



**HOCKLEY &
HAWKWELL**
METHODIST CHURCH

EASTER LINK



18th March 2023

No. 109 Edition 246

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

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Rev Norman Hooks is covering for our Minister, Rev Calvin Samuel, while he is on Sabbatical. Contact Norman at normanhooks@me.com or 07859 996054

Rev. Calvin Samuel's Pastoral Letter

I write this letter just before I begin sabbatical leave which I'm due to begin from the 5th of March. I'll be away from our church for the next 4 months in a mixture of sabbatical leave and annual leave. Methodist ministers are encouraged to apply for sabbatical leave every seven years as part of our ongoing resourcing for ministry.



It's also the beginning of Lent a season of preparation for Easter. The season of Lent lasts for 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, enabling 40 days of Lent which do not include Sundays. The 40 days of Lent are, of course, in remembrance of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness whilst overcoming temptation, immediately before he began his ministry.

Lent is therefore a season of fasting in which many of us choose to give up a variety of things: chocolate or meat, alcohol or television, or even sex, not because these things are bad, for they are part of God's good gift. Rather, because we hope that in abstaining for a season we might give greater attention to God, and in due season appreciate all of God's good gifts with thanksgiving.

Others choose to take on something rather than to give up something. Perhaps to volunteer with a community group or charity or to support a project or indeed a person for a season. Part of why we do this particularly in the Season of Lent is in recognition of the gift of Easter in which God in Christ offered himself for us. We in response offer ourselves to him. Easter is, of course, the oldest Christian Festival, for the Church was birthed at Easter in the resurrection of Jesus.

So, as we journey towards Easter in the Season of Lent, we remind ourselves of our commitment to God and of our belonging to God.

All God's blessings for Lent and Easter.

Calvin

Rev Norman Hooks

As you probably know the Circuit has kindly offered me the opportunity to come alongside the churches at Hockley, Rayleigh and Rochford to provide some ministerial cover over Calvin's Sabbatical on a part time basis, which I am honoured to do. Of course it will be limited how much I can do across the three churches, but my commitment is to give myself as best I can to serve God and you his people.



For those who don't know me - I'm from West Belfast where I grew up with my mum and dad and two brothers. From my earliest memories I was very conscious of God in my life and at the different stages of growing up sought to be a Jesus follower. When I was nineteen I became a student at Cliff College in Derbyshire where I met my wife Jan. Within ten years of being married we had our five children and through the first 30 years of our lives together have lived in Somerset, Scotland, Ireland and Chelmsford, during which time we were involved in various forms of Christian ministry, before going to college to become a teacher and eventually candidating for the Methodist Ministry. Our first appointment was in Buckingham after which we moved to Southend, prompted mainly by the fact that our daughter had a severely disabled little boy 'Sam' who is almost eighteen now, and along with our other six grandchildren occupies an important part in our lives. We still provide weekly care and support for Sam.

The primary motivation in my life is Jesus and my desire is to love and serve him, although I am acutely aware of my weaknesses as all too often I stumble along hoping that the Holy Spirit can make something out of my attempts to live in harmony with him and glorify our Heavenly Father.

So then, thanks for the warm welcome I have already received and I look forward to getting to know you all better over the next few months as we seek to work together in service to God!

Norman

From the Worship Team

Services during this quarter are in a variety of places and at all different times. This is because our minister, Rev Calvin Samuel is on sabbatical for three months and has added on to this his annual leave so will not be on the plan again until July.



To make sure that each church can have communion, there is a section service at the end of each month, rotating around the three churches of Hockley, Rochford and Rayleigh, when a minister has been planned. All of these services will start at 10:45am. Two of these will be in Hockley, the one in April and then on in June (on the next plan).

We were asked by the Circuit to host a Circuit Service for the dedication of the Easter Offerings, and that will be at 4:00pm on 21st May. Churches Together also wanted a thank you and “closing down” service in our church because that was where it started and this will be at 4:00pm on 23rd April. There will be no morning service when there is a 4:00pm one.

To make things easier and clearer, there is list in this magazine of the services and where they are. When there are combined services here, we will need as much help as we can get to prepare the Church, communion, welcome at the door, serve refreshments, supervise the car park and so on, so please be ready to pitch in if and when you can.

The All Age Worship services will continue on the first Sunday of the month and preachers have been specifically invited for these. The one on 2nd April is the Palm Sunday Parade and Eggstravaganza . Don't forget that this one finishes with the Easter Egg hunt and the congregation are tasked with doing the hiding, so this is another occasion when extra help will be needed.

Rev Brenda Gutberlet has been invited to lead the Easter Day service. This will begin with a simple breakfast in the church (café style) at 10:30am and then the All Age Worship and Communion service will begin at 11:15am .

For those of you who do not use the internet, there are posters around the church, listing all the services in this quarter, and where and when they take place. This will be a busy time, so if you need a lift at any time, please don't be afraid to ASK, don't wait for someone to offer. Drivers are very willing.

Muriel

Worship Team Leader

From the Church Council

At their meeting on 15th February it was agreed that:

- we would have a defibrillator installed; the costs, etc., are being investigated;
- a “closing down” service for the Warm Space project would be held here, date to be confirmed
- the redrafted Safeguarding Policy would be adopted and further training arranged
- we will make a donation to the Eco Church project, following confirmation that we had achieved a Bronze Award
- a £200 donation from the Benevolent Fund would be made via Christian Aid to the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal
- a Prayer Tree will be displayed, probably in the Hall lobby.



Nominating Committee

Also, please note that the steward's email address is now hmethssteward@gmail.com. Please **do not use** the old Hotmail address as it appears to have been compromised



Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church

Sunday 5th March 11:15am HERE

All-age Worship with Pam Smith

Sunday 12th March 11:15am HERE

Bob Briant

Sunday 19th March 11:15am HERE

Mothering Sunday with Anne Sains

Wednesday 21st March 4:00pm HERE

Messy Church

Sunday 26th March 10:45am

Section Service at Rayleigh Methodist Church

Communion with Rev Clifford Newman

Sunday 2nd April 11:15am HERE

**Palm Sunday - All-age Worship, Parade and Eggstravaganza
with Sue Hockett**

Thursday 6th April 7:30pm

**Maundy Thursday Section Service with Rev Peter Moorhouse
at Rayleigh Methodist Church**

Friday 7th April 11:00am

Good Friday Service at Emmanuel, Hawkwell

Sunday 9th April HERE

10:20am Simple Breakfast - 11:15am Communion

Easter Day Service with Rev Brenda Gutberlet

Services March – May 2023



Sunday 16th April 11:15am HERE

Rev Zena Smith

Wednesday 18th April 4:00pm HERE

Messy Church

Sunday 23rd April 4:00pm HERE

**Hockley Churches Together Warm Spaces “Thank You”
Service**

Sunday 30th April 10:45am HERE

Section Service & Communion with Rev Norman Hooks

Sunday 7th May 11:15am HERE

All-age Worship with Danny Mayo

Sunday 14th May 11:15am HERE

Rev Norman Hooks

Wednesday 16th May 4:00pm HERE

Messy Church

Sunday 21st May 4:00pm HERE

Easter Offering Circuit Service

Sunday 28th May 10:45am

**Section Service and Communion at Rochford Methodist
Church with Rev Zena Smith**



Weather Report 2022

I know the Met Office claimed that 2022 was the warmest year yet recorded but my figures show Hockley's average temperature of 15°C to be a bit less than that of 2014 (16.1°C) and 2011 (15.6°C). The Met Office of course take into account all parts of the United Kingdom in producing their average.

It was a pretty warm year here nonetheless with the average monthly temperature being exceeded on 8 months, including June, July and August which were particularly sunny. I recorded 2015 hours of sunshine for the year, well above the average of 1719 hours. There were 31 'hot' days, when the thermometer reaches 25°C or more, with the hottest days falling on 18th and 19th July (33°C).

No measurable snow fell during the year. January was quite frosty but sunny. The last frost of winter came on 10th April. There was frost on 8th December, heralding a week of very cold frosty mornings and bright sunshine. It was a very dry year, with only 38mm of summer rain compared with an average of 152mm. No wonder lawns everywhere turned brown, with just 1mm of rain in July and only 8mm in August. November was very wet though with 31mm of rain falling on one day.

As for 2023, well January sunshine was 40% above normal and the temperature 15% above. February was noteworthy for the least rainfall (only 2mm) I've ever recorded for that month. So far so good - or perhaps not good for those concerned about our warming planet and in fear of a hosepipe ban. But there's another 10 months to go.

Michael Deedman

Eco Church Progress

Bronze Award

As a church we have been working towards an Eco Church Bronze award. Over the summer last year some members of Church council completed the Eco Church survey questions and Nicola filled in the online survey for us. We were able to establish what actions needed to be done to receive a Bronze award.



In order to achieve 'Bronze' status overall, we needed to achieve at least Bronze in 5 categories. We made a good start but had some work to do on several sections, however we did very well in the Worship category scoring at Gold level.

The Land aspect of the survey was an area we thought we could make some progress on. It relates to things such as wildlife, growing plants that benefit birds, bees, butterflies etc, and we felt that we could do some of these things.

- Introduce bird boxes, bat boxes, bug hotel, hedgehog boxes etc
- Add bird feeders
- Plant garden plants that attract butterflies, plant wildflowers and native plants.

At the Church Council meeting it was suggested that some of our young people in the uniformed organisations might like to be involved with this and feedback from them has been positive. Lianne has introduced a program for the spring for the Beavers to help plant up a small section of the church garden with wildlife friendly plants as well as bug hotels which they are making.

The first steps have started with a bug hotel already set up. Some Lavender plants are going to be planted at the end of April on the sunny side of the carpark.

This work along with a review of all of the questions in the survey has enabled us to reach Bronze status and we have now had confirmation of this along with a certificate, which will be displayed in Church

I have obtained some leaflets from the charity about their work which you can find at the back of the church, there are two different ones, feel free to take them.

We have decided that we will give a donation of £50 to the work of Eco Church and press on with working towards a Silver award.

Ros

Monica Jolly

We were sorry to hear of the sudden death of Monica Jolly on 20 December at the age of 76. In the sixties and seventies she was a regular church member and occasional organist here at Hockley before she and her husband, David and children Claire and Graham, elected to move to Harpenden to be nearer to David's mother.

A teacher at Canewdon Primary School, Monica was especially good at encouraging children to develop their musical talent and applied that gift to children in the Sunday School here too. Some may remember the occasion when, as part of a sponsored fundraising event, organist Tom Murphy took a day to play all 823 hymns in the current Methodist hymnal. Monica stayed at his side throughout the day to provide support because she said her own father had carried out a similar exercise and she recognised from that experience the value of continuous support.

During her time at Southdown Methodist Church Harpenden she was instrumental in refurbishing the kitchen there and as a result in offering to us the large number of blue tea and dinner plates used in our own church kitchen for which Harpenden, she said, no longer had a need.

Monica was a Devon girl and when David retired, they moved to Braunton in North Devon, closer to her parents' home. Her death seems particularly tragic because only as recently as last September they purchased a home in Ampthill, Bedfordshire to be nearer their two children and were still in the process of settling in when David suffered a heart attack. He was taken to Bedford Hospital and subsequently transferred to Bart's Hospital in London where he underwent a triple bypass operation. He is now making a slow recovery at home under the watchful eyes of Claire and Graham.

Michael Deedman

Newsletter No. 45

Thank you to everybody who has contributed to this edition.

Issues of The Link are now going to be based on the major Christian festivals and will usually appear shortly before those festivals. Look out for the deadline dates. Please send any items for The Link to hmethslink@gmail.com.

The Notices will generally be sent out by email as and when there is enough material. Please send anything you want included in the Notices to Nicola at hmmc1883@gmail.com.

Muriel & Mike
17th March 2023



EASTER 2023

Sunday 19th March 11:15am

Mothing Sunday with Anne Sains



Sunday 26th March 10:45am

Rayleigh Methodist Church

Communion with Rev Clifford Newman

Sunday 2nd April 11:15am All-age Worship & Parade

**Palm Sunday Eggstravaganza
with Sue Hockett**



Thursday 6th April 7:30pm Rayleigh Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday

with Rev Peter Moorhouse

Friday 7th April 11:00am

**Good Friday Service
Emmanuel Hawkwell**



Sunday 9th April

10:30 Simple Breakfast and 11:15am Communion

Easter Day with Rev Brenda Gutberlet

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