Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church**  
**Balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2016-2015</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>	£	£
Bank Account	10,307.68	4,578.03
CFB Accounts	13,490.88	17,194.35
TMCP	168,145.72	206,739.43
	<u>191,944.28</u>	<u>228,511.81</u>

Representing Accumulated Funds

Church Fund	7,308.67	8,163.86
Property Fund	89.92	20.71
Building Reserve Fund	12,764.73	8,771.91
Benevolence Fund	307.63	683.55
Youth Fund	635.27	510.73
Admin Fund	2,676.79	3,548.46
William Potter Legacy	168,145.72	206,739.43
External Organisations	15.55	73.16
	<u>191,944.28</u>	<u>228,511.81</u>

I have examined the books and vouchers presented to me and I certify that these accounts represent a true statement of the funds for Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

Signed ..... Date.....

C.J.W. Davis

Independent Examiner appointed by the Church Council

## **Communications Team**

*(Multi Media and Website, etc.) Anne Sains, Holly Miller, Ron Chidwick, David Clarke, Billy Mawhinney, Muriel and Mike Pregnall.*

We've tried to publicise events at Church as widely as possible and hopefully getting our Billy-designed logo more widely recognised. We're now getting bigger and bolder posters when we can. We use the photo board to showcase what we've been doing. Where they have logos, we use them for each Church group to make publicity and identification more effective. The Link keeps members and friends aware of what's going on at Church while the Website and Facebook pages are used as a way of informing other parts of the Church family of our activities and are a means for others to contact us - if you're on Facebook, "like" us! If you'd like a link on your computer desktop so you can go directly to the website and Facebook page and don't know how to do it, let me know; my offer to come and set them up is still open, but hurry, the charge is going up each year – it's now a mug of tea and **TWO** biscuits!! The next idea being looked at is use of texting to contact people. We may also need to adjust how we keep personal data, to comply with provisions of the General Data Protection Regulations which come into effect in May; exciting stuff!

**Mike Pregnall**

## **HOCKMIRA**

We had enjoyable walks and pub meals in 2017, but not many walkers! But we persist – we go even if nobody else does.

The 2018 programme will be in the March/April edition of The Link, on the website and on posters in Church. Come along – the walks are fairly gentle and the exercise will do you good!! We're going on our annual trip to Woodbridge again this year and have some very pleasant walks nearer home.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Beaver Colony**

We currently have 20 Beavers on the register at the moment and will have 3 beavers moving up to Cubs at Easter. We have a healthy waiting list but would still like to encourage more girls to join.

We now have 3 Beaver Scout Leaders at 1st Hockley as we welcomed Ross Marsh as Assistant Beaver Leader Wolf in January. We also have 2 young leaders James and Macie.

We have had a busy year with Renewal of Promise and Fun Day last April which was well attended. The Summer term was mainly spend at Belchamps Scout Centre trying new activities and outdoor wide games. We also did a mini activity hike through Hockley Woods which was organised by our young leader James. We had a visit to Tesco for our "Farm to Fork Badge" and the beavers made a healthy bowl of cereal to take home.

We were sad to say Goodbye to Phil during the Summer Term but we spend a fun evening Shelter Building before surprising him with a card and some gifts from 1st Hockley Scout Group.

The highlight of the year was the visit by the Hawkwell Fire Engine and Crew to the Library Car Park just for our Beavers. They had great fun looking around the fire engine and even had time to have a go with the water and hoses at the end of the evening!

District Events were not so well support but we had one super Beaver Fletcher who took part in the District Hike - Well Done Fletcher. We are currently looking forward to the District Swimming Gala and hope to take the shield home again!

We try to make Beavers fun and enjoyable each week with some badge work, games and learning new skills as well. We hope to complete the Experiment badge and Personal Challenge this term. Some of the beavers have completed their Sports and Animal Friends Badges as well during the Autumn Term.

Thank you to all the parents for their support and those who have helped us on a parent rota during the last year.

**Jane & Diane (Fox)**

## **Badminton Club**

We currently have 7 regular members of the Badminton Club. During the last year we have, unfortunately, lost our younger club members due to job changes and relocation. We have, however, still managed to play throughout the year with only a few missed weeks for holidays.

As always new members are very welcome. We share a bit of competitive play but mainly we just enjoy ourselves and get a bit of exercise into the bargain. Feel free to come along and give it a try.

**Wendy Bennett**

## **Flower Arranging**

For as long as I can remember there has always been a display of flowers in the church on Sundays. Some of you may remember Dorothy Glasspool and her wonderful displays for Harvest and Christmas, when there was no space left on any windowsill. We now have a rota of Linda Clark, Linda Williams, Anne Sains and me but we badly need one extra helper. So if you feel you could manage an occasional weekend it would really help out, even if it's only a vase on the communion table.

If you have an Anniversary to celebrate or are remembering someone you have lost, we are happy to arrange flowers on your behalf, although if you would like to arrange them yourself - that's fine. We do try to take flowers to anyone on the sick list, if you are visiting someone who would be cheered by flowers, please ask after morning service.

**Kay Deedman**

## **Cub Scout Report**

The cub pack currently has 16 cubs, 2 leaders, a pack assistant and one young leader. Numbers have reduced from a high of 32 last summer following a successful transition to scouts of a large number of cubs.

Cubs enjoyed two nights away camping experiences in April and June. For our June camp we were joined by our friends from North Banbury pack with whom we have close ties.

In May we were delighted to retain the Crouch Valley District cross country trophy, the fourth time we have won this event in recent years. A three cub team also put in a magnificent effort to finish 2nd in the District swimming gala in November.

The summer months were spent at Belchamps taking part in activities towards the Adventure Challenge badge. Other pack meetings at the hall consisted of badge work and fun evenings.

We've had an encouraging attendance at Parade Services over the past year.

**Mike**

**Assistant Cub Scout Leader (1<sup>st</sup> Hockley Scout Group)**

## **Friday Club & Friday Club Plus**

We continue to meet and we give thanks for all who support us. Merle, Sally Ann Steve Valerie and Anne have been attending as leaders.

Friday Club Plus have a number of long term regular members and it has been good to see them this year to continue to engage with church activities in helping in Messy Church and being a full part of our Puppet Team. We have a range of activities and still enjoy cooking, craft work and engaging with difficult topics.

We organised a children's bazaar and sold items that the children had made on club nights. It was very successful.

At Christmas we made a large number of knitted blankets and made up shoeboxes for the needy.

We organised and took part in Friday night out when a number of our families and church members came along and enjoyed food, fun and fellowship.

Last year we attended the Boys' Brigade residential Unite and our young people had a great time. We also attended the Methodist Youth Event 3Generate.

We also have a number of outings, we've been to London and had a tour in the Houses of Parliament which was very interesting.

At the moment we are still trying to resolve leadership issues and to attract more members to then younger Friday club and ask for your prayerful support.

**Anne Sains**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Hockley Brownies**

We've had a busy year, completed lots of badges and challenges, and participated in a number of events.

We started the year focusing on our Brownie promise and how we can keep it, with an international evening and candle ceremony for World Thinking day in February.

As a pack, we have completed our friend to animals badge, including a visit from the cats protection league who told us about their work. Some of the girls have also completed individual badges such as cook and swimmer.

During the summer term we held a meeting in the woods, where one new member was enrolled, and also spent an evening at Guidewoods competing against the other Hockley Brownies in the annual Brownie Revels competition. Great fun was had by all, and we finished off the evening with burgers and sausages cooked over the camp fire.

The girls really enjoyed an evening of fudge making and cake decorating, which gave us some ideas for fundraising, so for the children's Christmas Bazaar, brownies turned into a sweet factory for the evening. Chocolate truffles, peppermint creams and marshmallow snowmen were lovingly prepared by the girls, and sold at the bazaar raising some well needed funds. (Thank you for this opportunity)

We have welcomed a number of new girls in the last year, and continue to grow per pack.

It would not be possible to continue without the ongoing support of the church, parents, and our wonderful leadership team - Sandra and Kat are my heroes, and the help from our young leaders Ella, Emily and Harriet is invaluable.

We are look forward to another busy year, including our first Brownie camp in May. As Girlguiding is a volunteer led organisation, we are always looking for willing helpers. If anyone is interested in getting involved, either on a regular or occasional basis, or if you have a skill or interest you would like to share with the girls, please contact me.

## **Fundraising**

The Social/fundraising team have had a busy year supporting a wide variety of events. Including last year's Strawberry tea, Christmas Bazaar and Friday night out. So far this year we have held a Pancake morning and are planning a fun antiques valuation. Also in the summer, a Strawberry tea.

Grateful thanks to everyone who supports these events and to all the hard working committee members!!

**June Parkhurst and Gill Cross.**