

CHRISTMAS LINK 2023



1st October 2023

No. 110 Edition 247

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

[01702 205870](tel:01702205870)

hockleymeths@live.co.uk

www.hockleyhawkswellmethodist.org.uk

www.facebook.com/hockleymeths

Minister – Rev Dr Calvin Samuel

Rev. Calvin Samuel's Pastoral Letter

In years to come when we reflect on 2023 the conflict in Israel–Palestine will loom large in our memory. The senseless taking of life and destruction of communities will leave a legacy that will continue to scar the region for a generation.



And that it is occurring in the land in which the stories of the Christmas took place makes it all the more poignant at this time of year.

However, it's always worth reminding ourselves that the birth of Jesus, so often depicted in beautiful nativity scenes, actually occurred in a time of great turmoil, political unrest and enormous change.

Christmas is a reminder of Immanuel, God with us, not in some idealized version of life, but in the everyday, realistic, messy, chaotic, and broken lives that we lead now. God came among us as a vulnerable child, born in poverty to teenage parents. Here in our messiness and uncertainty we are called to live out our Christian discipleship marked by faith, hope and love.

Presumably because the pandemic has affected the way we remember the passage of time, it hardly seems credible that I'm in my fourth year of ministry here in Hockley and Hawkwell and my fifth in the circuit.

This means that this will be is my fourth and final Christmas as Methodist minister for Hockley & Hawkwell. My appointment in the Southend & Leigh Circuit is due to come to an end by August 2024.

During sabbatical I took some time to think and pray about what my next move should be. I have been given permission by our church to seek an appointment overseas. So, I am seeking a role in Malaysia as my next appointment from September 2024. As we look to 2024 and all that the next year will bring, I'm conscious that clergy transition often feels like a time of

uncertainty. The reality, of course, is that God is always in control. So, whilst we don't know what the future holds, we do know the one who holds the future.


All God's blessings for Christmas and the New Year.

Calvin

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Thank you to everybody who's sent a Christmas greeting to The Link. If you make a donation to All We Can via the Church instead of, or as well as, 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 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 Patrick at hmethstreasurer@gmail.com**






Carolyn wishes
you all a Happy
Christmas and
thanks you all
for your support
and help.



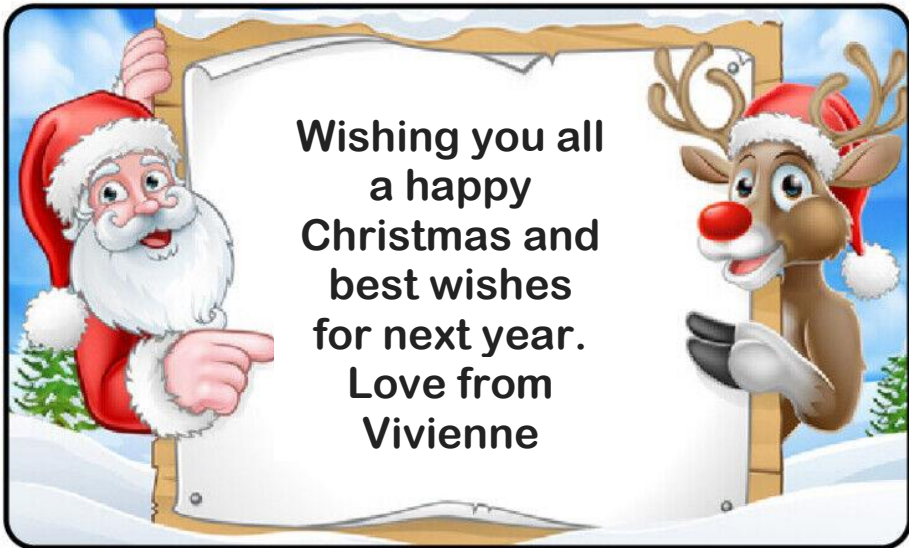
*Best
Wishes
from
John*



Wishing everybody a
Merry Christmas and
a happy and healthy
New Year ahead.
Best wishes,
Nicola & family.



*Wishing all our
friends a very
joyful and
peaceful
Christmas and a
happy New Year
Colin and Anne
xx*



**Wishing you all
a happy
Christmas and
best wishes
for next year.
Love from
Vivienne**

Shirley and
Ron wish
everyone a
very Happy
Christmas and
every blessing
throughout the
New Year



**From
Stan**

To all the church family
I send warm Christmas
greetings with best
wishes that in the
coming year your aims
will be achieved and
your hopes fulfilled.



Merry Christmas
To all my Friends
at Hockley and
Hawwell
Methodist Church
Rosalind xx



Wishing
everyone a
Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New
Year. With love
from
Ray & Family



Never a Christmas morning,
Never an old year ends,
But someone thinks of
someone,
Old days, old times, old
friends...

**Di and Dave send seasons
greetings to you all**





**Merry
Christmas
to all my
friends at
Church and
a safe and
Happy New
Year**

June xx

**Best wishes to
all my friends at
Hockley
Methodists
Vivien**



**Wishing you all warmest
wishes for a lovely
Christmas and hope for
peace in the New Year**

**Lots of Love
from Jean xx**

CHRISTMAS

@HOCKLEY & HAWKWELL

METHODIST CHURCH

MAIN ROAD, HOCKLEY, ESSEX SS5 4QY Tel: 01702 205870



Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 10th December 4:00pm

Carols by candlelight led by Rev Calvin Samuel 4:00pm. Carols old and new with poetry and readings. Mince pies and refreshments from 3:00pm. No service in the morning. **If your favourite carol wasn't sung email hmethssteward@gmail.com and ask for it at Café Church on 17th December or speak to a steward on the day**

Café Church

**Sunday 17th December
11:15am**

An informal cafe setting with Carol requests. Tea, coffee, juice, cakes and biscuits. Send your requests to hmethssteward@gmail.com or speak to a steward on the day.



**Messy Nativity - Tuesday 19th December
4:00pm**



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

CHRISTMAS

@HOCKLEY & HAWKWELL

METHODIST CHURCH

MAIN ROAD, HOCKLEY, ESSEX SS5 4QY Tel: 01702 205870

Christingles WITH THE PUPPETS

**Christmas Eve Sunday 24th
December 4:00pm**



Come and make your own Christingle. **Bring an orange.** Rev Calvin Samuel leads this special, traditional event for all the family but especially young people. The Puppets are performing a carol medley with a difference! No service in the morning.



Christmas Day
**Monday 25th December at
10:00am at Bramerton Road**

Community Church. A united Christmas Morning service led by Rev Gillian Thomson. The theme will be "A cracker of a Christmas" and will be an all-age style service.

**New Year's Eve Sunday 31st December at
10:45am Joint Service at Rayleigh Methodist
Church** led by Rev Norman Hooks. No service here. If you need a lift contact Muriel 07774882389 or hmethssteward@gmail.com

**Covenant Service 14th January
2024 at 11:15am** led by Rev Norman Hooks



Pastoral Secretary & Hall Bookings

Carolyn Sturgess has been our Pastoral and



Bookings Secretary for many years. She has effectively organised the Pastoral Visitors, who care for the whole Church Family, and managed the hire of the premises, which brings in essential income.

Unfortunately, due to ill-health, she has felt it necessary to relinquish both these positions. We are extremely grateful for all the time and effort she has put into these roles and for her vital contribution to the life of this Church. Thank you Carolyn.

We have not yet found a replacement for either role. For the time being if you have any pastoral concerns speak to your Pastoral Visitor. Bookings are still via hmethsbookings@gmail.com, which Nicola and Mike are monitoring.

A message from HARP

Hello and season's greetings to you all,

I wanted to pass on my sincere thanks on behalf of HARP this year particularly over Harvest where we collected thousands of items to feed people living in our in our services. This included over 1000 tins of baked beans and 1500 cans of soup. This amazing support means we saved significantly on our 'food shop' and allows us to direct funds raised into providing the vital support that people need to overcome homelessness for good.

As we approach the cold months ahead we wanted to let you know that HARP is opening a winter shelter for people who are currently rough sleeping.

The shelter will be managed by HARP staff and volunteers and will open from 7pm every evening and close at 8.30am with people using the shelter then being encouraged to visit HARP's Bradbury Centre during the day for breakfasts, hot showers and to access other services as normal. We are working in partnership with the council on this initiative.

How can you get involved?

- We are in need of a range of items including gifts to give visitors over Christmas, but critically we need pillows, duvets, single sheets and winter clothes.

- (medium sizes). Items can be second hand but must be clean and ready to use.
- Donate money – if you are holding a collection over Christmas we would welcome any donations so that we are able to continue to support people after the shelter has closed. To donate to our winter appeal click here – www.harpsouthend.org.uk.
- Volunteers – If anyone in your church is willing to volunteer we need people between 7 pm and midnight (or 11 pm) every night. [Click here](#) to find out more about what is involved.
- Spread the word, we could not do what we do without your support.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and any support you are able to give to this vital service this winter. Do please get in touch if you have a sizeable donation as I can arrange for a collection.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year

Lisa Walton

Community Fundraising Co-ordinator





Thank you so much!

For supporting those living with cancer

Headline Partners

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2023

This certificate is presented to
Hockley & Hawke Method Church
& friends

For your kind contribution of

£271.45

To help support those affected by cancer. Thank you.

Celine

Celine & the Coffee Morning Team

7 Nov 2023



at Welcome Wednesday

with Cake and Kindness

Tea/coffee and cake – and good company

Every Wednesday 10:00am

till 1:00pm in the Church



Hockley & Hawkwell Methodist Church Main Road Hockley Essex SS5 4QY
01702 298176 hockley@hockley.org.uk www.hockleyandhawkwellmethodist.org.uk
Minister Rev Dr Calvin Samuel calvin.samuel@methodist.org.uk 07411 289 469

Wednesday 13th December
Write cards or letters as part of
Amnesty International's annual
Write for Rights Campaign.
Paper, cards and pens provided.

Christmas Bazaar

This year's Christmas Bazaar made a profit of £460.

A huge thankyou to all who helped in any way. Your support over the years is much appreciated. Christmas Bazaars are an excellent opportunity for outreach in our local community.

but they don't happen without a great deal of hard work from all concerned.

So however you supported, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

The Social and Fundraising Team

Carols on the Green'



Emmanuel Church, Hawkwell are again holding Carols on the Green on Saturday 16th December starting at 4:00pm (that's the green by the Royal British Legion Club at the junction of White Hart Lane with Main Road).

Afterwards there will be Mulled Wine, Teas, Coffees and festive foods in Emmanuel Church

Stamps for OXFAM



Thank you for continuing to save your unwanted used stamps.

These are taken to the Southend Oxfam shop where they are used to raise much needed funds to further OXFAM's important humanitarian work worldwide.

There is a small basket at the back of the church in which to place your used stamps.

Many thanks

Di Jacobs



Southend Bach Choir

Registered Charity No: 274370

CAROL CONCERT

IN AID OF

HARP

Saturday, 16th December 2023
7.00 p.m.

**St Andrew's Church, Southview Dr,
Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9PW**

Admission is free but donations, which will go exclusively to **HARP** Southend's Homeless Charity, would be greatly appreciated.

Further information: 01702 589209 or
secretary@southendbachchoir.org.uk



A Note from the Editors

Thank you to everybody who has contributed to this edition.

In particular, thanks to Billy for the artwork on the front page, on of several design contributions he's made in recent month.

Any items for the next Link should be sent to
hmethslink@gmail.com.

Muriel & Mike
10th December 2023

