

**An occasional newsletter to keep you in contact with
Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church**

14th May 2020

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

[01702 205870](tel:01702205870)

info@hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk

www.hockleyhawkwellmethodist.org.uk

www.facebook.com/hockleymeths

Minister – Rev Dr Michael Moon

Rev Dr Michael Moon's 8th Pastoral Letter

The Coronavirus and Divine Interruption



In various cases, my journey has been disrupted or interrupted by an unseen power in my life. At seventeen, I had a real lockdown experience for two years due to an illness. I had to give up my vision and change for another way to remain on my journey. Years later, I

found such a trial of my life marked a turning point of my devotion to the Lord. Such a bitter chapter of my life caused me to listen and respond to God's intervention and provision. Undoubtedly the deepest valley of my journey made me humble and eventually meaningful for a bigger picture by God's persuasion. The scars of a painful journey have become a spiritual compass listening to His voice throughout my journey until today. Therefore, I try to be careful about what to allow on my journey, particularly when I experience any radical changes in my life. There are other numerous cases I suffered to redirect my vision and avenues in my life. This day I have met another interruption that I experience to manoeuvre my subsequent journey due to this global pandemic. Undoubtedly, I do not say that it would be only me who has been doubtful and anxious for the following steps of our journey at this time. Many people must have been driven to unknown paths at this time in the world. And we discover their stories on TV and by other means of news.

Exceptionally at this time of the global pandemic, I encountered an article on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together*, on *Premierchristianity* written by Will van der Hart. Will is a pastoral chaplain at HTM in central London and authors of several books. His article prompts us on God's divine intervention in our life as well as in situations of the world. Will van der Hart says Bonhoeffer would have seen this pandemic as an opportunity to 'reorder our priorities.' Bonhoeffer seems to nudge us today, "We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will constantly be crossing our paths and cancelling our plans..." We are familiar with the journey of Bonhoeffer that his own life was interrupted harshly by the Second World War. And he had a terrible lockdown experience in Flossenbürg concentration camp where the power of Nazism robbed his will and his future in his days.

There should be undeniably to believe this unprecedented pandemic has caused numerous cases of lockdown experiences amongst people of the world so far. Such stories would enhance persistent stories like the stories of world wars or any other historical events when this journey ends. Many souls must have been drained in their strength and spirit undergoing through this dreadful experience. Imagine big business firms and their leaderships have been shattered and chained like slaves by the power of the unseen virus. Undelivered mails, undone schedules, undone charities, unclaimed cases, even neglected love and fellowship among the people and family members...too many to count and too deep to measure directly...

Could you consider that all such delays, cancelled promises and postponed works are due to the divine interruption of God, and such things are on hold by the hand of God? Furthermore, Bonhoeffer does not say we merely need to 'hear' the divine interruptions, but we need to 'allow' ourselves to be interrupted. Could you be prepared to perform such a principle as a norm in your life circle?

A few nights ago, I was awake and could hear the sweet song of a nightingale over the window at about four o'clock in the morning. However, most of the nights, I cannot listen to such charming songs! What a shame that I cannot discover their lovely songs.

God is consistently speaking like the hidden nightingales in the tree (they remain such insignificant creatures), but we often do not pay attention to His voice. To me, in such case, God often disturbs us to stop from the things we achieve and listen to Him. I hear that women (wives) talk more than men (husbands). Why? It is because men often do not listen to their wives and the wives have to repeat the same words often! Whatever we undertake is a package of our culture, and our success appears to be a package of busyness. Therefore, God comes to us and says, "Can I have a minute to have a word with you?" Well, this time, it is a massive and significant interruption for the whole world to listen to Him speaks! Therefore the preacher, John Piper says this pandemic represents God's thunderclap.

God is righteous. And He is consistently faithful. He does not produce rubbish. Even this crisis could represent an opportunity for the world to listen to Him. And this critical interruption could remain an opportunity for us 'to reorder our priorities.' Thus, Will says, "God is diverting us to compassionately meet the needs of



others in Jesus name” like what Paul challenges us, “To do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” (Philippians 2:3-4)

Will you be prepared to listen to God at this challenging time? When you hear the love songs of the songsters in your garden next time, imagine that God is consistently speaking to you. All the more, when you sleep, God is there for you like the songsters sing for you in the tree at night. Therefore Henry Ward Beecher says, “The nightingale sings its sweetest when the night is darkest.” To him, the nightingale is the Twenty-third Psalm. Probably God as a songster, He sings His most charming song when the world is darkest.

Michael Moon

**Resource: Rev Will van der Hart, Premierchristinity (31st March 2020).*



Christian Aid Week 10th – 16th May

Although we are an All We Can Partner Church, we can still support Christian Aid, and like most charities it is particularly in need of support at the present time. Click [Christian Aid Week](#) to find out about this year's campaign, Love Never Fails, and [Donations](#) for opportunities to donate.

Prayers for this week



For our world and all its leaders, striving to keep people safe whilst returning to a level of economic activity after lockdown.

For professionals and care workers still caring for those with the most severe Covid-19 symptoms.

For those returning to work, anxious about the conditions and working practices in their workplace.

For June and Rikki Waterfield following the death of Arthur, planning a funeral under lockdown rules.

For Ron and Chris Holloway diagnosed with Covid-19, at home, and dealing with all the ramifications as well as Ron's MS.

For those we know, living alone, isolated, lonely and anxious

Our members and friends, that we remain strong, positive and active at keeping in touch, supporting each other. Give us wisdom and understanding as we look to plan for a possible opening of churches.

For all ministers of religion trying to bring comfort and strength to those bereaved under such tragic and unprecedented circumstances and for their time in planning and delivering online services.

June Waterfield once again sends her thanks to everybody for their prayers, cards and flowers. Arthur's funeral is on Friday 22nd May but will only be attended by close family. No flowers please.

Carolyn has heard from Mavis Nichols.

Mavis wants us to know that she is thinking of everybody at Church

How to Wash Your Hands with Prayer and Song

If you're tired of singing "Happy Birthday" twice, here are some alternate spiritual options. by **Rick Hamlin** Posted in **How to Pray**, March 10, 2020



When it comes to warding off germs, you've probably heard the advice that we're supposed to wash our hands for 20 seconds, as long as it takes to sing "The ABC Song" or "Happy Birthday" twice. But it occurred to me there might be some other songs—and prayers—that would time out to 20 seconds. Try these:

The Lord's Prayer

You can say it or sing it, but I've never really timed myself before (God willing, I'm concentrating on other things). Turns out, it clocks in at a neat 20 seconds. Maybe a little longer if I go slower. Washing my hands and saying "The Lord's Prayer." Now that's a good use of time. Cleansing to body and soul.

"Amazing Grace"

Everybody's favourite classic. Whenever I sing it at our church soup kitchen, the guests always join in vociferously. So sing it to yourself (or aloud) when you wash your hands. "I once was lost but now am found/Was blind but now I see..." What great lyrics for any time.

The Doxology

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost." A perfect 20 seconds by my watch. Praising God while doing the best thing I can do for my health and the health of others.

“This Little Light of Mine”

Our kids used to sing it, and I still have the lyrics and the tune lodged in my head. It always feels like a happy reminder of what Jesus said to His disciples and all of us: “You are the light of the world.” We are. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Another classic. And when I sing that line, “early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee,” well, doesn’t that make sense when you do that handwashing first thing? Remember that old line, “Cleanliness is next to Godliness?” Put them both together with a healthy habit, a prayer and a song.

I invite you to go through your own mental index of prayers and songs and start using them. Be smart, be careful, don’t give into worry. Do what the medical professionals say. With prayer and song.

<https://www.guideposts.org>

Michael Moon

The Photo Directory for Rev Calvin Samuel

Nicola is making great strides in preparing the photo directory for Rev Calvin Samuel, which will help him to get to know us a little more quickly. **If you haven’t already done so, PLEASE SEND HER A POTTED BIOGRAPHY in no more than 70 words**, along with a photo if needed (Nicola has some already and will have told you if she needs yours).

Zoom!

There were 17 of us at the Sunday morning Zoom on 10th May, and 17 of us at the “social gathering” on Wednesday morning.

Please try to join us next week (and at Ray’s Quizzoom on Friday night – see below).



To get a Zoom account go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/signup> - any problems getting it phone Mike on 07798948236. Don’t be put off by the technology, once it’s going it’s not complicated.

On the day of each Zoom you’ll be sent an email with a password (to ensure that our ‘meeting’ isn’t gate-crashed) and at 10:30am just log onto Zoom. Full instructions with each email.

RAY’S QUIZZOOM!

On Friday 15th May at 7:00pm why don't you join Ray's Quizzoom - a short, light-hearted quiz in 4 rounds, each of 5 questions with no prizes, not even a virtual one!

Invitations with joining details will be sent out to all members and friends just before the event

Annabel and Jessica write

We thought we'd send everyone our posters and let you know how we celebrated VE day in our household. Ironically this was the first May bank holiday Daddy has ever had off since Annabel was born. (She's 9 years old now!)



Our posters were collected by the local volunteer group and displayed around the village with everyone else's from the village. As they had a few Easter eggs left over they kindly gave us an Easter egg each for supplying the posters.

In the afternoon we had a full virtual afternoon tea with Nanny and Poppa through face time, which was very funny as we gave them a whistle stop tour around the food on our table. We also watched a little bit of the history unfold on the television. The Canewdon Church Bell was allowed to ring at 3:30pm for a short time by just one person. Later in the afternoon we met with our neighbours on our driveways and had a good chat. Annabel played with her friend after Daddy issued two metre sticks one for each of them so that they stayed two metres away from each other.



The music from the other side of the village could be heard across the whole village and made for a very happy atmosphere. Lots of people decorated their homes with them all looking slightly different. We decorated our large front window. We wanted to celebrate the NHS and VE day so combined the two. We drew around Annabel and painted a paramedic outfit on!



We send lots of love to everyone and our offer of help to anyone is still there, just call Mum. We look forward to seeing you all soon when we are allowed.

Love Annabel and Jessica. 😊 x

The Hockley Meths' Rainbow competition.

If you've not made one yet, now's your chance! Whatever your age, you can do it! It doesn't have to be a traditional picture, just whatever your imagination suggests.

Send us your rainbow, on paper (the post is still working or you could drop it through our letter box), fabric or electronically - whatever material you fancy, knit one (purl one?), carve one - and we'll display them all when Church re-opens. And there's a prize for the best image – we haven't decided what it will be yet (it could be a jar of Mike's home-made marmalade!) but we'll ask Billy to judge it (if only to make sure he doesn't win!).

Post entries to
The Hockley Meths' Rainbow competition
c/o 36 Orchard Avenue
Hockley SS5 5BE

or email to hmethslink@gmail.com

The Money – A Thank-you from your Treasurer

The total received from Standing Orders in April was £745 and I received a further £180 in donations. This is very encouraging and is further evidence of what I have said in past financial reports, that the members and friends of Hockley Methodist are a committed fellowship who respond willingly and generously whatever the circumstances may be. Thank you so much.



Stan Rae

If you haven't arranged to set up a standing order or some other arrangement please speak to Stan on 01702 201635 or email him at hmethstreasurer@gmail.com.

This takes the biscuit!

Some crumbly clues – answers next week.

1. It's very pleasant here in the south of France
2. A US President and English city
3. May help avoid a traffic hold-up.
4. Feline food?
5. A city in Israel
6. A mad redhead?
7. *For Gill* mixture?
8. Travellers in Westerns rolled along on them
9. Mix socially with the rich and famous
10. 19th century Italian patriot and politician



They know how to mark VE day in Woodlands Road!



Kay and Michael on V E 75 Day

Not so sophisticated in Orchard Avenue!



Mike taking things quietly!

(The parasol was surgically removed that evening)

Offers of Help



The Elkington family and Adam and Becky Markham are still willing to run errands if you can't get out. Sally can be contacted at 01702 258288 or sally_elkington@yahoo.co.uk. Adam and Becky can be contacted at 07969522986 or adam.markham01@googlemail.com

Keith's had a haircut!

I was intending to go to a barber after the last service I went to, not quickly enough obviously, before they all closed. I have been too embarrassed to go out anyway, the way my hair looked until yesterday. We haven't got a haircutting kit for me or items sharp enough. Finally, a kit ordered through EasyLife arrived from Shanghai. Such a small thing really, in the circumstances, but I feel so much more respectable



Keith Jones

Paradise Pudding

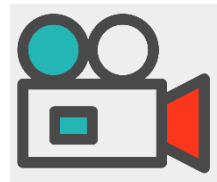
If you`d have a good pudding pray mind what you`re taught
Take two pennyworth eggs when they`re 2d a quart
Take of the same fruit which Eve once did cozen
Well pared and well grated at least half a dozen
Six ounces of bread, let the maid eat the crust
The crumbs must be grated as small as fine dust
Six ounces of currants and pray pick them clean
Lest they grate in your teeth, you know what I mean
Six ounces of sugar won`t make it too sweet
Some salt and some nutmeg to make it complete
To this you can add if you`re willing and handy
Some good lemon peel and a glass of good brandy
Three hours let it boil without hurry or flutter
And then serve it up with some good melted butter
Adam tasted the pudding `twas wonderfully nice
So Eve cut her husband another good slice.

from Carolyn

Keith's Film Quiz 200509

Film Taglines. From which films are these: -

1. For anyone who has ever wished upon a star.
2. Dance she did and dance she must - between her two loves.
3. Check in. Relax. Take a shower.
4. On every street in every city, there's a nobody who dreams of being a somebody.
5. In space no one can hear you scream.
6. He's the only kid ever to get into trouble before he was born.
7. Can two friends sleep together and still love each other in the morning.
8. Fear can hold you prisoner. Hope can set you free.
9. The greatest fairy story never told.
10. The Happiest Sound In All The World.



Answers next week

A Selection of Bad Jokes



I bought a dog from a blacksmith. When I got home it made a bolt for the door.

Just watched a documentary on how ships are built. Riveting!



I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me!

How do you approach an angry Welsh cheese? Caerphilly

I used to own an origami shop, but it folded.

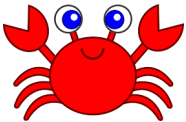


Did you hear about the explosion in the cheese factory? There was de brie everywhere.

Why do we never see the elephants hiding in trees? Because they're so good at it



I used to work in a shoe recycling shop. It was sole destroying.



Why do crabs never give to charity? Because they're shellfish.

Went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

Last night I went to a comedy and philosophy convention. I laughed more than I thought.



Just watched a wildlife documentary on beavers. Best dam programme I've seen for ages.

Newsletter No. 8 – still going!

Thanks again to everybody who's contributed Please keep your contributions coming! Send items to us at hmethsLINK@gmail.com or phone 07798948236.

PLEASE STILL SEND ANY PHOTOS OF YOUR VE DAY CELEBRATIONS FOR THE NEXT EDITION.

Muriel & Mike

Worship While Church is Closed

We're still sending out a link every Sunday so you can watch and hear the Morning Service at Wesley's Chapel in London. Several services are "streamed" from there during the week and can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhezv5sqgh72LIMxA>



In addition, Rev Michael Moon is providing a service sheet each week for anybody who prefers reading a service to watching a video. This is a short act of worship for use in people's homes while churches are closed. It will also be available on the Church website at <https://www.hockleyhawkwelldmethodist.org.uk/> and on the Face Book pages as, a day or so later, will Michael's own video service.

There are other services you can watch or listen to at home, for instance:

Methodist Central Hall <https://www.youtube.com/user/MCHWevents>
The Church of England

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

plus Songs of Praise every Sunday on BBC1 TV
Radio 4 Sunday Worship at 8:10am

