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Worship Team

After last year's AGM, it was not long until we entered the first lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Rev Michael Moon was our minister, although Rev Calvin Samuel had already been matched with us through the stationing process and he had spoken to us at the ACM. He was to become our minister in September 2020.

By April we heard about using a conferencing app called Zoom. Mike became the Zoom-master, and with persistence taught us all how to use it which meant we could maintain our connections and were able to support our members and friends by worshipping on line. We were aware that a small group of people were unable to join in, as they did not have or use the internet, but this group have been supplied weekly with home worship sheets, and information via notices and The Link. Some have been able to join in by using the phone link. We generally agree that Zoom worship has been a good thing. Although we enjoy the YouTube services, it is not the same as the interaction and inclusive nature of Zoom Sundays. The services have been much enhanced by Ros Hayman's singing. This has allowed us to join in at home and sing along to our heart's content, knowing that, as we are muted, no-one else knows how out of tune we are!! Many of the Church family have also participated by doing readings, either live on Zoom or recording for the YouTube service.

Over the last twelve months, Sunday worship has mostly been on Zoom, led first by Michael Moon until July, then by Anne Sains, using the home service sheet produced weekly by The Methodist Church. In August there were Circuit Zoom services, some of which we shared in, led by Rev Peter Moorhouse, who had pastoral oversight of Hockley until September.

In the middle of September, after Rev Calvin Samuel became our minister, we had eight weeks when we were allowed to have services in the Church.



After a lot of discussion and work, to make sure we followed the regulations, regarding social distancing, the congregation met again, finding the “do not mingle” directive the hardest to follow. As we were one of the first in the section

to re-open, Rev Calvin Samuel was our preacher for the first three consecutive weeks. Harvest was celebrated in a muted way, but there was no parade or All Age Worship at this point because the social distancing regulations prevented there being more than the regular Sunday attendance. We also made contributions to All We Can in lieu of Harvest gifts. Ros Hayman continued to sing for us, as this was still prohibited as a communal act in the Church.

For most of November, we were once again in lockdown, when we moved to a mix of Zoom services led by a planned local preacher, a section YouTube service led by Rev Calvin Samuel and services led by the Worship leader, Anne Sains, assisted by Carolyn Sturgess from time to time. Remembrance Sunday was led by them.

There were two weeks when we opened again at the beginning of December. The Burton family decorated the Christmas tree and the Worship Team did the rest. All Age Worship was held on 6th December on what would have been the Toy and Gift Parade service. . The details of how to support Safe Steps with vouchers from Tesco and Sainsbury were circulated but we have no information as to how much was received, as it would have been done at a personal level. Because of the necessary social distancing required, only the families with children could be in Church, the rest of the congregation meeting on Zoom led by Carolyn Sturgess. This was the first time that we had been able to invite the families with young children.

Shortly after that, we were again shut, because of the prevalence of the virus in our area. This was initially voluntary, but the Church Council agreed to this, and most other denominations did the same thing. The Carol service was on Zoom with a section service on YouTube once a month. The Christingle was successful, despite the technical hitches and almost as magical when the candles were lit. Christmas Day was led by Rev Calvin Samuel and though hosted by us, was open to the other Churches in our section. We still donated to All We Can in lieu of

sending each other Christmas Cards and enough was raised to buy two wheelchairs. Thank you for your generosity and support.

In January, following the plan we began with a section Covenant service. The first Sunday in February was marked with our first full AAW. This was very enjoyable and successful and will now continue to be held on the first Sunday of the month on Zoom, until we are allowed to meet in Church again.

At last year's ACM, we discussed changing the time of the morning service, at the request of Rev Calvin Samuel, to enable him fit in two services on a Sunday morning. The voting on this issue was split evenly but events overtook us and generally since September, Hockley Zoom services have been held at 11.15am. The earlier suggested time was 9.30am which was generally thought to be too early for many of the members and friends.

A year of unbroken worship has been achieved by the efforts of the whole Church family, who have learned how to use Zoom and supported all that we have attempted. Thanks go to the local preachers and ministers who have been prepared to lead worship in this once very unfamiliar but now accepted format. They have also provided us with services on YouTube that can be accessed at any time during the week for those not able to join on a Sunday.

Our thanks also go to all our members and friends, participating so willingly, and ministers and local preachers who have led us through these difficult days. We will remember this time for the warmth of the fellowship and the strength of the support for each other. We will have our Zooming skills forever!!!

Muriel, Anne and Gill
On behalf of the Worship Team

Treasurer's Report

A mere glance at the Balance Sheet that follows this report will reveal that the Church finances suffered an overall decline in the financial year ended 31st August 2020. The one issue that has dominated the news over the past twelve months is the sole cause of this decline – Covid-19.

The closure of the Church for all but a few weeks since March last year has severely restricted opportunities for fundraising, resulting in particular in a loss of some £3,000 from fees for the regular use of the Church or Church Hall by various organisations, and by individuals who hire the premises for parties. The loss in this financial year will exceed what it was in the last, the actual amount depending on the level of restrictions imposed by the Government.

In these circumstances it is impressive and pleasing to see the level of giving that has been achieved in spite of the absence of weekly collections, and I express grateful thanks to all those who have either given by monthly Standing Orders or with regular cheque donations.

It is not possible this year to pin the accounts to a Church notice board for general perusal but if you would like a personal copy please let me know.

The balances in the various Church Funds as at 31st January 2021 follow the Balance Sheet below to provide a more up to date record of the Church finances. These, together with William Potter's legacy, should enable us to meet the demands that are likely to be made on our resources for the remainder of this financial year.

I wish to express my warmest thanks to David Clarke for regularly reconciling the accounts with the Bank Statements and to Nicola, our Church Administrator, for typing the annual accounts as well as giving me much appreciated assistance throughout the past twelve months.

Stan Rae - Church Treasurer



Property

Lockdown may have been a real trial but we are happy to report that we 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 arranged for the necessary checks such as the boiler service and the automatic doors service and the Instakil visits and fire extinguisher checks so we have been quite busy but much more exciting things have been done too.

You will know that we have a quinquennial, every 5 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 was repaired and cleaned up and some stonework painted. All other woodwork was repainted. The meter cupboard has been renewed. We also have a smart new double-glazed door, which will hopefully also keep the entrance much warmer.

Inside, 40 of the chairs have been re-covered and hopefully, before too long, we will be able to complete the rest. As well as this we have a splendid new shed which became a very time consuming task for Colin Allison to arrange. We would like to thank him for all his hard work. Most of the money was a donation from Wells Solicitors from a special fund that they administer. It was given in memory of Linda Williams in recognition of all her many years of work with young children both at the Church and in the wider community.

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
Property Secretary

Cradle Roll



I continue to remember children's birthdays and keep in touch during the year, including a small chocolate gift at Christmas. This year instead of chocolate coins, it was agreed that something different was needed. So thanks to funding from Messy Church and Friday club, orders were placed for chocolate calendars, from THE REAL CHOCOLATE COMPANY. Also chocolate Christingles, for older children and Friday clubbers. Both gifts included the

Christmas story. We always enjoy seeing cradle roll families during the year, and look forward to a return to meeting normally.

Gill Cross - Cradle Roll Secretary

Messy Church



It has been hard to keep Messy Church going this year. The fact is though, that there is a great need to support families and to understand the difficulties and huge pressures they face.

We were really keen to have a Messy Church for Christmas and just managed to fit it in before the lockdown. It had to be very different with social distancing and face masks and other safety features but it was a joy to be able to share the message of Christmas with a few of our lovely families. We gave out Advent calendars with little Christmas story books too.

In February we made our first attempt at a zoom Messy Church. There were 7 families with 13 children and as it was Pancake Day the session was called 'Feasting to fasting' and included what Lent means and what ways we can either give to others or what we can give up. We finished with sharing pancakes. The children were very good at talking about what they were doing during the activities and seemed pretty relaxed.

Hopefully we will be able to run Messy Church monthly from now on either on zoom or, maybe, before too long, we will be able to meet in our building when it is safe to do so.

Anne Sains - Messy Church Leader

Pastoral Visitors

I have to report the death of three of our Church members and friends Mr Ian Mackenzie, Mrs Kathrine Walker and Mrs Christine Holloway.

Mrs Kay Deedman and Mrs Shirley James both had serious falls in January.

It has not been easy for the Pastoral Visitors due to the virus to call and visit their members and have time to spend together or to contact them via the phone or email.

Just before Christmas the Pastoral Visitors delivered Christmas cards and a small present to those who have not been able due to the virus to keep in contact with the Church. Please if you need support or you think some else does need our help please just contact me.

Carolyn Sturgess



Church Hire



Since last March the Church and Church Hall due to Covid-19 and lockdown have not had any bookings. The Triple H Choir and one fitness class returned for two weeks but then had to close again. The U3A Flower Arranging class have now discontinued to hold any more classes.

Carolyn Sturgess

Fundraising

I think we are feeling sad there will be no social and fundraising events this year, possibly till The Christmas Bazaar. No pancakes, no afternoon tea. As people will not be prepared to risk coming, as most folk are older and will want to be sure it's safe to socialise. So we feel the time's not right to hold these events yet. Between now and The Christmas Bazaar we need to find things we can organise, and meet all the safety guidelines. Which may be difficult to find



What a difference a year makes, this time last year we had just held another PANCAKE AND COFFEE MORNING, this was as usual very popular. We got through several large bags of flour a lot of milk and eggs. Thanks to the hard work of all the fundraising team, and it was wonderful to see so many friends We also had a gardening talk and Afternoon tea to look forward to. At the moment the only social and fundraising event booked, is for the Christmas BAZAAR, SO PLEASE SAVE THE DATE 20 NOVEMBER 2021.

However we'll try to think of a social/fundraising event that will meet all the guidelines needed for our safety-that might mean ZOOM. For later this year, ideas welcome.

June Parkhurst, Gill Cross and team

HOCKMIRA



Well, we drafted a walking programme for 2020 but that was as far as we got.

We have, along with Ros (in our bubble), done extensive research into the local footpath system to the extent that we can now identify the source of mud from any part of Hockley and Hawkwell (and bits of Ashingdon). A research paper will be published in the Hockley & Hawkwell Scientific Society's Quarterly

Review later this year.

Last year's programme may be resuscitated if Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed later this year.

Muriel & Mike Pregnall

Outreach

When I wrote the Outreach report this time last year there was encouraging news to report. We did join with Emmanuel Church for their Good Friday service, were invited to make our contribution and were generally made very welcome. Their members subsequently joined us for a Songs of Praise service, followed by tea and cake. Anne and I also met up with Gillian Thompson of the United Reformed Church to discuss similar joint ventures but alas the pandemic put an end to such ideas, including a repeat of the Good Friday service at Emmanuel. Our Church lives have changed so much. I just hope and pray it will not be too long now before we can attend morning service together once more, sing and chat together like the old days and renew our contacts with fellow Christians in Hockley and Hawkwell.



Kay Deedman

Thursday Club



A hardy group of some 16 members continued to meet fortnightly in a variety of homes on a Thursday afternoon, generally entertaining ourselves with games, speakers and chat, before the pandemic put an end (temporarily we hope) to such events. Our last meeting in March 2020 was in fact our annual dinner, held once again in the conservatory of the Anchor in Runsell Green. We were sorry to bid farewell to Rev Michael Moon and Jane who had been regular supporters of our meetings and very very sorry indeed to learn of the death of Ian Mackenzie, a current member and ex-Chairman of our group. He will be greatly missed. We're glad that his wife Vivienne remains in contact.

Michael Deedman

Communications

All our activities at Church were severely restricted by Covid-19 in 2020 and by the precautions associated with dealing with it but it has been a busy time on the communications front!



Although the Communications Team has not met in 2020 (and probably needs re-constituting). Billy, David, Ray, Nicola and Muriel have all contributed to what has been our main task in 2020, keeping in touch with members and friends.

How would we have managed without Zoom! Over the year we have had:

- 38 services on Zoom (we've also joined services via You Tube 8 times);
- 38 Wednesday chats;
- 38 Ray's Quizzooms;
- plus several meetings (Church Council and Leaders); and
- 1 Messy Church.

We've produced 32 editions of The Lockdown Link, mainly distributed by email but paper copies have been distributed to the 9 members not

online. We have also distributed the Notices electronically and by hand.

We “held” all our Christmas services (Carols, Christingles, etc) on Zoom and even had a go at live streaming services from Church.

All this in the attempt to keep in touch with members and friends throughout the lockdown. We’ve also used Facebook [mainly Nicola!] and the website and kept the front notice board up-to-date so people can see that, though we may be closed we’re still here!

In addition we've managed to produce 8 videos ranging from information about our Covid-19 precautions in Church to a pantomime. They're all available via <https://www.hockleyhawkwelldmethodist.org.uk/video/> and there may be a couple more by the time you read this.

Mike Pregnall

Brightstars

*Brightstars*

It is hard to believe that one year on Brightstars still remains closed, something we could not have imagined. It may be some time before normality and confidence returns allowing us to start again, so there should be ample time to prepare. The team has tried to stay in touch with one another by telephone during the lockdowns, checking on one another’s well-being. During the Summer we received notice that permission had been granted to replace the Children’s and Church storage sheds having had to reduce its footprint to meet current Building Regulations. Once the order was placed, we removed all the useable toys and equipment and shelving onto the Stage. This was all conducted at the time following government rules. Finally in January the old sheds were removed and the new one installed. The next stage will be to reinstate the shelving, inspect and clean the toys ready for their new home. This may take a little while when hopefully the weather will be a little warmer and access to some materials becomes a little easier.

The Brightstars Team
Sandra, June, Colin and John.

Friday Club

The Friday Club stopped meeting like everybody else during the March lockdown. They all received the links to the videos produced for keeping in touch and group emails were sent from time to time, but there was not much response.



Towards the middle of August Muriel suggested a Friday Zoom get together, and this was taken up by most of the remaining members and has continued on alternate weeks initially and then, when schools were locked down again, moved to weekly meetings. Rev Calvin Samuel has joined all of these since he became our minister.

The young people have been able to talk to each other and share their frustrations and worries. They have also discussed a variety of topics from current affairs and Donald Trump to how they can make a difference amongst their peer groups and in society as a whole. They have shared their enthusiasm and achievements, joined in and helped out with worship, the Christmas video and participated in the Whodunnit?

We have played a variety of games from a list produced by the Methodist Church for Zooming youth groups, as well as playing Pictionary using the Zoom whiteboard, emoji puzzles and the Simon Drew picture puzzles that have appeared in The Link.

A special service was planned for November, (already pushed back from last June) when Peter Moorhouse and Calvin would lead a celebration service for the Friday Club members who had completed the training for youth leadership, to which their families would also be invited, but this was thwarted at the last minute by the second lockdown. This is still an outstanding matter. However, three members have been unable to meet with us over the last year, because they are now involved in the world of work, either full time or part time to support their studies, so a lot of momentum has been lost. Two more are destined for University in the next academic year, leaving three active members. It has been difficult to integrate younger members as the age gap is significant. Something we need to consider in any future plans.

Muriel and Calvin



Flower Arranging

Until Church services had to be cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Linda Clarke and I were able to provide flowers for Sunday services on a regular basis. I think I've been doing Church flowers for well over 50 years. I also went to flower arranging classes held in our

Church hall and enjoyed putting into practice the different tips the demonstrators gave us. It will be good to return to morning service once again but alas my health will no longer allow me to lift vases as I once did and I am now reluctantly forced into retirement.

Kay Deedman

1st Beaver Colony



We continued to meet on zoom and set the Beavers some challenges and badge work during the summer term. We only had a few beavers attending on zoom before the summer holidays.

Since September, the Beavers have joined the Cubs on zoom and have made pancakes, had a Lego challenge evening, made edible scarves and painted pebbles. Most of the older Beavers who had already turned 7 years have been moved up to Cubs.

Unfortunately, due to work and other commitments the current Beaver leaders feel unable to commit to running the Colony when we return to face to face meetings so the Group will be looking for new leaders and parent support if we return after lockdown.

Jane Stafford
Beaver Scout Leader

1st Hockley Scout Group



2020 has been an interesting year with some very unique challenges, forefront of which has been needing to adapt our scout nights to the virtual world. For a movement that thrives on the outdoors and working closely with one another this has been challenging, but our scouts have done an excellent job of adapting. I am proud to say that, other than

shortening the evening to an hour, 1st Hockley has been able to continue running a full programme throughout 2020. We have taken the opportunity to work on some creative skills, working on elements of the writer's badge with poems and stories, as well as some core scouting skills such as map reading and navigation. While we may not have chosen to be locked down we are hoping the practice can be put to good practical use in the coming year!

Peter Stafford
Assistant Cub Scout Leader



2nd Hockley Brownies

Although Brownies have not been able to meet in person since last March, we have continued to work on challenges and earn badges. Since September, we have met weekly on Zoom, where we have all learned to adapt to seeing each other virtually.

We worked together to complete our 'Communicate' skill builder badge, including learning some British Sign Language, and this term we've been working on our 'Explore' badge to give the girls the skills to enjoy the outdoors safely.

While we're missing seeing each other in person and doing normal Brownie activities, we did manage some Christmas crafts over Zoom, and have learned lots of new games to play.

We are all very much looking forward to returning to our normal meetings, and are grateful for the technology which allows us to carry on guiding through these challenging times. We would like to thank the church for their continued support and hope to see you again soon!

Amy Ensum
Brown Owl