

Church Officers

Minister

Rev. Jack Roche MA ☎ 01268 455194

Hon. Church Secretary:

Mr Royston Brackin ☎ 01702 558862

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr Royston Brackin (Acting)

Other Serving Elders:

Mrs Heather Brown

Mr Malcolm Brown

Miss Jean Reeve

Mission Statement

Hadleigh United Reformed Church exists as part of the Christian Church:

- ❖ To worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as a Christian family in a relevant way based on the bible;
- ❖ To effectively communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, to encourage others to follow Him and to enable the personal development of Christian faith and service;
- ❖ To show the love of God through fellowship, social concern and practical action as a congregation and together with other members of Christ's Church;
- ❖ To actively support Christian Missionary endeavour, outreach and unity in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Church Activities

- **Ladies Recreation Group**
Table tennis & chat on Mondays at 8.00pm.
Contact Kay Watson.
- **Alphabet Club for Mums & Tots**
Dads and other carers also very welcome!
Most Tues in school term - 9.30 to 11.00am.
Contact Heather Brown.
- **Wives' Fellowship (Men welcome!)**
Talks & slideshows by visiting speakers.
Easter and Christmas Communion services.
Monthly on Tuesdays at 2.30pm.
Contact Kay Watson.
- **Coffee Morning (excl. 4th Thursday)**
Thursdays from 10.30am to 12 noon.
- **LifeBuilders (bible study)**
Monthly on 2nd Thursday at 12 noon.
Starts with a packed lunch. Concludes with
with a time of prayer ending around 1.30pm.
- **Men's Breakfast Meeting**
Most months on 1st Saturday at 8.30am.

Church Magazine

The Hadleigh Messenger is printed ten times a year. An electronic version is available by e-mail or can be downloaded from the church website.

Church Website

www.hadleighsexurc.org.uk

The church has a simple website from which a monthly diary sheet and an edited version of the magazine can be downloaded..



Hadleigh United Reformed Church

1 Church Road, Hadleigh, Essex



Founded 1904

Sunday Services

10.30am & 6.30pm (1st Sun)

Holy Communion celebrated twice-monthly
on 1st Sunday evening and 3rd Sunday morning

Monthly Midweek Service

10.30am on 4th Thursday



Hadleigh United Reformed Church

History

Our church was founded in 1904 as Hadleigh Congregational Church, on land purchased with money donated by Thomas Dowsett J.P.

In 1972, we joined with many Congregational churches in a union with the Presbyterian Church of England to form the United Reformed Church. The union now includes the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ, which joined in 1981, and the Congregational Union of Scotland, which joined in 2001.

Beliefs

The United Reformed Church (URC) stands in the Reformed tradition of Christian faith, which derives from the Reformation of the 16th century.

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and find the supreme authority for faith and conduct by the guidance of the Spirit in the Word of God in the Bible.

We believe that through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ all are offered forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life.

Church Structure

In the URC, decisions are taken by members at Church Meetings under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Elders are elected to carry out the day-to-day running of each church.

At Hadleigh URC, Church Meetings are currently held bi-monthly whilst Elders' Meetings are held every month.

Neighbouring URC churches belong to an Area Partnership and Area Partnerships belong to a provincial council or Synod. Both bodies hold meetings approximately twice a year. A national council known as the General Assembly meets biennially to make the most important decisions.

Our church is part of the SE Essex Area Partnership in the Eastern Synod.

Our Church building



We are 'low church' with no altar, no bells, no incense and few decorations.

A wooden cross on the East wall reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus. The cross is empty to signify that Christ is risen and lives today.

A table used for Holy Communion stands in the middle of the platform and on it rests an open bible to signify our belief in the Word of God.

Sunday Services

Our Sunday services normally comprise the reading of notices, a call to worship and then hymns interspersed with bible readings, a sermon, times of prayer, and an offertory. Worship is occasionally enhanced with a musical item or with a solo.

The services are led by our Minister, Rev. Jack Roche MA, and by ministers and lay preachers from other URC churches and from churches of other denominations. We do not currently have a Sunday School but children are very welcome.

After all Sunday services there is a time of fellowship when refreshments are served.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is a special part of our worship and is celebrated twice a month, less frequently than in some other churches. All who believe in the Lord are invited to partake.

During Communion, we remain seated and the bread and non-alcoholic wine (elements) are served by Elders. We eat and drink together. We do this symbolically; we do not believe that the elements become the body and blood of Christ.

Monthly Midweek Service

A midweek service is held in our church hall on the fourth Thursday of each month. This is a simple service with two or three hymns, prayers and a short message, during which the congregation usually remains seated.

The midweek service is attended by friends from a variety of denominations. Refreshments are served afterwards.