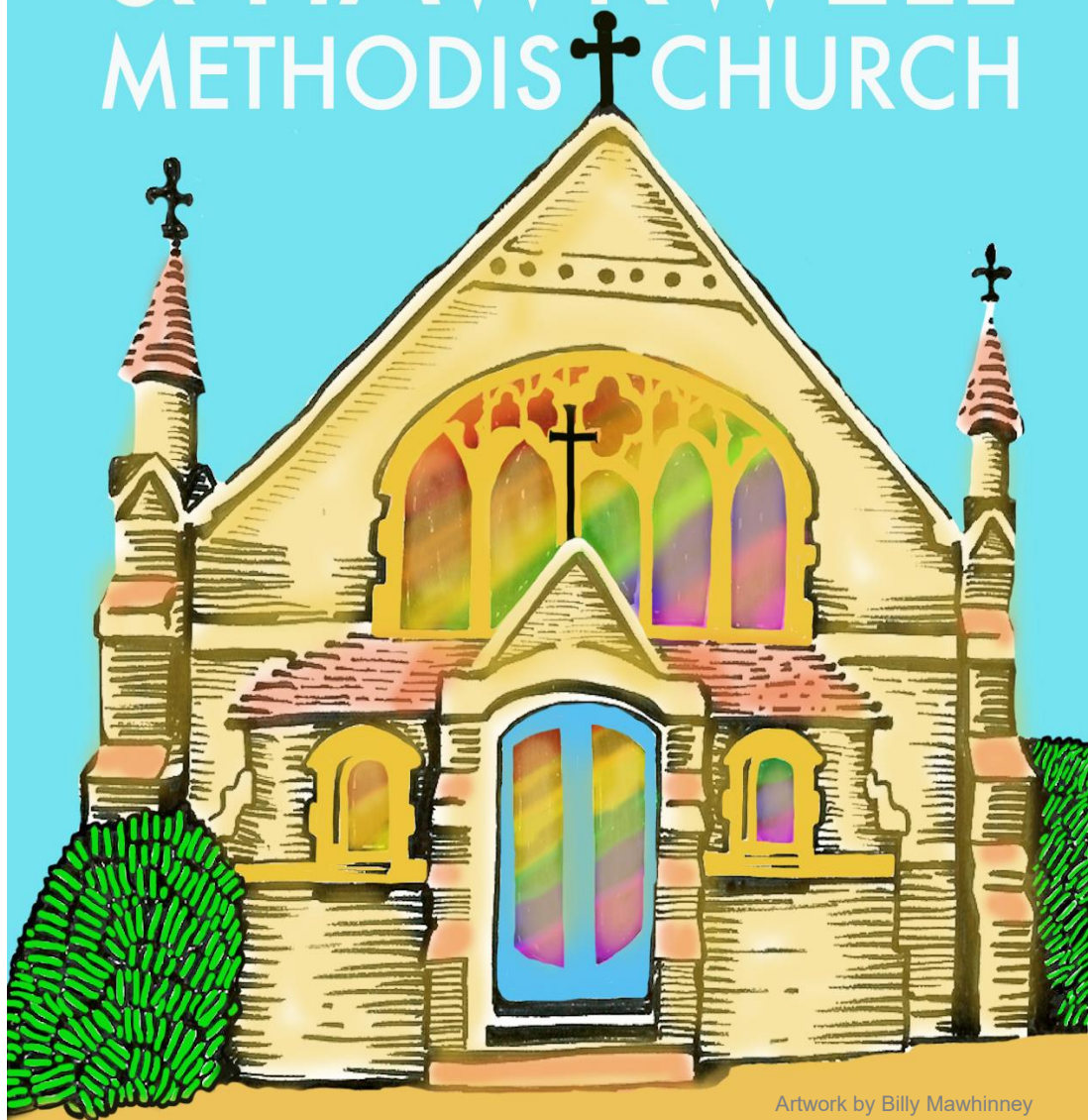


HOCKLEY & HAWKWELL METHODIST CHURCH



Artwork by Billy Mawhinney

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Minister's Report

September 2025 marked the beginning of our church year with an uplifting reunion service featuring the Community Gospel Choir. This special occasion reminded us of the transformative power of partnering with members of our wider community to enrich our worship and fellowship.



As a congregation, we took time to reflect honestly on our current situation. We recognised that we are a small church family and acknowledged the importance of working together as a team to ensure our church continues to run smoothly and faithfully. Over the past year, we have hosted a variety of services that were warmly received by both members and visitors, including Easter, Harvest, and our annual Toy and Gift Service.

I would like to extend special thanks to Sandra, who has stepped down from her role as Communion Steward after serving with great dedication and care. Our gratitude also goes to Colin, who has volunteered with the Property Committee and has now stepped down. We are deeply thankful for his faithful service and support over the years. I would also like to thank everyone who has been working so hard to support the day-to-day running of the church. To all our volunteers—thank you so much.

Your commitment and willingness to serve make an enormous difference, and we are truly grateful for all that you do. We continue to face challenges as we seek to support our youth work within the church. Although we hope to raise funds to employ a family worker, this remains a significant hurdle.

Additionally, with an ageing congregation, we must be unapologetic and intentional in our approach to evangelism. It is vital that we nurture a culture rooted in Bible study and prayer. Currently, we do not have an active prayer group or regular Bible

studies, and I firmly believe that prayer is the foundation of all things. To flourish in our mission and build a vibrant, growing church community, we need to return to these basics—praying together for God’s guidance and gathering around His word.

Together, let us commit ourselves to supporting one another, rebuilding these essential practices, and seeking new ways to serve God and our community as we continue our journey as a church.

Rev Agnes Sam
Minister

Small Church – an opportunity or a burden?

The Methodist Church has had, for as many years as I can remember, many rules which govern what can be done in almost any circumstance. These are contained in a book, commonly known as “CPD”, which stands for “The Constitution Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church”. The rules include a list of officers who must be Church Council members. They include the Minister, (and all other Ministers in the Circuit), Stewards, Treasurer and secretary of the Church Council, but also:

“Not less than six representatives nor more than fifteen elected annually by the General Church Meeting, or, where the

membership does not exceed 49 and the Church Council so resolves, all members of the Local Church who are willing to serve”



These words are quoted from Standing Order 610 (1) (x) of CPD.

The Church Council has passed the required resolution.

Any member of the Church can now be a member of Church Council, but to be on Church Council you have to be “willing to serve”. That means coming to meetings, and accepting that, as a Church Council member, you are a Trustee of the Church. With the other members of Church Council, you will have authority over many areas of “ministry” of the Church, including the management of its property, the determination and pursuit of policy, and the deployment of available resources (again words taken from CPD).

So, is that an opportunity to try to make sure that the Church does the things you want it to do, or is it a burden, because you will have to attend Church Council Meetings. These meetings are held during the day, usually on a Wednesday. There is a lot of chatter, and laughter, and tea or coffee drunk, but we do also get important decisions made.

If you would like to be on Church Council, come to the Annual Meeting, where you can volunteer, or if you can't come to that meeting, let please let Rev Agnes Sam know that you would like to be on Church Council.

It would be helpful to provide an email address so that Notices of meetings and Minutes can be sent by email. Don't be put off if you aren't on email, we will find another way to get Minutes and Notices to you.

I look forward to seeing you at the General Church Meeting, and, hopefully, at future Church Councils.

Patrick Smith

Stewards' Report

We have enjoyed Agnes's Services this year as well as working alongside her with frequent meetings, discussions and the sharing of ideas. Consequently, there was much relief when we learned that The Circuit has kept our section together under her leadership for the remaining years of her placement, giving us some stability and the confidence to plan.



Under Agnes guidance, the Church Council took the decision to change the way we organise ourselves to that of a small church - Patrick's note on the previous page explains this and the subject will be coming up at the **Annual Church Meeting on 7th March.**

We were also thrilled to hear that Agnes has been nurturing Adam into full membership. His commitment will make him the first new member since Brenda Gutberlet brought June Parkhurst into membership, some five ministers previously and we have all delighted in the presence of Betsy and Mabel, watching them grow and take an increasing interest and involvement in the Sunday service.

Being a member of the Methodist Church has become more significant to our future development over the last twelve months, since the Connexion ruled that ministers were to be allocated on a 1 to 150 members basis.

In the past, congregational members were concerned that becoming a member meant they might be harried into taking on some responsibility, but now it is more important that there is a true reflection of how many people the minister is expected to support. It is only members who are counted in the 150, not those on the friends and family list. We have 22 members but approx. 43 if friends and family are included. If everyone on the list was a member, think how that would alter the statistics!!! If you think you could become a member, then speak to Agnes.

During the last twelve months, we have celebrated the major festivals. Mothering Sunday was slightly different as it was planned as a united section service. Gill organised a Saturday afternoon tea where ladies could collect their plant, which was much enjoyed.

The ecumenical event, The Party on the Green, at Pentecost was organised by Churches Together and was once again successful. Put 24th May in your diary for Pentecost 2026.

In September, we had Reunion Sunday when old friends joined us for a celebration in music, led by Hannah and some of The Gospel Choir, which was much enjoyed. Agnes encouraged us to have a dry barand cake! There was praise, celebration and lots of chatting. It was an enjoyable event and will be repeated.

Harvest and the Toy and Gift service went ahead as usual but it is becoming more and more difficult to gather the uniformed groups together on a Sunday. There are many other attractions to contend with and many families regard Sunday as their only family day, but we will be looking at this together with the leaders in the coming weeks and is likely to be a topic for discussion at the ACM.

The Christingle did draw together our church families and turned into quite a special event on that account. There were about 50 parents and children, all connected to us.

Nothing happens at church these days unless everyone pulls together so thanks to Nicola, for keeping us up to date and informed, those serving refreshments, door stewards, Communion steward, readers, organist and those manning the media desk as well as all those preachers who come to lead us.

The stewards are also pastoral visitors, but this is a difficult responsibility to maintain because of increasing amounts of paper

work, training and meetings as well as being only three of us. We have to rely on everybody looking after each other and keeping us up to date and letting Agnes know if a visit is needed.

The Annual Church Meeting is important and a place for consultation and feedback so please do your best to be there.

Anne, Gill and Muriel

Your stewards
who make up the Worship Team

Messy Church

Over the past year we have continued to share many enjoyable and meaningful sessions with our families. Attendance naturally varies, but we are grateful to have a committed core of around eight or nine families who attend regularly. When the group began, some of the children were toddlers, and it is wonderful to see how they have grown — many are now moving on to senior school. As the children have grown, so too have we as leaders!



In response to these changes, we have begun to explore adapting what the group offers. The original focus on craft-based activities and church stories aimed at younger children is gradually shifting towards more games-based evenings that appeal to older children, including table tennis, table football, and board games, while still providing a craft table for younger attendees. We have spoken with parents and the older children

themselves, who have shared many positive ideas, and we hope to trial some new initiatives in the coming year.

On a personal note, due to my age, I will be stepping down from my role and will need to hand over to willing volunteers with more up-to-date knowledge of children's interests. At present we have not yet found someone to take on this role, and support would be very welcome.

In the meantime, we are also considering the possibility of running special family fun sessions during the school holidays. If anyone is interested in working with children or helping in any capacity, please speak to Lianne or myself.

Looking ahead, our greatest hope is that we may one day be able to employ a family worker. This would require matched funding with the circuit, which is a substantial commitment, but there are grants available and this is an avenue that could be explored further.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Lianne, who has organised our time in church, prepared activities, and supported the group in so many ways. Thanks also go to Claire for her help in numerous ways, and to Muriel and Gill, who assist whenever they are able.

I will miss working with the children and families very much, but I leave with many happy memories of the fun, friendship, and faith we have shared together.

Anne Sains
Messy Church Leader

Treasurer's Report

In the five months from 1st September to 31st January the SumUp machine which enables offerings to be made by debit or credit card produced a net sum of £273. In the same period donations/offerings including coffee donations came to £1,334, a total of £1607, compared to £760 in the same period in last year's accounts.



The Christmas Bazaar was a success.

The amount raised was £743, an increase on last year where the amount raised was £600.50. Thank you to all who took part in organising and to those who contributed generously on the day.

Standing orders from our regular givers have decreased. Two years ago they were £835 per month and, at the time of my last report were £915 per month. They have now decreased to £870 per month. However, this decrease which amounts to £225 in the first five months of the year has been more than compensated for by the increase of £847 in cash and card donations. So, a thank you to all who give, regularly by standing order, and by card and by cash. The Church will not survive without you.

Every year all Churches in the Circuit have to pay an assessment to the Circuit to fund Ministers' salaries and expenses and other Circuit outgoings including the Circuit's contribution to the District's expenses and costs. The Church pays quarterly in advance in August, November, February and May. The payment was made by Direct Debit from the CFB account.

In August 2025 no payment was taken due to computer problems at the CFB. The payment was taken in October. So, if the current system of paying quarterly in advance is maintained, in the

current year the Church would pay 5 quarterly payments instead of 4. I am in negotiation with the Circuit Finance Officer to change the payments to monthly, which will reduce the amount actually paid out this year.

The Assessment is currently £19,584 per annum and is unlikely to reduce. Last year the Church's income from offerings and Gift Aid was £17,635. The Church made a loss £4,366 in the year ended 31st August 2024. If the Assessment had been taken when it should have been the Church would have made a loss of £4,465. The unrestricted funds shown on the Balance Sheet are £20,833, of which £9,250 are in funds designated for certain purposes, leaving only £11,583 available. Apart from the Circuit Assessment nearly all our costs are rising with inflation, and I am therefore anticipating a loss for the year ended 31st August 2026.

We are one of the Churches with the smallest membership in the Circuit. Only Rochford, with 20 members, is smaller. The assessment is no longer based solely on size of membership, as it was some years ago. It is now based on income. There is also a system whereby reductions are limited as are increases.

Gift Aid will help. If you have not Gift Aided your regular offerings, please consider whether you can do so. If you let me know that you wish to gift aid I will provide you with the appropriate form. If you would like to make a monthly payment by standing order please let me know and I will provide you with the necessary bank details. Please either speak to me next time you see me or email me at hmethstreasurer@gmail.com.

I would like to thank Nicola, for the part she has played in assisting me, David Clarke for continuing to collect and pay in offerings and other monies, Ros Hayman and Anne Sains for their assistance with paying out monies for bills. Finally, I would like to thank the Auditor, Chris Davis, for his work on

last year's accounts, as well as for agreeing to continue as Auditor.

A copy of the balance sheet for the year ended 31st August 2025 and a full copy of the Standard Form of Accounts is on the coffee room display board.

Balance Sheet

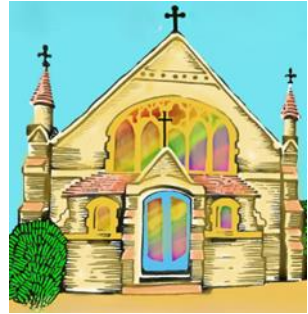
Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church 2024-2025 Balance Sheet

Current Assets	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
Bank Account	4,769.35	9,642.97	9,361.25
CFB Accounts	5,627.39	3,831.69	11,346.04
TMCP	69,153.76	66,201.74	62,983.94
	79,550.50	79,676.40	83,691.23
 Representing Accumulated Funds			
Church Fund	-587.42	-1,405.97	-2,054.83
Property Fund	12,170.72	9,021.96	3,342.24
Building Reserve Fund	7,399.87	6,727.12	10,570.22
Benevolence Fund	166.81	316.81	282.43
Mission/Youth Fund	2,170.11	1,545.11	725.11
Administration Fund	-486.49	2,589.70	7,585.38
External Funds	50.00	606.49	256.74
Trust 22071 William H J P	58,666.90	60,275.18	62,983.94
	79,550.50	79,676.40	83,691.23

Patrick Smith
Church Treasurer

Property

The regular servicing of items has been carried out as usual and the builder who repaired the wall the first time repaired it again following another vehicle strike! To protect the wall going forward, a heavy-duty metal strip on the buttress and wall was added which has proved a positive addition with no further damage.



In September 2025, water made its way into the Church in the front corner behind the multimedia equipment. Upon investigating the roof, we were alerted to crumbling of some of the stonework on the façade of the building. It was agreed that, Richard, the builder who repaired the wall, repaired the stonework and roof leak, which is currently in progress, the rain is delaying the overall completion slightly.

The Finance & Property Committee currently has 5 members and we'd like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment.

Peter Bennett

Property & Finance Committee

Fundraising

Our last event in November 2025 was the Christmas Bazaar, a happy social morning. Lovely to see so many friends enjoying the bazaar, which raised an amazing £712 pounds!

Grateful thanks to the hard-working team, however they helped; these fundraising events can only take place with a great deal of hard work from all those involved!



Thanks to those who donated items for the hampers, cake, toy, jigsaw and Christmas cracker stalls.

Special thanks to
June, Sandra, John,
Graham, Lianne,

Colin, Claire, Mike, Muriel, Anne S, Eleanor, Nicola, Ivor, Linda, David, Shirley, Dianne, Ann B, Brightstars families, our junior helpers -Tyler, Jessica, Amelia, Betsy, Mabel and Sadie. Our Father Christmas assistant and his helpers for ensuring everyone was on the "Good List", in good time for Christmas Eve delivery!! Also Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs and their uniformed helpers.

Save the date for the **next Christmas Bazaar – 14th November 2026!** It's always the first Saturday after Remembrance Sund

By the time you read this we will have our annual Pancake and Coffee Morning, on 21 February. We're sure that this will have been as popular as ever and that lots of pancakes will have been enjoyed!

Our next social event will be a **Beetle Drive and Karaoke on Saturday 13th June**, probably late afternoon in the hope it will suit families and young people – more details later.

Thank you to our Minister Agnes for coming along to support us, also for reminding us of this Bible quote from Galatians Chapter 6 verse 9: **"Let us not become weary in doing good"**.

Gill & June
Fundraising Committee

Eco Church

After achieving a bronze award from Eco church, we decided to look at the criteria for achieving a silver award. The aims are very different and involve community engagement, political involvement, and committing to lifestyle changes ourselves.



It was decided at Church Council that the workload, manpower and commitment required to achieve the Silver level was too great and that we should therefore concentrate on the essential work of the Church.

Thank you to all who helped us achieve the Bronze award and for continuing to maintain what we have achieved so far.

Ros Hayman

Cradle Roll

Our Cradle roll families enjoy taking part in our Church services, helping with the offering or a Bible reading, and of course during the service they're always willing to help should a craft item be needed.



It's exciting to see them grow in confidence. our Church families form a very special part of our Church life. I continue to remember their birthdays, also by sending them a card and a small gift at Christmas.

Gill Cross

Church Hire

The income from the hire of the hall generates a vital source of income for the Church.



We currently have 8 regular lettings which include 2 choirs, and a number of keep fit classes for a variety of age groups. Unfortunately, the young person's drama group which used to take place on a Saturday morning ceased running due to ill health of the person who ran the group and also, a drop in attendees. The total amount of income the lettings have generated for the Church this financial year is £11,714 (£10,810 last year).

In addition, we have the Rainbows, Brownies and Beavers who run their activities from the hall as well as our weekly toddler playgroup, Brightstars, which is very well attended. These support the Church by donation.

We've had 3 children's parties on a Saturday and, The Lions Club of Rayleigh enjoyed their afternoon tea party as a thank you to their volunteers in the summer.

The yearly review of regular hire contracts took place as usual in September 2025, the start of the Church financial year, and all up to date documentation was stored electronically on Dropbox with hard copies stored in Room 4 upstairs.

After many discussions, the Church Council agreed an increase in the hourly hire fee from £20 to £22 from January 2026 to help cover the running costs of the Church. All hirers were informed in advance and there was no objection to the increase.

I manage regular and one-off hires with the support of the Finance & Property Committee and Church Trustees. Thank you to everyone involved with this.

Nicola
Lettings

Thursday Club

Early January 2025 we met at the home of Jean Saunders and decided upon our programme leading up to Easter.

It might surprise you to know that this included visits to local hostelryes The Cock Inn at Rochford for their varied menu and a club favourite of The Plough and Sail, Paglesham where many of us sampled the incomparable "rack of ribs."



We had a home visit by Mark Anderson where we learnt some interesting information on toy trains.

Another home visit was made and this bought into our competitiveness with a number of board games being played.

We love our gardens and inspiration was boosted by visits to both Meadow Croft Garden Centre and also to Morleys Garden Centre.

After Easter we had a shortened programme before our summer break.

We still kept busy though as we had two visits to The Palace Theatre in Westcliff. Our first visit was to see a production of the musical "Evita" performed by the amateur theatre group (S.O.D.S.) Southend Operatic Drama Society. Our second visit to The Palace Theatre was to see the musical "Annie" performed by the (L.T.C.) Little Theatre Club.

We are so lucky to have such fantastic amateur theatre groups locally and it is so good that they are well supported.

Our last event before our summer break was a visit to Olive and Chris for a strawberry tea. It is amazing the number of dishes you can produce by using strawberries.

A lovely afternoon in their garden having our strawberry tea and enjoying the sunshine.

We resumed our programme in September with a trip to Stambridge Lakes which is also a favourite spot for local fishermen. It's nice to have such a pleasant venue on our doorstep. We also made a return visit to Meadow Croft Garden Centre before it got too busy and checked out their early Christmas displays.

We had two more theatre visits to The Palace with our first being an old classic musical "Oklahoma" performed magnificently by the S.O.D.S.

Our second theatre visit was once again at The Palace where we saw the amateur theatre group (L.O.D.S.) Leigh Operatic Drama Society introduce us to the "Take That" inspired musical "The Band." Both very good productions.

We were also invited to the new home of Vivian Allmey where we exercised our brains with a lighthearted quiz. A very nice afternoon.

On our last event of the year we really spoilt ourselves by visiting The Plough and Sail, Paglesham once again. I do believe some of us also partook of the "rack of ribs". Well, I did for one.

In 2026 I am sure we will have more good days visiting hostelryes, theatres and many more places of interest.

Ray Williams

Communications and Publicity

We do still have a Communications and Publicity Team - David, Billy, Nicola, Ray and I – but we don't meet all together, face to face; we phone and email each other when we have a job to do. Our role is keeping members and friends in touch with events at the Church and Circuit, publicising Church activities and presenting services on the multimedia.



Notices and The Link

These are both now largely sent out by email but we still have a few members who can't access emails so paper copies of The Link and Notices are also circulated by Ray Mail. The Notices are produced on a 2-3 weeks cycle. The Link is only published before the principal festivals – one will be coming out before Easter.

Website

The website was redesigned a little while ago by the host, Church Edit. Whilst the current layout is not been entirely satisfactory there is a considerable amount of information about our Church and its activities on it and the site attracts a small but regular flow of “hits”. The latest editions of The Link and the Notices can be found on the website. Hall hiring can be done via the website and it contains the Church and Rev Agnes Sam's contact details. Further refining it is still on my job list! Have a look at <https://www.hockleyhawkwelldmethodist.org.uk/>

The online Calendar on the website is probably the most important feature on it and is kept regularly up to date with meetings and events. Apart from letting enquirers know what's going on it tells possible hirers what time slots are available and helps Colin arrange the heating.

Facebook We have two Face Book sites – the Church’s general one and one for Messy Church, although consideration has been given to combining them. Our Admin Assistant, Nicola, maintains our presence on the these by regular postings, not only of our own activities but also items from the Methodist Church of GB and other websites. Take a look at <https://www.facebook.com/hockleymeths/> and <https://www.facebook.com/hockleyhawkwellmethodist/>

Posters Billy is always willing to contribute artwork to our posters, leaflets and documents – he designed the front cover to these reports and the double H motif that has becomes the recognised logo for the Church.

As Billy can be anywhere when we need a poster or image, his Digital Distance Design Service is essential. I send the details and the artwork arrives over the ether for editing and printing. We replace the large poster on the roadside Notice Board a couple of times each year.

Sunday Service David and I are still sharing the preparation of services on the laptop and presenting them in Church and on a couple of occasions have been glad of Graham, Lianne and Tyler’s help when we’re both away. We try to make the presentations legible and clear – if you have comments or suggestions on them please speak to one of us. We have made increasing use of material provided by the Methodist Church of GB, e.g. the Advent Liturgy, and by All We Can as the quality of their material has improved recently.

The multimedia equipment also occasionally gets used for non-Church events. The bulb in the Church projector was replaced last year and the projector was serviced.

Printer/Copier Last year the Church Council decided to replace the Ricoh Printer/Copier as it had become increasingly unreliable and, because of its age spare parts were becoming harder to resource. We now have a modern, Wi fi, desktop printer, copier and scanner - and the Ricoh has gone.

Thank you again to David, Billy and Nicola and Ray for their contributions.

Mike Pregnall

Brightstars

Brightstars re-opened its doors following our summer break on 8th September.



There were a few children who started primary school so we expected our numbers would be slightly reduced however we noticed that numbers attending had dwindled somewhat. It is always difficult to judge how many will attend as many who had not been for a while suddenly turn up unexpectedly. However, whilst we have and still do find new Mum's coming along our numbers that we have experienced in the past are down.

Even so despite this Brightstars is, suffice to say, well attended and we have quite a few regulars. It is always very refreshing to see them come as babies and watch them grow along the way heading towards school.

We now have quite a stock of differently themed toys which are rotated weekly in order to offer some stimulation and interest. Most have been acquired via toy donations or from our local charity shops thus having little impact on our monetary reserves.

In the worship hall area, we now arrange a larger section at the front of the church where Mothers and babies can sit in a more secure and safer environment.

Throughout the year we have regular visits on a monthly basis from the local PCN nurses who come and offer advice and support to any who may need it. They also will weigh babies which is no longer done at the Hockley clinic. These services have been warmly welcomed by all who attend.

All in all Brightstars is still flourishing and very often receives very complimentary remarks as to its facilities and well-run activities.

Thanks yet again to our valuable helpers, Lianne, Clare and Ray for their support over the past year.

Sandra, June, Colin and John
The Brightstars Team

Flower Arranging

Linda has once again produced some lovely displays this year using a variety of silk flowers and foliage.

We have not bought any new flowers this year therefore the balance in our flowers account remains the same as last year, and is £218.06



Mothering Sunday: Linda arranged the silk Tulips in the large vases with some of the spring flowers we already had.

Easter: Linda used the two floor-standing artificial arrangements of spring flowers and grasses which stood at the front of the church. We added fresh daffodils to the windowsills.

For the summertime vases Linda used some beautiful artificial yellow roses which she combined with some of the purple spring flowers; they looked very realistic.

Harvest: Linda created our Harvest celebration display scene at the front of church along with a fresh fruit and veg display in front of the pulpit. Our new sunflowers were displayed in the big vases.

Remembrance Sunday: Just as we did last year, we used the paper homemade poppies which some of our young people had helped to make. Although these are fragile, they are easy and inexpensive to refresh for next year.

Christmas: Linda arranged the two big vases with beautiful dark red Poinsettia flowers and some sparkly foliage; she has kindly donated them to our stock for use in future arrangements.

Once again, we are very pleased that the silk flower arrangements have worked so successfully this year. Linda's arrangements have provided colourful and seasonal displays.

Costs have been significantly reduced as we have built up a good stock of artificial flowers.

Ros Hayman and Linda Clarke

1st Hockley Beaver Colony

We currently have a very lively colony of 16 Beavers, supported by two full-time leaders and two part-time leaders, who work together to deliver a varied and engaging programme throughout the year.



It has been a busy and action-packed year for our Beavers. We started 2025 preparing for the Big Garden Birdwatch, making pine-cone bird feeders and learning to recognise common garden birds. We celebrated Chinese New Year by acting out the Zodiac story, mastering chopsticks (with mixed success!) and making Chinese drums. Skills were a recurring theme, from learning knots to putting them into practice, discovering the history of Scouting during Founders' Day, when we learned about Baden-Powell, and practicing our fire-lighting skills and cooked dough twists over the open fire down at Ark Lane Scout Site.

Health, safety and wellbeing featured strongly this year. Beavers worked towards their Health and Fitness Badge, learning about dental care, balanced diets and keeping active. For the Safety Badge, we were visited by the RNLI to learn about water safety, we explored the church building to understand fire safety equipment and escape routes, and even held a fire drill. We also ventured into the village to practise the Green Cross Code, learning how to crossroads safely — followed by well-earned chips back at church.

Creativity and outdoor learning were also on the agenda. Beavers made a concertina Welsh dragon for St David's Day, performed a glow-stick dance routine for their Creative Badge, and enjoyed gardening activities including planting sunflowers, repotting tomatoes and making cress caterpillars for their Gardener Badge.

We went litter-picking in the woods, enjoyed water games (and an enthusiastic water battle), toasted marshmallows at a sparklers and s'mores evening, tried target sports, went crabbing by the river, and held a much-loved parents' tea party, with Beavers proudly serving drinks and cakes.

We also took part in wider community and district events, including the District Fun Run, Renewal of Promise, selling poppies in the village, and had a memorable sleepover at the church focusing on the Global Badge, where Beavers learned about endangered animals, water quality, recycling and Fairtrade.

It has been a fantastic year full of learning and plenty of fun. We are very thankful for the continued support of the church, our parents, and our leaders in helping our Beavers grow in confidence, skills and community spirit.

Lianne Hoy
& 1st Hockley Beaver
Leadership Team

2nd Hockley Brownies

It has been another busy year for the Brownies meeting weekly at the Church in term time.



We have been busy learning all about First Aid and how best to help ourselves and others, which involved practising all our practical skills on each other. We visited Guidewoods in Hockley to complete our Easter egg hunt, exploring the fantastic woodland that we are so lucky to have.

We also spent a weekend in the summer at Guidewoods, having a fantastic time at our 'spy school' themed pack holiday. The

Brownies spent their weekend completing lots of 'spy' themed activities, as well as learning how to cook on their own fires in their groups. We are so lucky to be supported by some amazing young leaders and leaders who enable us to take the Brownies away for the weekend.

In the summer, we also spent the evenings keeping cool in the hot weather, including lots of water activities outside, and we ended the term at Belchamps Activity centre having a go at some archery.

In the autumn, we had a go at some sparklers and made our own Poppy wreath where some of our Brownies paraded alongside other uniformed organisations to mark Remembrance Day. We completed lots of Christmas crafts, featuring plenty of chocolate.

We have given out lots of bronze, silver, and gold awards this year, and the Brownies continue to work hard on their badges in the unit and at home. We welcomed Storm, a new adult to help us each week as well as lots of new Brownies, many of whom joined us from leaving Rainbows. We said goodbye to some of our older Brownies as they moved on to continue their Guiding journey at Guides.

Looking forward to this year, we will be celebrating 100 years of Girlguiding and we are completing a special commemorative badge to celebrate this.

We couldn't meet each week without our fantastic adults who plan, prepare and deliver the sessions for the Brownies. We also have a fantastic team of young leaders who received a special award before Christmas celebrating their hard work with us. We also must thank the church for all their support over the last year.

Kat Lilley
& team

1st Hockley Rainbows Unit

It has been another busy year with the Rainbows meeting weekly at the church in term time.



We have been busy making bird boxes to place in the local environment – so keep an eye out for a 1st Hockley home in a tree near you! The girls have visited the woods and completed nature hunts and trails including an Easter egg hunt.

As the summer weather turned warm, we had a few nights when ice lollies were needed to help keep us all cool.

The girls had the opportunity to visit Ark Lane Scout site for the day where we completed a brand-new Rainbow interest badge “Bee Rescuer”. Learning about everything needed to keep the bee population strong in our area.

At Christmas we made personalised decorations ready for our trees and Christmas cards that went to the local community. Our Young Leaders that support the unit were awarded the Commissioner badge for all their efforts weekly and whilst away at camps and days out. Without them it would be a lot harder for all the adults, they are greatly appreciated.

The girls continue to work hard on all their badges, and we have awarded some bronze, silver and gold rainbow badges reflecting all their hard work.

As we move into a new year and new term, we are getting ready to celebrate 100 years of Girlguiding and each week we are celebrating a different country where Girlguiding can be found.

So, look out for any decorations that spring up and try to guess which country they are associated with.

At the end of the year, we said a sad goodbye to Helen “Party Owl” our fabulous unit helper who has left to start a new job, we wish her well and already miss her. But we are grateful to have Andera “Dotty Owl” on board supporting us.

We thank the church for supporting us and our families as without the support we would not be able to meet. We must also say thank you to the team of volunteer leaders that support us weekly at meetings and behind the scenes as without all the support we wouldn’t be able to offer the girls such a varied programme.

Sally-Ann Elkington
Unit Leader 1st Hockley Rainbows



**So let us not become tired
of doing good; for, if we do
not give up, the time will
come when we will reap
the harvest**

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