

Christmas Edition



The Link

12th December 2021

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

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Minister – Rev Dr Calvin Samuel

Our Christmas Services



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

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 to share. All are welcome - bring a friend



Friday 24th December our annual Christingle service at 4:00pm.

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

we will be asking you to book in advance. Nicola would be very happy to hear from you 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.



Sunday 26th December No service.

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

Christmas Greetings

Thank you to everybody who's sent a Christmas greeting to The Link. If you make a donation to All We Can instead of sending Christmas cards to each other, we can give 'Extraordinary Gifts' and bring hope to those in other parts of the world where everyday living is a struggle. Leave your donation in the box at the back of Church, give it to Stan or make a bank transfer online using these details: Account: Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church a/c No. 00895598 Sort Code 20-70-93 Reference "All We Can". *If you donate in this way please inform Stan.*



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Wishing everyone a
very happy and
peaceful Christmas

Anne and Colin XXX

Wishing you all a
happy Christmas and
a healthy new year

Di and Dave



*A
Blessed Christmas
To you all
and a
Happy and
Healthy
New Year
From
Shirley & Ron*





**Wishing you a Happy Christmas
Love from Vivienne**



**Merry
Christmas and
Happy New
Year.
Best wishes**

Ray

**Sending our wishes for
a happy and healthy
Christmas,
*From Gill, Paor,
Anthony and all our
family.***

Christmas Greetings and a big thank
you for the kind wishes sent via Link
and other means for my recovery.

Jennifer Poole



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
EVERYONE**

John Morrison

XXX



Merry Christmas

**Have a Merry Christmas
Love from Val**

Kay and Michael send
fond greetings to all at
Hockley and Hawkwell
Methodist Church



Christmas and a
healthy New Year
from

Shirley J



I send my warmest greetings and
good wishes to all members of our
church
family for Christmas and the year t
come. In the midst
of so much uncertainty we
can rest in the assurance of God's
love, concern and care.

Stan

*Wishing all my friends and church family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year 2022! Thank you for all your love and support throughout the year
Jean Saunders xx*



I would like to wish all at Hockley Methodist Church a happy Christmas. It has been a sad but joyous year as well.

With love

Keith

*Happy Christmas to everyone!
With Love and best wishes, from*

June Waterfield

xx

(Hope to feel better soon so I can catch up with you all)



Merry
Christmas



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy New Year.
From Sandra & Colin.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
to everyone.
Have a lovely time and take care

June P xxx



Happy Christmas to all my friends at
Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church

Here's to Christmas:



A Time of Remembering
A Time of Loving
A Time for Giving
A Time of Believing
A Time of gratitude
A Time of Magic
A Time of Peace

Happy Christmas with love to all Ros x



**Merry Christmas
to all and Happy New
Canvasses in 22.**



My Christmas greetings
to everyone.
Revd Brenda

Peace and wisdom

Sending our Best Wishes
for an Enjoyable Christmas
and Peaceful
New Year
Love from
Muriel and Mike



Rev. Calvin Samuel's Pastoral Letter

How quickly a year flies by!

It seems hardly that long ago that we were here at the end of a year, feeling fed up with 2020 and hoping that 2021 would bring better times with the pandemic behind us.



As we all know now, 2021 turned out to be not quite as different to 2020 as we hoped. We began the year in lockdown across the UK and in recent weeks the omicron variant has led to some tightening of restrictions. Regrettably the pandemic is still not behind us.

So, as we come towards the end of another year, a bit fed up with 2021, dare we be hopeful for what 2022 might bring?

The experience of the past year suggests no. The pandemic will be with us for some time. New variants will continue to arise and we will continue to live with some restrictions as we struggle to protect the most vulnerable. Nonetheless, we can be hopeful. 2021 did represent some small progress over 2020. If we make similar small progress in 2022, we'll be in a slightly better place a year from now. That's worth having.

Far more importantly, however, the season of Christmas is a reminder of God who entered our world, in all its messiness and beauty, vulnerability and wonder, diversity and challenge. The world into which Christ was born was uncertain, and it has remained so ever since.

That God is with us, Immanuel, is cause for hope. With God's help we can navigate the complexities of life no matter how uncertain. Moreover, Christmas is an invitation to celebrate the present. Tomorrow is uncertain but we have today.

So my prayer for you is that you will have opportunity to celebrate this Christmas with those you love, making the most of today. From my family to yours, best wishes and all God's blessings for Christmas and the New Year.

Calvin

Brightstars

Hi everyone, we are back running Brightstars and started on 13th September. The first morning we had 17 adults and 18 children, which was nice, it allowed us all to ease ourselves back in. The following Monday 20th September we had 24 adults and 25 children. It is good to have the numbers slowly build up as it allows us to get to know people a little more.

We still have Lianne helping us as before but now we have Clare and Eleanor too as their little ones are now at school. It is nice as they all can chat with Mums in the same age bracket. Ray too likes to chat and still keeps an eye on the car park.

The boys (that's a joke) are keeping everyone topped up with Tea, Coffee and Biscuits as well as snacks for the Little Ones.

We will keep you informed as and when numbers grow.

Since writing our numbers have shot up to 35 adults and 38 children and is still proving popular.

The Brightstars Team'

Vaccinaid

The pandemic hit the UK hard but 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. Go to the [UNICEF](#) website.



Trinity Methodist Church will be serving free meals on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Can you spare 2 or 3 hours over the Christmas period? Or can you spare some money to provide free meals to the lonely and homeless? If not then please spread the word that we need volunteers to serve up to 300 meals to the most needy in our community. It is the most rewarding and humbling experience! Below is a list of jobs, but just sitting and talking to people is as important.

Jobs include food preparation, setting out tables and chairs, door duties, teas & coffees, plating up, serving sandwiches, clearing tables, washing up, peeling spuds and toilet checks.

If you can help in any way contact, contact Viv at vivienrobson@hotmail.co.uk

Rochford Heritage Tapestry Exhibition



In March next year the Church will be hosting the Rochford Heritage Tapestry Exhibition. It will be open from 10:00am - 2:00pm Tuesday 22nd - Friday 25th March and Monday 28th - Thursday 31st March. It will be set up on Monday 21st March and taken down on Friday 1st April so **for those two weeks the Church itself will be unavailable for activities and our Sunday service on 27th March will be held in the Hall.** Although the exhibition won't be open on the Saturday and Sunday all the displays will be in place so the Church can't be used; the same applies to the evenings.

You can see what the exhibition is about on the [Rochford DC](#) website

We will need to provide Stewards for the times the exhibition is open and - if practical – tea and coffee. If you can help for any of the times above please let Mike know on 07798948236 or hockleymeths@live.co.uk. Two-hour slots would be ideal.

Natasha's Law



The [Food Information \(Amendment\) \(England\) Regulations 2019](#) (known as “Natasha's Law” after the

tragic death of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, following an allergic reaction to a baguette) came into effect from 1 October 2021 in England and Wales. This law requires all premises that sell food to provide full ingredient lists and allergen labelling on foods that are pre-packed for sale on their premises. The law seems to apply to all premises, including charities and Churches

Natasha's Law applies to food that has been prepacked for sale, i.e. on the same site as it is offered to consumers and before the customer orders or selects it e.g. a sandwich. Food that is made to order and/or packaged/wrapped on request e.g. after it is chosen/selected by the consumer does not fall under the new legislation BUT care still needs to be made to inform people about allergens. Caution is necessary.

If we offer food prepared and packaged by others we need to ensure that it displays a full list of ingredients and any allergens labelling including nutritional information.

As a Church we want to look after people who suffer from food allergies and intolerances and keep them safe so it is vital anyone preparing and/or offering food on our premises understands what the 14 allergens that must be declared by current UK food laws are, and let people know what is in the food on offer to them.

Even if we don't sell food, we need to take care that what we offer has the contents displayed and in particular that the allergens listed here are identified. This will affect Church events such as bazaars, afternoon teas and any other event where we offer food. We will expect all other users of the premises, both regular and occasional, to have regard to the need to be cautious although the responsibility for complying with Natasha's Law rests with them.

A poster about Natasha's Law, and listing the 14 allergens that must be identified, will be displayed in the kitchens and the implications of the law will be drawn to the attention of all users of the Church premises

Ray's Quizzoomers Win Hard Fought Competition



On 27th November, after extensive arm-twisting by Ros, a team of Quizzoomers was assembled to challenge the intellectual prowess of teams from the Just Ride Charity. Highly motivated and well-provisioned and under the benevolent guidance of Quiz Master Williams, we arrived a secret

location in Leigh-on-Sea and produced our visas and vaccination certificates before making our way, suitably masked, into the bear pit (*some exaggeration here, surely? Ed*). Despite intense opposition from teams representing MENSA, University Challenge, Master Chef, Only Connect and the Teletubbies, the team triumphed with a score of 207 points, well clear of the nearest opposition on 196, and came away with a host of valuable prizes (a box of After Eights or Matchmakers). And we got home in time to watch Match of the Day!

HOCKMIRA Boxing Day Walk

We haven't had an official HOCKMIRA walk for ages so we thought that, weather permitting, we'd walk off some of our Christmas dinner with a Boxing Day amble. We'll meet at the play area end of the Hockley Woods car park and start the boundary walk at 10:30am.



Breaking News

Ros is 60 on New Year's Day!
She's having drinks and nibbles for friends between 2:00pm and 4:30pm.
Come along to 75 Highams Road, Hockley SS5 4DF and help her celebrate – but let her know on 07828048852 if you are coming

Newsletter No. 39

Thank you, once again, to everybody who's contributed, particularly those of you who produced attractive greetings artwork and Billy (again) for cover. 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 12th December 2021

