

Church Officers

Minister:

Rev. Andrew Birch ☎ 01702 338674

Church Secretary:

Mrs Heather Brown ☎ 01702 557678

Church Treasurer:

Mr Malcolm Brown

Other Serving Elders:

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 ☎ 01702 556412
- **Coffee Morning**
Every Thursday from 10.30am to 12 noon.
Profits to the HARP (homeless) charity.

Church Magazine

The church magazine is known as *The Hadleigh Messenger* and is printed ten times a year. The months of July and August and December and January have combined editions.

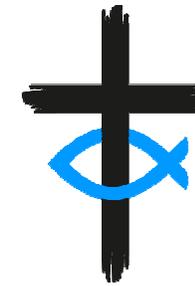
Printed copies are distributed to regular recipients and spare copies are available in the church foyer.

A pdf version of *The Hadleigh Messenger* is distributed by e-mail and an edited pdf version, with some sensitive information removed, is available from the church website. An archive of past magazines from recent years is also available on the website.

Church Website

www.hadleighsexurc.org.uk

The church has a simple website from which this leaflet and an edited version of the church magazine plus past magazines can be downloaded.



**Hadleigh
United
Reformed
Church**

1 Church Road, Hadleigh, Essex, SS7 2DQ



**Founded in 1904
as Hadleigh Congregational Church**

Sunday Services

10.30am every Sunday

**Holy Communion is celebrated on
the 3rd Sunday morning of the month**



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 United Reformed Church, 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 annually to make the most important decisions.

Our church is a member of the South 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.

At the back of the church is a wooden World War 1 Roll of Honour that commemorates not only those who were killed during or as a result of the war but also those who served and survived.



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. The hymns are sung to piano accompaniment. After the service there is a time of fellowship when refreshments are served.

Our minister, Rev. Andrew Birch, who was inducted in November 2022, normally conducts the service on the 3rd Sunday of the month, which includes Holy Communion. Services are also led 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.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is a special part of our worship and this sacrament is celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of each month. 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. In sharing this symbolic meal, we recall the Last Supper. The bread and wine represent the body and blood of Jesus Christ and remind us of his sacrifice on the Cross.