

HOCKLEY &
HAWKSWELL
METHODIST CHURCH



Artwork by Billy

Rev. Calvin Samuel's Pastoral Letter



Towards the end of last year, like many others I felt very hopeful for the New Year, especially with the news of a vaccine to come. I was ready to consign 2020 to the history books and to start afresh.

Except that a mere 5 days into the New Year we began our 3rd lockdown in under 9 months. So far, 2021 doesn't feel as different from 2020 as many of us had hoped.

In three weeks' time we shall be entering the season of Lent, a season marked by waiting, penitence and preparation for resurrection. It strikes me that the approaching season of Lent provides us with a model for thinking about and navigating lockdown.

The Church has never seen Lent as a passive undertaking. It's a time for reflection, a time for giving up something as a fast, or taking on something as a discipline with the intention that the actions undertaken or the good things given up will enable us to achieve greater focus on God.

Last Lent I started fasting on Tuesdays, but by the time Easter 2020 rolled around we were in the grip of a global pandemic and in lockdown, which didn't seem to be the right moment to stop fasting or to pray less. So, I've continued, each week since then.

So, I wonder what action might we take during lockdown? An action or practice that means that we don't simply endure lockdown but ensure that lockdown is a fruitful space in which we await the resurrection of our economy, our communities and our everyday lives?

Resurrection is always to a new form of life, not simply a resumption of the old. It's akin to the butterfly emerging from the chrysalis, very different in form to the caterpillar that entered. My prayer is that we will use lockdown creatively to grow and to develop so that our resurrection will be similarly marked by transformation when we emerge on the other side.

*God of beginnings and endings,
God of waiting and longing and anticipation,
God of life, and death, and resurrection:
may your life be present to us, your light sufficient for us
and your love made known in us and through us
as we await your coming. **Amen.***

All God's Blessings.

Radio 4 listeners might like to note I'll be taking the Daily Service for 3rd February 2021 on BBC Radio 4 Long Wave at 09.45 GMT. Or catch it later on BBC Sounds here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000rvjw>

Calvin

Prayers

We pray for the world and ask that we can better care for and share its riches so that all people and nature can flourish. We pray for fairness, compassion and justice in the manufacture and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, with special regard to the poorer nations.

We pray for all health workers, carers and everyone providing the vital goods and services we depend upon

We pray for our leaders, to have care for lives and livelihoods so that everyone is valued for who they are. Pray for wisdom, vision and consistency in decision making.

We especially pray for those we know who are lonely because of the lockdown (our young mums with small children), who are isolated because of frailty (Eunice) or unable to live independently (Sheila). We remember those who are unwell, (Kevin and Tash Morrison and Ron Hollaway) and those recovering (Kay). We pray for those of our fellowship who we cannot keep contact with because of the restrictions, (Val, George, June Parkhurst, Keith). We pray for new lives born into this turbulent and restricted world (Willa, Billy's granddaughter and Leah, Peter Bennetts new granddaughter)

We pray for the Church to have the boldness to speak and act for peace and justice. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour and our Friend. **Amen.**



Kath and Chris

As most of you probably know we have recently lost two good friends, Kathleen Walker and Christine Holloway. With the present restrictions, funerals are particularly difficult and are by invitation only but both families have shared their arrangements and tributes with us.

Kath Walker

From Kath's family:



Kathleen passed away on the 12th January 20201, aged 96 years. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. We will be celebrating Kathleen's life and honouring her memory on Thursday 11th February, at 2.40pm, at The West Chapel, Southend Crematorium. The service will be led by Reverend Calvin Samuel of Hockley Methodist Church, which Kathleen attended during her life.

Kathleen's family would like to thank everyone for all of the love and support given at this difficult time.

To watch the webcast of the funeral service go to <https://www.obitus.com> User name Fube7970 Password 407887

Flowers, if desired, can be sent directly to JW Tate & Son, 20 North Street, Rochford, SS4 1AB or donations to Hearing Dogs in lieu of flowers. Kathleen's family would like to thank everyone for all the love and support given at this difficult time.

Christine Holloway

Chris died on Monday 11th January. Her funeral is at Southend Crematorium on Monday 15th February. It's by invitation only; no flowers please, donations to Fairhavens - <https://www.havenshospices.org.uk/support-us/make-a-donation/>



Here is an extract from her family's funeral tribute; the full version and other tributes can be found at on the [Church website](#).

Chris's main love was her family, she was the most wonderful Wife, Daughter, Mum, Nanny, Mum in Law and Friend anyone could wish for. For Chris, family came first above all else.

Chris wasn't scared of dying, she truly believed, due to her faith that this isn't the end and how right she is. She lived her final weeks with such courage and bravery.

Chris wasn't much of a drinker being the good Methodist she is however loved a good cup of tea. So as we reflect now reading this, and when you are at home, raise a thought whilst drinking your cup of tea to Chris and spend some time smiling.

From the Worship Team

So Christmas has come and gone! All the usual services took place in one form or another. The Toy and Gift service was half All Age Worship in the Church, by invitation only and the other half on Zoom; the Carol Service was led by Calvin and was a Sunday morning Zoom service; the Christingle was on Christmas Eve, led by Calvin and saw our Church families meet up, with the surprise addition of Holly Miller (nee Byford) and her three children all the way from Suffolk; on Christmas Day, we were joined on Zoom by Rayleigh and Rochford and again, led by Calvin, finishing with party poppers.

January has seen us have two Section services, using Calvin's YouTube channel and three Hockley Zoom services, following the Circuit Preaching Plan.

In February, the Plan runs like this -

7th at 11:15am AAW on Zoom led by Rev Calvin Samuel (more details below)

14th at 11:15am on Zoom with Anne or Carolyn

21st at 10:00am Section Service and Communion on YouTube and Zoom with Rev Calvin Samuel

28th at 11.15am on Zoom led by Susie King.

On 7th February we are going to try a real All Age Worship on Zoom. There will be a chance to find a musical instrument or improvise with what you have (spoons and pans, sticks, plastic containers with pasta etc) a scavenger hunt related to colours (older members will be allowed to do this in advance) and an additional creative activity for all. Especially for Betsy, there will be music to dance to! Everyone is invited to join in this time of meeting together and sharing worship across the generations.

Communications

Over the last nine months, our lines of communication have been really important to us, especially where there has been illness or bereavement. A lot of information has been sent for the Link or shared on our Wednesday chat sessions. In this way we have been able to maintain good contact between ourselves and the sense of us being a community supporting each other has stayed strong. Having a Church Administrator has helped hugely in keeping all of this going.

To keep lines of communication strong but not cluttered or duplicated is also important. We need to make sure that we do not bury each other with messages and information. To that end, can I remind you of the areas of responsibility of some of our members?

Carolyn is the Pastoral Leaders' secretary. We need to tell her if anyone is ill, in hospital, has passed away or in need of any kind and she will inform Calvin if necessary and decide who else needs to be told or arrange for emails to be sent out via Nicola.

I lead the Worship Team, so am responsible for the Sunday service and all things related to that. It is my job, assisted by Gill and Anne to make sure that worship runs smoothly and to work with Calvin in organising the types of worship and the preachers. Information and questions related to worship should come to me.

Mike looks after communications. Who knew when that role was created, how central it would be to our existence during a pandemic? He's the contact for notices, The Link and the Church website. He arranges posters, etc., with Billy and David looks after the multi-media equipment.

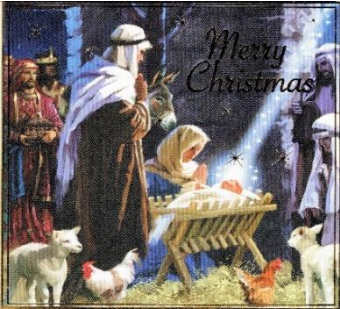
More about the other leaders and their roles another time!!

Muriel

Belated Christmas Greetings

Several cards were left in the Church letterbox over Christmas:
From **Margaret and Stuart Byford** – to everyone at Church, *“hoping you have been keeping safe and well and look forward to worshipping with you in 2021”*.

From Holly, Stu, Connor, Owen and Maria Byford - to all at Church, *“We hope you had a merry Christmas and have a better 2021. Hopefully we'll see you all soon”*.



And from Rev Michael Moon and Jane: *“Dear Hockley & Hawkwell Church. Your friendship is the best Christmas gift that we have received. We wish you God’s peace at this Christmas and may the peace and joy of Christmas be with you today and throughout the New Year”*.

Changes you will see after lockdown!

Lockdown may have been a real trial but we are happy to have been able to complete a number of projects on the Church premises without any disruption during this time.

We have maintained a weekly check throughout the lockdowns where we check the premises and run the taps to ensure everything will be safe when we go back. We have also arranged the more mundane but necessary checks such as the boiler service and the automatic doors service and the Instakil visits so we have been quite busy but in addition some much more exciting things have been done.

You may know that we have a quinquennial property review, every five years, when we have an examination of the whole building by an independent surveyor who then writes a lengthy report to advise us of the

condition of the premises. We have completed most of his recommendations over the last few years and this year we were able to go ahead with renovating the outside.



We have had new soffits and guttering which will not need painting, always a bonus!

The brick work at the front has been repaired and cleaned up and some stonework painted.



All other woodwork has been repainted.



The meter cupboard has been renewed.

We also have a smart new double-glazed front door, which will hopefully also keep the entrance much warmer and is more secure.



Inside, forty of the chairs have been re-covered and hopefully, before too long, we will be able to complete the rest.

I hope that, when we are finally able to meet in church, that you will enjoy seeing the improvements that have been made.

Anne Sains

Christian Aid Magazine



June Waterfield has several copies of the latest Christian Aid magazine. If you want a copy, phone June on 10702 2006071.

A reminder – Christian Aid Week is 10th -16th May.

Hockley Heritage Plaques



Have you noticed the green heritage plaques at various points around Hockley? Inspired by English Heritage's Blue Plaque scheme they have been put up by the Parish Council over the last three years and appear on the Public Hall, the Railway Station, the Parish Rooms (the old fire station), the Spa Public House and on

Williams and Donovan's office at the start of Woodlands Road (the site of the old Turnpike and Toll House).

The Council offered to present one to the Church, an offer was gladly accepted, so there is now a plaque on the front wall acknowledging the presence of Methodists in Hockley since 1881, the first Church in 1883 and the present building of 1906.



No ceremony to mark the occasion in the current circumstances but something to bear in mind?

Michael Deedman

A Link to the Past

I promised I would continue the story of Ian's epic cycle ride from Lands End to John O' Groats and only wish Ian was still with us. I am sure he would now be planning another epic adventure, perhaps the return journey of John O'Groats to Lands' End. Fasten your seat belts as here we go.

Thursday 19th May: Okehampton to Cheddar: 92 miles

This was to be my longest day's mileage. It started off very pleasantly with a nice climb out of Okehampton, then minor roads to Crediton and then a nice but hilly cross-country route towards Cullompton, stopping en route at a pub for lunch. After lunch the route took you back a bit to a little village called Westleigh, where there was

supposed to be the start of a National Cycle Route but I could not find it and had to retrace my steps and use the main road, the A38 to Bridgewater. Resuming the correct route to Cheddar via B3141 and Wedmore, over the last few miles I was starting to get cramp but arrived at the hostel at about 7p. m.

The warden informed me that the hostel I had booked for the next night at Welsh Bicknor could not now accommodate me and had changed my booking to St. Briavels. I was not very happy about this as it messed up my next day's schedule. When I phoned home after eating my evening meal I found out that the YHA had phoned Viv that evening and told them I was staying at Cheddar YHA. It was this that prevented me from turning up at the hostel in Welsh Bicknor and finding I had nowhere to stay. I wrote to the YHA after returning home and succeeded in obtaining compensation. I had a short walk to stretch the legs and then retired to bed at about 10.15 p. m.

Friday 20th May: Cheddar to St. Briavels : 78 miles

After a good breakfast I set out about 9.15 a. m. and used a cycle route along an old railway for the first 2 miles. After bypassing Axbridge, the route took me cross country, through a network of lanes. Eventually I arrived at a place called Pill and tried to find the cycle route across the M5 Avon bridge, after three circuits of a housing estate I eventually found the route and crossed the river.

The route then went round the outskirts of Bristol Docks and arrived at the M48 Bridge to cross the Severn estuary to Chepstow. Riding across the bridge was extremely hard as it was right into a very strong head wind; flat out I was doing 7 mph. After what seemed forever I arrived at the far side and then got lost trying to find the route to Chepstow town centre, but a helpful local put me on the right route. When I arrived at Chepstow I headed for the local branch of Specsavers, as one of the lenses in my glasses had fallen out, it was repaired whilst I waited and then I went to the local fish and chip restaurant for a nice meal.

The distance to my amended destination was not far and I arrived just after 3.00 p.m. The hostel was not open till 5.00p.m. but as the door was open I managed to buy some food to keep me going till

later. There was no shop or café in the village and the pub was shut, so I had to just sit around and wait for the hostel to open. The staff were very apologetic for my changed booking and insisted that I had a complimentary evening meal, which was very nice. I phoned Viv after eating to let her know I was Ok and the only other person in my dormitory was a chap from Saffron Walden who had cycled up to John O' Groats from Essex and was now cycling to Lands End and then from Lands End back to Saffron Walden.

Saturday 21st May: St. Briavels to Wilderhope : 72 miles

I left as soon as possible from St. Briavels as I was going to Wilderhope Manor in the Peak District and knew that there would be lots of climbing. As my route was not as I had expected I followed the signs to Ross On Wye, then on lanes to skirt around Hereford. I stopped for elevenses at a caravan site café at Mordiford; along nice lanes to Bodenham and Leominster and I then rode along the A4051 onto Ludlow, stopping at a village pub for lunch. From Ludlow the route was along the A49 for a short distance, then the B4365/B4368 until I turned off into a very narrow lane towards the youth hostel. It was a very hard climb up to the drive of the hostel, which is part of an old manor house. The drive was through the grazing area for the cattle that thankfully were too busy to worry about me. I was soon booked in and

eating my dinner. Viv was staying with Richard and Natalie I did not have his correct phone number but eventually I managed to contact her, mobile phones would not work at the hostel and even the landline was not very good.

*Getting closer to the border. More to follow.
Ian MacKenzie*

Ray Williams

Daffodils

24 December

Dull and overcast. Looking at my garden from upstairs to see if any urgent garden jobs need to be done. Stop and look, what is that? A flash of yellow, could it possibly be my January Gold Daffodil?

25 December

A wonderful Zoom with Rob, Angela and Amelia. A very excited girl opening her presents. She loved the pink nightie with a unicorn and frill at the bottom. Unfortunately had to purchase from Amazon – hope M&S forgive me. The sun is out and the chicken is in the oven. What made the day complete was the 14 January Gold daffodils shining in the sun.

Daffodils are really narcissus from the Greek deep sleep and related to the word narcotic. The story from Greek mythology is about a nymph called Echo who fell in love with Narcissus. He was so very handsome and spurned all amorous advances including Echo's. Heartbroken, she lived alone until nothing but her echo remained. Nemesis, the god of revenge, heard the story and lured Narcissus to a pool. Narcissus who was so beautiful and quite taken with himself, saw his reflection, and fell desperately in love with himself. He leaned over to get a better view and fell in and drowned. Where he died a beautiful flower grew and was named after him.

Daffodils were brought to Britain by the Romans who believed they had healing powers. Actually the sap contains crystals that can irritate the skin and if eaten upset the tummy.

Daffodils are associated with Easter and used to decorate churchyards and churches on Palm Sunday. It would be lovely if this could happen in our church this year. As Easter is in April it might even be possible.



*In the garden, something green
is standing slender tall and lean.
I think it is, I hope it will
turn out to be a daffodil.*

*Springing forth from bulb and root,
the grandest of the Springtime shoots.
Golden petals bright with power,
Make us smile through Springtime showers.*

Linda

The New Shed



The two storage sheds at the rear of the Church Hall storing children's toys and surplus hall chairs have been in need of serious attention for some time. The Brightstars' shed in particular was leaking badly and many toys were getting wet and mouldy. When the Church was offered a donation of £3,000 via Wells' Solicitors in recognition of Linda Williams' work for Brightstars the decision was taken to have a full replacement with the help of a contribution from Church funds. Ideas, drawings and quotes were put together and following Church Council approval, planning permission was sought. Original sizing was amended so that building regulations could be adhered to and in fact this has worked in our favour as there is now considerable room all around so that any maintenance of the shed or border can easily be carried out.



Finally on 5th January work commenced, the guys from Gorilla Sheds quickly removed the chairs, demolished and removed the old sheds then cleared the overgrown vegetation plus rubbish which was all removed. The next day the frame that would support the new single unit was laid down. This had to be raised and levelled as the ground was quite uneven and sloped towards the boundary.



Once the frame was down the shed was erected in no time and was finished by the end of the day. It is now watertight, chairs put back and once some shelving has been built into the Children's part, the toys will be put into their new home awaiting the moment Brightstars can start again.

Colin

Weather Report 2020



What a year - and not just the pandemic. A year of record summer sunshine, record autumn rain and a record number of storms. In January we had storm Brendan, followed in February by storms Ciara and Dennis, then Ellen and Francis in August, Alex in October and Bella in December. All left their mark but no significant damage in this corner of SE England. As a whole 2020 was some 20% wetter than average, mainly due to a record 200mm of rain in October, with 86mm of rain falling during the first four days of the month, making it the wettest month ever in my 34 years of recording Hockley's weather. February, June and December were also much wetter than normal.

At the other end of the scale, May was amazingly dry with just 3mm of rain and 320 hours of sunshine (both records) when normally we get about 45mm of rain and 205 hours of sun. April and June were also sunnier than usual so the year as a whole, with 1965 hours of sun, ended up about 15% sunnier than average. On 31 July the temperature reached 32 and 25° or more (i.e. officially 'hot') on 11 of the following 13 days. What a time to be on holiday..... if only.

There was a late frost on 15 April and a first frost of the autumn on 4 November although November itself was unusually warm. The year was free of snow however and rather surprisingly it was the last day of 2020 that turned out to be the coldest with the thermometer remaining at just 1°. The mean temperature for each of the last eight years has been above the average of 14.5°. 2020 continued this trend at 15.0.

Michael Deedman

Ray's Quizzoom 35 on 22nd January 2021

ROUND ONE - SPORT ALONE

Q. 1 This British ski jumper held the British ski jumping record from 1988 to 2001. This was despite finishing last in the 1988 Olympic Games.

Q. 2 Cassius Clay won his first world heavyweight title on the 25th February 1964 by beating which boxer.

Q. 3 The 11th August 2012 was known as "Super Saturday" in London's Olympic Games of 2012. Which one of these four British athletes did

not win a gold medal on this day. a) Jessica Ennis b) Mo Farah c) Christine Ohuruogu d) Greg Rutherford

Q. 4 Which British tennis player won a Wimbledon singles title in 1977.

Q. 5 This wheelchair athlete represented Britain internationally from 1988 to -2004 winning many titles and medals. She was made a Baroness and entered the House of Lords in 2010.

ROUND TWO - DOCTORS

Q. 6 Julie Christie starred in the 1965 film Doctor Zhivago, but which actor played the title role.

Q. 7 Which character did Kenneth Williams play in 1967 film "Carry On Doctor. a) Doctor Tickle b) Doctor Tinkle c) Doctor Tipple d) Doctor Titter

Q. 8 Which Russian doctor wrote the plays "The Cherry Orchard" and "Uncle Vanya."

Q. 9 Which four word quote is attributed to Sir Henry Morton Stanley, who found a missing doctor in 1871, whilst travelling in Africa.

Q. 10 Which actor played James Bond in the 1962 film "Dr. No.

ROUND THREE - POLITICS

Q. 11 On what day of the week does Prime Minister's Questions take place. a) Monday b) Tuesday c) Wednesday d) Thursday

Q. 12 What is the minimum age that a person in Britain can stand, in local council elections.

Q. 13 What chamber of Parliament has more members, The House of Commons or The House of Lords.

Q. 14 Nineteen British Prime Ministers have been educated at which public school.

Q. 15 In the UK, elections usually take place on what day of the week.

ROUND FOUR - WORDS - (Q16 - Q20)

No options given in this round given but extra clues are given. To score a full point the answer must be spelt correctly.

Q. 16 Being an expert of this eight letter word game, should help you in this round. Contains 2 B's.

Q. 17 Which ten letter word is an athletic term comprising of five different events for each competitor. Contains 2 N's and 2 T's.

Q. 18 A thirteen letter word, which is a piece of work, self written. Contains 2 A's and 2 O's.

Q. 19 Which twelve letter word describes an interaction of words. Contains 2 N's and 2 O's.

Q. 20 This thirteen letter word, is a book, often in several volumes, giving information on many subjects in alphabetical order.
Contains 2 A's and 2 C's and 2 E's.

ROUND FIVE - TAMLA MOTOWN

Q. 21 Which artist had a hit in 1968 with the song "I heard it through the grapevine."

Q. 22 Aretha Franklin had a 1967 hit when she spelt out the name of this seven letter song.

Q. 23 "Tears of a clown" was a 1970 hit for Smokey Robinson but what was the name of his backing group.

Q. 24 Otis Redding recorded this song shortly before his death in a plane crash in December 1967.

Q. 25 From these four options, which one of these hits by Diana Ross and The Supremes, entered the charts last, in 1966. a) Baby Love
b) Stop in the name of love c) Where did our love go. D) You can't hurry love

Answers next week.

Whodunnit?

We're holding a MacMillan Nursing "Whodunnit?" on Zoom at 7:30pm Saturday 31st January. If you would like to join one of the Character teams, or just watch it, email hockleymeths@live.co.uk. You may anyway be contacted by one of the Characters and asked to join their team. This will be a "virtual" version of one of Ray's "Murder Mysteries" – but even cornier!

Newsletter No. 32

Thank you, once again, to everybody who's contributed and a reminder that the Sunday Notices and Link Magazine, now The 21 Link, are both on a monthly cycle, so there's one or the other every 2 weeks with The Link issued at the end of the month. Please send any items for the 21 Link to hmethslink@gmail.com by the Wednesday before publication. 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

