

The Link

7th November 2021

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Minister – Rev Dr Calvin Samuel

Rev. Calvin Samuel's Pastoral Letter

Over the past six weeks in all 15 churches across the Southend and Leigh Circuit we've been preaching our way through the first 6 of the 12 commitments of a Methodist Way of Life. We'll complete preaching through the final 6 commitments in January – February 2022.



A Methodist Way of Life is expressed in 12 commitments which emerge out of our understanding of Our Calling as Methodist People to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out our discipleship in Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

Worship

- We will **pray** daily.
- We will **worship** with others regularly.
- We will **look and listen for God** in Scripture, and the world.

Learning and Caring

- We will **care for ourselves** and **those around us**.
- We will **learn more** about our faith.
- We will **practise** hospitality and generosity.

Service

- We will **help people** in our communities and beyond.
- We will **care for creation** and all God's gifts.
- We will **challenge** injustice.

Evangelism

- We will **speak** of the **love of God**.
- We will **live** in a way that **draws others to Jesus**.
- We will **share** our **faith** with others.

These 12 commitments are an attempt to crystallize what we mean when we say we are Methodists and the values by which we aim to live. For us it's not enough to describe statements of faith in which we believe; it's much more important to articulate how we try to live. You'll notice that the twelve commitments of A Methodist Way of Life each begin with these words: As far as we are able, with God's help we will.... This is important.

First, we acknowledge that we can only commit ourselves as far as we are able. We can't do more than our best.

Second, we recognize that we can keep our commitments, only with God's help. How many times have we tried to do things in our own strength and failed and only belatedly sought God's help?

Third, it's not at all incidental that these commitments are framed around the word 'we' rather than 'I.' These commitments are meant to be part of our journey together with others. To quote the African proverb: 'If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.'

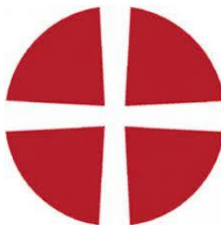
Part of what we are about as Church family is that we try to go together. Especially as we share something of our faith with others in words and actions that make sense to them, we try to do that work and discern the way forward together.

This has been part of the reason we've spent a couple of weeks in October talking about how we came to faith and how we might do a better job of sharing that faith.

We've still got further to go on that journey and a lot to learn and to overcome. But as long as we do it together, I think we'll do just fine.

*Gracious God,
thank you for your extraordinary love
shown to us in Jesus. Help us to live each moment
of each day in gratitude, loving those around us
and witnessing to the ways of your kingdom.
Refresh us continually
in the power of the Holy Spirit
to be people of the Way. Amen.*

Calvin



Prayers for This Week

These prayers are taken from the Worship at Home service for 7th November, found on The Methodist Church website under “worship resources”



We pray for the church, for the world and for ourselves.

Lord, we pray for a strengthening of integrity, wisdom and faith for all Christian leaders; for resilience and courage for Christians who are persecuted, and for the fresh inspiration of the Holy Spirit to be poured out on all believers so that through their witness all the world will come to know the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Hear our prayers for national leaders and the COP26 Climate Conference, politicians and community leaders and all those who have any power or influence over the lives of others. May they act with compassion, justice and honesty, always putting the needs of the most vulnerable first.

Where there is conflict or war, we pray for the Holy Spirit to turn hard hearts towards peace and dialogue instead of violence. Hear our prayers for hope and restoration for the people of Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon, Libya and Myanmar and other areas around the world where there is economic breakdown, food poverty and lack of education provision.

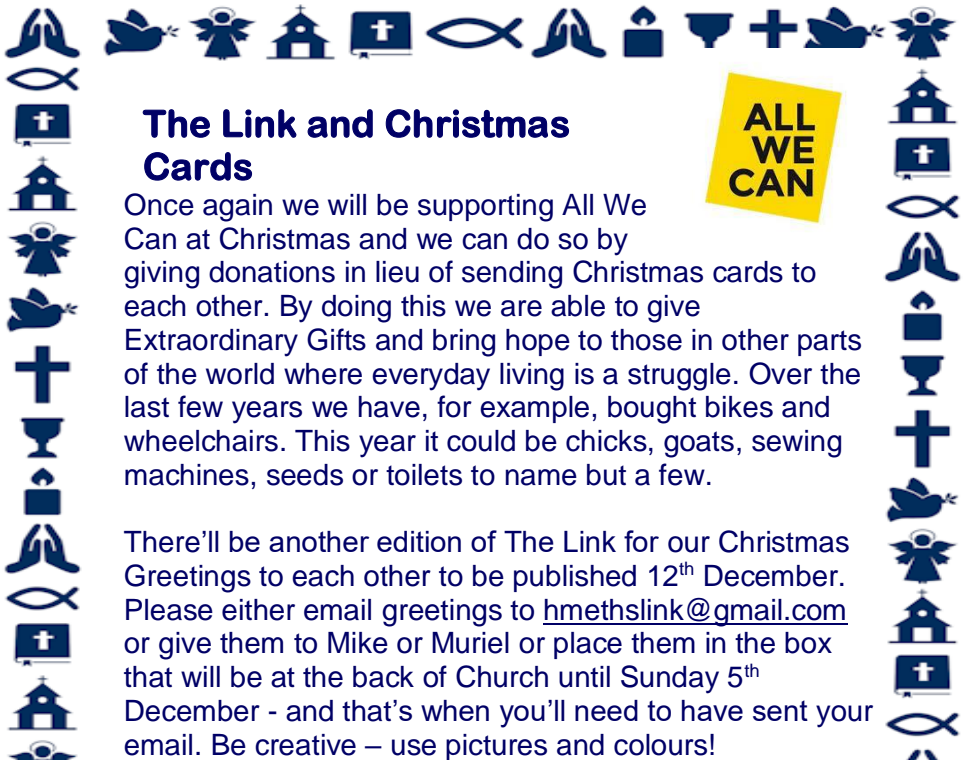
We pray for comfort and courage for all who suffer injury, loss and hardship, for those who are displaced from their homes, and for those who are so desperate they risk their lives on dangerous journeys to reach safety. May God protect and guide them. We give thanks for aid workers who struggle in difficult situations to bring food, shelter and medicines to those in most need.

We ask for the healing touch of Jesus on the lives of people who are ill, in pain, anxious or trapped in addiction. We name in our hearts those known to us and to Jesus who are in need of our prayers and God's love at this time. May they know the peace of mind and heart that only Jesus can give.

We pray particularly for the family and friends of Jean Pitt who died on Monday and for those of our members and friends who are finding it increasingly difficult to join us for worship, or who are in residential care – Eunice and Sheila, Val Saltmarsh, Carolyn and Kay.

Loving God, thank you that you know us through and through, our hopes and dreams, our joys and sorrows. May we continue to know your loving acceptance and blessing in our lives, in Jesus' name.


Amen.



The Link and Christmas Cards

Once again we will be supporting All We Can at Christmas and we can do so by giving donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards to each other. By doing this we are able to give Extraordinary Gifts and bring hope to those in other parts of the world where everyday living is a struggle. Over the last few years we have, for example, bought bikes and wheelchairs. This year it could be chicks, goats, sewing machines, seeds or toilets to name but a few.

There'll be another edition of The Link for our Christmas Greetings to each other to be published 12th December. Please either email greetings to hmethslink@gmail.com or give them to Mike or Muriel or place them in the box that will be at the back of Church until Sunday 5th December - and that's when you'll need to have sent your email. Be creative – use pictures and colours!



From the Worship Team

The next two months are going to be quite busy, as long as there are no restrictions put on our activities because of high Covid cases. The plans for worship are summarised in the centre page spread and there are more details of several of the events here and elsewhere in The Link. After such a long period of time when we were unable to carry on as usual, it has not been easy to get everything running smoothly again (actually, did things ever run smoothly?)

The service this **Sunday 7th November** is **All Age Worship at 11.15am**, led by Rev Calvin Samuel, on the theme “Wow moments with Jesus”. Jesus meets Simon and his fishermen friends by the shore – come and make an Origami boat and decorate the fish (paper fish not real ones!). The Band is playing, and there’s a video,



Next Sunday 14th November is our **Remembrance Sunday service** which will start at **10.45am** so that we will be able to have a minute’s silence along with the rest of the country. Anne is leading the service. Refreshments will be served in the coffee room from 10.15am to 10.35am So far, there is no information about any local events.



Sunday, 28th November at 11:15am The first Sunday in Advent. Rev Calvin Samuel will lead the service and it will include communion.

Sunday 5th December All Age Worship and Parade at 11:15am. *This is the Toy and Gift service led by Rev Calvin Samuel. At this service we support the local domestic violence charity called Safe Steps. The charity has told us that the most useful donations are the Gift Cards, especially those for stores like Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda, where mothers can purchase, food, clothing and gifts for themselves and their children, which they can choose. New toys are also acceptable, but they should be wrapped and clearly labelled with gender and age suitability. Gifts of toiletries for HARP will also be received at this service.*





Sunday 19th December The Carol Service at 11.15am, led by Rev Calvin Samuel.



Friday 24th December our annual Christingle service at 4pm. Remember to bring an orange (large oranges might be in short supply this year). We are aware of how busy this service has been in the past so with the need for space and good ventilation it is likely that we will be asking you to book in advance. However, Nicola would be very happy to hear from you anyway if you intend to be there hmmc1883@gmail.com During the pandemic, we have found this to be very helpful in our preparations.



Saturday 25th December. The Christmas Day service at 10.30am led by Rev Calvin Samuel.

There's no service on Sunday 26th December

Muriel

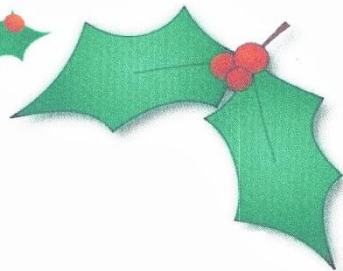
Incidental Music on Sundays.....

Hello everyone!

It's great to share live music during our worship and whilst I enjoy choosing what to play before and after each service I wonder whether there are hymns or songs which are favourites but you rarely hear. It would be great to receive ideas from you for music you would like to hear. Contact me on 07557 873718 or pabennett114@outlook.com



Peter



Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday 20th November
10:00am – 1:00pm.**

**Lots of stalls including toys,
cakes and gifts.**

**Thomas the Tank Engine and
Splat the Rat will appear!**

ENTRY FREE

Refreshments – including bacon rolls

**Home-made-cakes and toys in good condition needed
for the stalls and items needed for the Prize Hamper.
And can you help on the day? Please let Gill know what
you can donate and if you can help on the day.**

Tel. 07759337789



Flowers For Church

We would like to say a big thank you to Kay for all the years of wonderful flower arrangements she has provided for church.

In case you didn't know, Linda and I are now looking after the flowers - we have big shoes to fill!

I'm writing this article to let you all know how we intend to organise things and what you can do to help if you would like to.

We will be doing some displays of fresh flowers for the special occasions in the church calendar. There are six that we have selected, Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Church Anniversary.

For all other Sundays we will have a display of artificial flowers so that there are always flowers in church. There will be a Spring/Summer display and an Autumn/Winter display

How can you help?

If you would like to donate flowers (or money to buy flowers) to celebrate a special occasion or remember a loved one, Linda or I would be pleased to make a simple arrangement of them. You would be welcome to take the flowers home after the service. We would also include a note in the notices to let the congregation know who gave the flowers and what the occasion is.

We would love to see more fresh flowers in church so please let us know if you would like to contribute. Phone Linda 01702 204559 or me 07828048852 or email roshayman@gmail.com

Ros

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER at HOCKLEY

Further details of these events on other pages

Sunday 7th November All Age Worship at 11.15am, led by Rev Calvin Samuel, on the theme "Wow moments with Jesus"



Sunday 14th November Remembrance Sunday service at 10.45am, led by Ann. Refreshments in the coffee room 10.15am to 10.35am

Tuesday 16th November Messy Advent from 4:00 to 5.30pm. Getting ready for Christmas making Christmas wreaths, special cards, angel decorations, and much more..



Saturday 20th November 10:00am – 1:00pm Christmas Bazaar. Lots of stalls including toys, cakes and gifts. Contact Gill if you want a stall or can help on the day.



Saturday, 27th November from 10am to 12 noon, we will be decorating the church for Christmas. Come along and give us a helping hand.

Sunday, 28th November at 11:15am The first Sunday in Advent. Rev Calvin Samuel will lead the service and it will include communion.

Sunday 5th December All Age Worship and Parade at 11:15am. This is the **Toy and Gift service** led by Rev Calvin Samuel. Please bring Gift Cards, new toys for the women's refuge and gifts of toiletries for HARP



Sunday 19th December The Carol Service at 11.15am, led by Rev Calvin Samuel.

Tuesday, 21st December Messy Christmas 4:00 to 5.30pm. There will be a Nativity for all the children to join and we will have party food in the hall



Friday 24th December our annual Christingle service at 4:00pm. Remember to bring an orange (large oranges might be in short supply this year).



Saturday 25th December. The Christmas Day service at 10.30am led by Rev Calvin Samuel.



Sunday 26th December No service.

Sunday 2nd January 2022 at 11.15am This will be organised and led by the Worship Team.

Billy's at the Bazaar (in spirit!)

Billy has provided us with a lot of attractive, amusing and stimulating artwork over the last few years, and especially over lockdown. Would you like to buy a signed print of one of his works? Now's your chance – some, like this one, will be on sale at the Bazaar. Although Billy himself can't be there, Carla will have a stall and happily sell you one, or some of Billy's hand printed Christmas Cards.



1st Hockley Rainbows



1st Hockley Rainbows will be enrolling 8 new girls into the unit. This is a massive undertaking as the girls already enrolled have yet to see an enrolment ceremony as they were enrolled via Zoom. But Snowy (aka Sandra) will be on hand to support everyone as we undertake it under the watchful eye of their parents, making some beautiful Rainbows with our coloured silks. We are very pleased to welcome all our new members and will be welcoming some more after half term and in the New Year.

Sally-Ann

Messy Church at Hockley & Hawkwell Methodists **Tuesday 16th November Messy Advent from 4:00 to 5.30pm.**



Getting Ready for Christmas!! We will have loads of activity tables with art and crafts. We are making Christmas wreaths, special cards, angel decorations, and much more. There will be painting, colouring, cutting and sticking too so something for all ages. We will share in singing and the story. Please bring a few sandwiches or filled rolls or other finger food to share. All are welcome – bring a friend along as well.

Tuesday, 21st December Messy Christmas 4:00 to 5.30pm.

Come and join us for a fun Messy Christmas.

We will start with Christmas art and crafts although for a shorter time. There will be something for all ages. There will be a Nativity for all the children to join in (bring some tinsel if you are an angel or a tea towel for a shepherd's headdress) and then we will have party food in the hall. All are welcome and bring a friend along too. Please bring a small amount of party food to add to the table if you are able. share. All are welcome - bring a friend along as well.



Vaccinaid



The pandemic hit the UK hard. With vaccines rolling out, we're beginning to win the fight against COVID-19. We can't stop there. Now the rest of the world needs our help. In places like India, where cases have risen dramatically, hospitals are overwhelmed and oxygen supplies are running out. And when one country is at risk, we're all at risk.

Play your part and help UNICEF deliver 2 billion vaccines, as well as millions of treatments around the world this year. Because we'll only ever be safe, if we're all safe.

Lockdown Project Completed!

As some of you may remember I embarked on a knitting project to keep my fingers busy during the first lockdown. I already had a large amount of colourful yarn which came from my mum, and I know that she would have been so pleased to see it used like this.



It started with two Norwegian designers who published Scandinavian flower designs on their blog, they also did a You-tube video every week, talking about their designs and inspiring us knitters to reproduce them. It was originally only going to be a cushion cover. I got involved and spent an hour or two almost every day making colour work squares. I had to learn the technique, working from a chart, and mastering the tension to avoid misshapen squares, which was a challenge in the early days.

A Facebook group started up and it grew and grew, knitters from all over the world got involved and people started to publish their own designs online in exactly the same format as the Scandinavian flowers. I was able to choose patterns that represented my own interests so you will see a teapot and teacup, a treble clef, a bicycle and reminders of my Barbados holidays with Mike and Muriel. Faith, Hope, Love and Joy are also there. After the lockdown ended I put my knitting aside to do other things, but I was still looking at the Facebook posts, many people were publishing

photos of their finished projects and I was inspired to complete mine. After I had done so much work it would have been a shame to abandon it.

Having completed the 56 patches, it was stitching up time. What a job it was to get a finish that was neat enough. It took a while! At the same time, I was making the backing which is all crochet stitches in different colours and textures. It kept me warm while I worked on it during the recent chilly evenings.

So now it's finished, I'm very pleased that it's in time for winter even more pleased that it's done!

Ros

Thursday Club

At our resumption on Thursday 16th September, we were kindly invited by Chris and Olive to visit them for a strawberry tea. Unfortunately, due to many reasons, some of our members were unable to attend. Olive and Chris did us proud with a selection of strawberry cakes, strawberry jam to be spread on our scones together with cream (of course), strawberry tarts, strawberries and ice cream and so much more. Have I missed anything out?



It was so good to meet up once again after such a long time in lockdown. Thank you Chris and Olive for hosting a lovely afternoon meeting, in glorious sunshine.

Our second meeting after the resumption was on Thursday 30th September and a number of our hardy members took a short car drive to Meadowcroft Garden Centre to view their enormous collection of Christmas novelties in their German Christmas Market.. Russian dolls, snowmen, penguins, polar bears and reindeer lay in wait for us and inviting us to take them home with us. Baubles and Christmas tree ornaments were available in all shapes and sizes and in glittering colours ranging from gold, silver, red, blue, yellow and green. Stollen cake, gingerbread men, marshmallows and rows and rows of various chocolates all for our pleasure. Trestle tables were arranged for an obligatory glass of German beer accompanied by an enormous bratwurst sausage in a roll. I might come again. Our members bought up many souvenirs filling up many a shopping basket. We sat

together in their large restaurant to have our coffees and teas and of course a selection of delicious cakes. Tea and coffee always taste better with a delicious cake. Always a pleasure to visit. Thank you to all The Meadowcroft staff for their hospitality.

On Thursday 14th October we made another visit to the home of Olive and Chris for a picture quiz. These were cards purchased by Chris with close up pictures of many familiar items. It's funny that when seen from a distance we would have no problem in identifying these items. It is completely different when seen from so close to the subject. However, we did our club proud by recognizing almost half of the items, although probably more by luck than judgement.

Olive was our winner and will be going through to the next round.

Thank you once again Chris and Olive for another interesting meeting.

Thursday 28th October we met at the home of Jean Saunders for a light hearted quiz with every attending member asking a number of questions to us all. These are a sample of some of these questions asked.

Q.1 In which century did William Shakespeare die.

Q.2 Where was the birthplace of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas.

Q.3 What was the Roman name for Scotland.

Q.4 In what sporting profession would you find Lester Piggott .

Q.5 What was the Christian name of Inspector Morse.

We all excelled ourselves and are thinking of taking on a team of chasers or eggheads in a winner takes all quiz competition. Many thanks to Jean for the cups of tea and biscuits.

Our next meetings are as follows:

Thursday 4th November - Palace Theatre 2.30 pm - The Addams Family

Thursday 18th November - at home of Viv MacKenzie - This Is Me

Thursday 2nd December - at The Victory P.H., Ashingdon - Pre Christmas Meal

We will resume our Thursday Club in the New Year.

Answers to our quiz questions: A.1 17th Century (1616)

A. 2 Swansea A. 3 Caledonia A.4 A Horse Racing Jockey

A. 5 Endeavour

Ray

Seenager

I **JUST** discovered my age group! I am a **Seenager** (senior teenager).

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 55-60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared? And I don't have acne. Life is Good!

Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a **Seenager**. Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age; it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains. Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is **NOT** a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. So please forward this to your friends; they may be my friends, too.

From Di

The Hayman-Parkhurst Power Wash Team

June and Ros overcame serious technical issues (with some advice from John M) and got their Kärcher up and running to clean the church forecourt a couple of weeks ago. And didn't they do a good job!

If you have a path or driveway that's looking a bit grubby you could do worse than to give them a ring – but don't tell them I said that!

Mike



The Sunday Pict Oracle - 6th September 128 AD

Bob the Builder not needed in major new project

We are waiting here for the grand opening of Hadrian's Wall. Perhaps opening is not the correct word as closing would be more appropriate.

Six years in the planning and construction, this is quite a major feat. There have been setbacks on the way with many local councils only allowing planning permission after many delays and legal action being taken by building company Roman Walls Limited.



We have arrived at Bonnie Scotland with a number of special guests from across the border to join our English neighbours for this historic occasion, and with us today are Mick and Angus MacTaggart from the Livingstone Construction Company who had a hand on a lot of the stonework.

The singing twins, Alec and Alex McReady were here to perform their big hit "I'm gonna walk 500 miles." It was quite a milestone for them. When told the wall was only 80 miles long they proclaimed "That's alright. The way we walk it, it will be 500 miles". I hope they are sober when Hadrian arrives, as I saw them staggering off, swigging a large bottle of Teachers Scotch whisky.

We were greeted by builders from Maidstone, Wealdstone, Whetstone and Folkestone. after all, a lot of stones were needed and there were also specialist builders from Newcastle and Boscastle, who specialised inYes, you guessed it. Forts. From Shamrock in Ireland we had Patrick's Rock Choir and were hoping for a party from Millwall but unfortunately trouble kicked off with builders from Bootle and they might be a bit late.

Finally a Marquis from Bath, who was responsible for all the washing facilities, arrived. He must have encountered some bad weather en route as he was covered in mud from head to toe. Thankfully, he partook of the shower room immediately.

The hanging around was getting a bit boring and the wind was reaching my nether regions in this desolate, yet beautiful countryside as a fanfare



of trumpets announced the arrival of the main man, Hadrian. He was accompanied as usual by his youthful close friend Antonius, who, due to the lack of single sleeping quarters, volunteered to share a luxury tent with his friend and commander.

Then, the great moment arrived as Hadrian picked up a large bottle of Irn Bru and swung it against the wall with a mighty crash, shouting to the assembled masses, " I now declare Hadrian's Wall, well and truly open.

At that very moment hordes of Scots and English charged at the wall from opposing sides.

Time to leave I think.

Reporter: Angus MacSturgeon (aka Ray Williams)

Newsletter No. 38

Thank you, once again, to everybody who's contributed. Don't forget that The Link is now on a two monthly cycle and it will usually be issued at the end of the month. Please send any items for The Link to hmethslink@gmail.com by the Wednesday before publication.

The Notices will be produced fortnightly provided there is enough material. Anything you think should be included in the Notices needs to be sent to Nicola at hmmc1883@gmail.com by the Wednesday morning prior to their issue.

Muriel & Mike
5th November 2021

