THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER April 2017



"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

The Magazine of the United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

Sun 2 nd Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Jack Roche MA
	6.30pm	Evening Service	Mr Jim Clubb
Sun 9 th Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Roger Brett
Sun 16 th Apr	10.30am	Easter Day Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Jack Roche MA
Sun 23 rd Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Jack Roche MA
Thu 27 th Apr	10.30am	Midweek Service	Mr Malcolm Brown
Sun 30 th Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Celia Whitman

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR APRIL 2017

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR APRIL 2017

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 2 nd Apr	Jean Reeve	Marion Fidell	Marion Fidell
Sun 9 th Apr	Malcolm Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 16 th Apr	Jean Reeve [Holy Communion]	Malcolm Brown	Marion Fidell
Sun 23 rd Apr	Heather Brown	June Gargrave	ТВА
Sun 30 th Apr	Malcolm Brown	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

FLOWER ROTA

Sun 2 nd Apr	Vera Knapton - wedding anniversary
Sun 9 th Apr	Keith Gargrave - birthday
Sun 16 th Apr	
Sun 23 rd Apr	
Sun 30 th Apr	

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ELDERS' MEETING Wed 19th Apr 7.30pm CHURCH MEETING No meeting in April

HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS	Useful information
Minister:	Address: Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, SS7 2DQ
Rev. Jack Roche (01268 455194)	Website: www.hadleighessexurc.org.uk
Hon. Secretary: Mr. Boyston Brackin (01702 558862)	An invitation
Mr Royston Brackin (01702 558862)	We invite you to join us for worship and fellowship at any of our services where a warm welcome awaits. If you are in need of help that the ministry of the church can supply then be assured of our interest and concern. If you are suffering from ill
Acting Hon. Treasurer:	
Mr Royston Brackin	
Serving Elders:	
Mr Royston Brackin	health, loneliness or bereavement and feel that we
Mrs Heather Brown (01702 557678)	could help, or if you would like to ask for a prayer or personal visit then please let our Minister or any
Mr Malcolm Brown (01702 557678)	of the other church officers know. All such requests
Miss Jean Reeve (01702 554907)	are treated in the strictest confidence.

From the Minister

"But the Mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him." - Psalm 103:17

Dear friends,

Back in the 1970s an older work colleague told me that he wished he were younger, because he would have liked to see the 21st Century (for all I know, he might have made it!)

Now we are 'there' and it seems just like any other 'now'; no individual flying machines, tinfoil suits or humanoid robot servants although, I must admit, the idea of my car speaking to me in a pleasant female voice, giving me infallible (usually!) directions to any destination, still seems a bit weird. And I believe the humanoid robots have put in an appearance!

Going even further back, the 'Victorian era' of the 19th Century may seem almost prehistoric, but, for all the endless technological wonders of our times, there is a good case for claiming that their time saw much greater change. In science, engineering transport, medicine, education and many other areas there were more advances in that 60 years than in the previous 6000!

It began with the stage coach and ended with the steam train, motor car and electric tramcar. In 1800, it took a few days to get a message from London to Edinburgh, six months from London to New York; by 1900, the telegraph and telephone were accomplishing it in minutes. As the new century began, the wireless, aviation and the beginning of nuclear physics were just around the corner.

There was a euphoric mood of optimism as the 20th Century dawned but, sadly, the arts of war had also made progress and the utopian dream was soon to become a nightmare of death and destruction beyond any imagining.

The reign of Queen Victoria was only ten years old when, in 1847, Henry Francis Lyte composed

a hymn that has become almost a part of our national psyche, *Abide with Me*. He himself set the hymn to a tune, now forgotten, of the same name dying 3 weeks after its completion from 'consumption', now known as tuberculosis, a disease that remained incurable until the arrival of penicillin, a century later.

Lyte would have been all too aware of his condition when he wrote the line 'change and decay in all around I see' but it seems to speak of the passing of the safe and familiar into what was, to him, a strange, threatening new world.

Our new century, (new millennium even!) arrived in a blaze of hope and glory, soon to evaporate in political and financial crises along with new and terrifying threats to peace and security. I write this on the very day (29th March) that the 'BREXIT' process begins: bright new dawn of freedom or the proverbial road that is paved with good intentions, history will deliver the final judgement.

We live in an era where change is not necessarily progress, with the fear that grows out of uncertainty and gnaws away at our sense of well being, with environmental decay and a future that no longer appears safe and predictable.

A man troubled by such things in his own day, and suffering what by our standards was an untimely and unnecessary death, ended his immortal hymn with a ringing affirmation of the Easter Hope.

Hold Thou thy Cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies; Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Your friend and Minister,

Jack

From the Bible

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"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you..."

Editor

From the Welcome to the April 2017 edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

I have spent more time in the last few weeks at the Echo newspaper offices in Basildon retrieving photos and cuttings relating to Hadleigh and Thundersley from their archive room.

I was able to show some of the results of this exercise in a mini-slideshow after the Wives' Fellowship AGM on 14th March. I have included a few church-related photos in the magazine. Some readers may be in for a surprise!

This month sees the departure of our Minister, Rev. Jack Roche, who has been very faithful to us over more than ten years. His last service in his official capacity will take place on Sunday 23rd April. It is very obvious that Jack enjoys preaching and so it is good to know that he will continue to preach the Word and pass on his knowledge.

I apologise for the lateness of this edition and the lack of pages. I have not had much time to look for material and there have been no articles submitted by readers (other than our Minister). I am not sure what the magazine will look like next month without Jack's regular pastoral letter and Prayer Reflection. Ideas welcome!

Malcolm Brown



More signs you're getting on a bit

- You need an afternoon nap.
- You receive bedsocks for Christmas and are grateful.
- Your ears are getting bigger.
- You never go out without a coat.
- You start driving very slowly. •
- You fall asleep after one glass of wine. •
- You wear your glasses around your neck so you don't mislay them. •
- You spend more money on face creams and anti-ageing products.
- You don't know any songs in the top ten. •
- You keep saying 'in my day'. •
- There is nothing left to learn the hard way. •
- You turn off lights for economic rather than romantic reasons.
- You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.



Bible Incomplete puzzle

Fill in the missing letters to complete the bible passage. The solution will be in next month's magazine.

Be_te_ is _it_le _it_ th_ fe_r o_ th_ Lo_d,
t_an _re_t t_ea_ur_ an_ tr_ub_e t_er_wi_h.
B_tt_r i_ a d_nn_r o_ he_bs _he_e l_ve _s,
t_an _ st_ll_d o_ an_ ha_re_ th_re_it

[Answer to last month's puzzle: "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18]

Wives' Fellowship Programme for April & May 2017

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 11 th Apr	2.30pm	Easter Meditation & Communion led by our Minister, Rev. Jack Roche MA
Tue 9 th May	2.30pm	Talk on 'My Adventures in the Middle East' by Mrs McCullough

Meetings are held in the Small Hall with refreshments served at the end.

Entrance £2.00 - first time free

Small coins collected for Rayleigh, Rochford & Castle Point Talking Newspapers for the Blind

Holy Week & Easter services

Thu 13th April (Maundy Thursday) - Passover Communion

Our minister, Rev. Jack Roche, will lead us in a Passover Communion to which friends from Hadleigh Methodist Church have been invited. The service will start at 7.30pm and all are welcome. Please add your name to the list on the noticeboard if you intend to come or let me know so that the requisite number of places can be provided at the table.

After the communion, the church will be prepared for the serving of the refreshments to follow the Good Friday Walk of Witness so offers of help to move chairs and tables would be welcomed.

Fri 14th April (Good Friday) - United Service followed by Walk of Witness

The traditional United Service will be held at Hadleigh Methodist Church starting at 10.15am. There will be a retiring offertory for Christian Aid.

At 11.00am, there will be a silent Walk of Witness along the pavement to our church where refreshments, including hot cross buns, will be served.

Sun 16th April (Easter Day) – Sunrise Service

The traditional Sunrise Service will take place at Hadleigh Castle starting at 5.45am.

Malcolm Brown



Minster's farewell

Our Minister, Rev. Jack Roche, will lead our worship for the last time in that capacity on the morning of Sunday 23rd April. As a very small church, we have been fortunate to have Jack in our midst for over ten years. Please join us on the 23rd to say thank you and to wish Jack well for the future.

After the morning service, there will be a farewell lunch to which all are invited. This will start at 12.30pm to allow time for food to be prepared and for guests to arrive from other churches. If you intend coming to the lunch, please ensure that your name is added to the list in the foyer.

Jack has always undertaken some preaching engagements elsewhere and I suspect that he will now be even more in demand. He has kindly offered to return to Hadleigh to preach on occasions and will continue to attend the Men's Breakfasts as well as special events such as the Anniversary Tea. I will also see him at meetings of the AGES Archaeological & Historical Association. So it is definitely a case of farewell but not goodbye!

Malcolm Brown

WHAT'S ON A round-up of future events in the area

Wed 12 Apr 2017 -	Coffee Morning at St Michael's Church Community Room, Daws Heath, from 10.00am to 11.45am.
Thu 13 Apr 2017 -	Hot Cross Bun & Table Sale at St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Thundersley, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.
Fri 14 Apr 2017 -	Good Friday United Service at Hadleigh Methodist Church at 10.15am followed by Walk of Witness to our church at 11.00am.
Sat 15 Apr 2017 -	Hadleigh Heritage Centre Coffee Morning with the theme of 'Wartime Hadleigh' at St James the Less Church. From 10.30am - 12 noon.
ditto -	Lace Day organised by Thames Estuary Lacemakers at Hadleigh Baptist Church from 10.00am to 3.30pm with 'have a go' session until 2.00pm. Free admission and tea/coffee and biscuits served.
Sun 16 Apr 2017 -	Easter Day Sunrise Service at Hadleigh Castle starting at 5.45am.
Thu 20 Apr 2017 -	Poetry Reading Group Meeting (subject Roger McGough) at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome.
ditto -	Hadleigh Gardening Association Talk on 'Giggly Pigs' by Tracy Mackness at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Meet from 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Members £1.50, Non-members £2.00.
Sat 22 Apr 2017 -	Benfleet Community Archive Annual Exhibition at Benfleet Methodist Church from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Admission £1.00 (children free).
ditto -	Friends of Hadleigh Church concert with The Trinity Consort at St James the Less Church. Starts at 7.30pm, Tickets £10.00 including refreshments available by phoning 01268 757370 or at the door.
	Westwood Art Group Spring Exhibition at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Showing 200 paintings in all mediums for sale at affordable prices. Painting demonstrations by members. Open times: Sat - 9.30am to 5.00pm. Sun - 10.00am to 2.00pm. Tea and cakes available.
Sun 23 Apr 2017 -	Essex Wildlife Trust Bluebell Day centred on St Michael's Church, Daws Heath from 12 noon to 5.00pm. Free admission and parking. Guided walks of nature reserves, woodland products and plant sales, free tractor and trailer rides, live entertainment and light refreshments.
ditto -	The Da Capo Singers concert 'April in Paris' at Hadleigh Methodist Church starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £8.00 (conc. £7.00) - to book, email thedacaposingers@yahoo.co.uk.
Mon 24 Apr 2017 -	CAVS Ways To Wellness drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Aims to improve your health and wellbeing by linking you to community activities and opportunities. No appointment necessary.
Sat 29 Apr 2017 -	Hadleigh Bowls Club Taster Day at John Burrows Park from 10.00am to 12 noon. Free - Just bring soft shoes and wear comfortable clothes.
ditto -	Variety Concert with Fish & Chips Supper at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Starts at 6.30pm. Tickets £10.00 - phone 01702 551786.
ditto -	Quiz Night at St Michael's Church Hall starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £6.00 from Ken on 01702 55573. BYO food and drink.

Images from the Echo archive

As reported previously, the Echo newspaper group is planning to vacate its offices in Chester Hall Lane, Basildon, and its large archive of photos and cuttings has been donated to Rayleigh Town Museum. The Museum in turn has invited local community archive groups to retrieve material related to their area. Here are a few specially selected photos from the archive which may be of interest to readers.



Olive Kemp, wife of Rev. Norman Kemp, at an Arts & Craft Fair at the church in 1990. Olive lives in Okehampton and reads the magazine. I hope the photo brings back happy memories. Does anyone remember the lady on the left?



Rev. John Ambrose with Bishop John Waine at the opening of the new £86,000 church hall at St Barnabas Church in 1987. John preaches occasionally at our church and his wife, Valerie, is a member of the Ladies Recreation Group.



Rev. Peter Brewer with first wife Mary, on his retirement from Barstable School in 1983. I wonder if Peter can tell us what his large retirement present was?



Will and Grace Couchman, who married on Valentine's Day in 1990. Our brass offertory plate is inscribed in memory of the couple.



Denys Branch, who attended our church after the death of his wife, Shan, who was headmistress of Westwood Primary School.



David Blackwood (father of Gwen Smallbone), at a craft event in 1985. David lives in Hawkwell and still keeps bees. He usually attends our Harvest Supper and New Year's Eve Social.



Members of Thundersley Gardening Association (TGA) at their final dinner and dance at the Hollywood Restaurant in 1993. John and Betty Rice are 2nd and 3rd from the left. TGA closed in February owing to declining membership.

Prayer Reflection

"Be joyful always, pray at all times. Be thankful in all circumstances." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Joyful, prayerful, thankful, and why not! It's the 'all' and 'always' that is the extra challenge!

Always joyful, even when we have a great deal to be unhappy about? It must be that there is much more to 'joy' than just 'happiness'; perhaps an inner peace, assurance, calm even when we are deeply unhappy, even plunged in grief. If this is so, it is quite beyond human attainment. It is a gift of God, pure Grace, nothing that we can earn or do for ourselves.

Prayer 'at all times' doesn't mean a constant repetition of words or a life of devotion to the exclusion of everything else. It has to become an ongoing, unconscious activity. Like a friendship that does not need words to prove its existence. From here, it then becomes possible to be thankful, even in all circumstances!

It isn't pretending that bad things are really good things if only we could see it, nor is it a stoical indifference to good and bad alike. Our thankfulness is because whatever the circumstances, we know that we can never be separated from 'The love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 8:39).

This Holy Week and Easter Time, remember our brothers and sisters around the world who 'share in Christ's suffering' in order to 'share His Glory', putting our faith in the shade. Remember also, those of our fellowship who can no longer enter physically into the life of the Church but who stand with us, as with the whole Church, in Heaven and on Earth, as we proclaim 'He is Risen'.

As part of a monthly prayer rota for our congregation and wider fellowship, please pray for Sylvia Patten and her carers, Esther Axford-Tibble and family (Esther helps at the Alphabet Club), Dave and Doris Bigmore, and Peggy Hughes.

Rev. Jack Roche



A prayer of confession

You call us to be your voices in this world and we stay silent. You call us to be your hands in this world and we keep them hidden. You call us to be your feet in this world and we go our own way. When we meet those who are doubting and say nothing, forgive us. When we meet those who need your touch and do nothing, forgive us. When we are called to take up your cross and carry nothing, forgive us. Breathe life into these bones, bring freedom to these lives that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God. *Amen*

From www.faithandworship.com

From the Moderator's Blog "Forever God is faithful"

We arrived in Swansea to enjoy a weekend on moderatorial visit, but also to catch up with friends in the church and district where I served as minister for thirteen years. Our first day included attending the funeral of a church member, who was remembered in the service for her faithfulness to her family, work and church – which all made sense because she was a woman of faith. We then heard that the church secretary of the neighbouring church had also died that week – someone who had served the church as elder and secretary faithfully for many years.

And so, on Sunday morning in worship, we needed to open our lives for God to fill us with both comfort and renewed faith. The lectionary reading both challenged us into finding new depths to our well of faith, but through it we found that well replenished with life giving water, as we grappled with the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. There are rare stories of people being miraculously brought back to life, but they are rare indeed. Even Lazarus would later physically die. So it would be cruel if God was offering the chance of this happening for us.

Before resurrection, Jesus had to die. He was not resuscitated, but came back from the dead in renewed life, that is eternal, able to enter heaven itself. This is what God offers us. So, when all we can see around us is sin and death, know that "Forever God is faithful" He not only promises us this eternal life, but calls us to join God in resurrection living, bringing faith, hope and love into the world.



Kevin and Rev. Dr. Robert Pope, Christ Well Swansea

This is the second pastorate I have visited where I was minister, and it is an amazing privilege to see where God's people have journeyed since we left them. If a returning minister expects the red-carpet treatment, and to be told how good you were – I hope you'll be disappointed.

Instead, every conversation was a remembrance – as together we shared our memories of journeying together – through as many sad and painful times as well as joys and celebrations. We had walked, supporting each other, and serving our community together. Is this not what ministers and CRCWs are called into – faithful living in witness to a faithful God?

Kevin Watson Posted on 5th April 2017



An Easter prayer

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through.

Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light.

Gracious God, We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

Amen.

Michaela Youngson

Methodist Superintendent Minister of the Ealing Trinity Circuit

Family News

Daisy Grace's baptism

Malcolm Brown writes:

"On Saturday 1st April, Heather and I, together with my mum (Shirley) and our two eldest sons, travelled to Lincolnshire for the baptism of our granddaughter, Daisy Grace Tharby-Brown. Daisy is the daughter of our son Graham and his wife, Claire. Daisy was born on 16th November and has grown to nearly 12lbs in weight.

We stayed overnight at the Red Lion pub in the small village of Revesley and then attended the Sunday morning service at St Peter & St Paul's Church in Old Bolingbroke, the church were Graham and Claire were married. The normal congregation is only about four people but there were around forty people there that morning.

The service was led by a lady vicar who carefully explained what would happen at each stage. The baptism was a major part of the service and was followed by Communion. Afterwards, family and friends enjoyed a buffet lunch at the home of Claire's parents in the village."



Daisy with Shirley, Claire & Heather

We give thanks for Daisy's baptism and pray that as she grows up, she will come to know and love the Lord.

Kay Watson's move

Kay writes:

"The photo of my son, Andrew, and I was taken as we were leaving my house at 130 Church Road for the last time after living there for 46 years. I have now settled very happily into my retirement apartment.



Computer Corner

Hadleigh Scrambles 1964 / 1965 (no sound)

Videos of the motorbike scrambling at Hadleigh as rare so it was good to discover that David Jones, a local motorcycling and speedway enthusiast, had recently uploaded a Interestina video to YouTube showing cine-film footage of scrambles at Hadleigh in 1964/65. video

> URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHKTPqPSGYU (or go to the YouTube website and search for the title above)

Doing Good: A Future for Christianity in the 21st Century (Theos)

Interesting download

Theos is a leading religion and society think tank whose aim is to provide a "credible, informed and gracious Christian voice in mainstream public conversations". The Theos organisation was launched in November 2006 with a report entitled 'Doing God': A future for faith in the public square. Now, ten years on, Theos' Research Director looks back to that publication and forward to the future of Christianity in 21st century Britain. Download from: http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/research/all-reports

Soundswitch

software

SoundSwitch is a free program that sits in your Windows taskbar and waits for a designated keyboard shortcut to switch your sound output. The shortcut is selected by Free the user. This is useful if you frequently switch between desktop speakers and headphones because the normal method of switching involves several mouse clicks.

Download from: https://www.aaflalo.me/downloads

Wordsearch – Local Placenames

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Words may appear in any direction including diagonally, back to front and upside down. Produced by the Editor using the Wordsearch creator at www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com

DAY	TIME	EVENT	
Saturday 1 st	8.30pm	Men's Breakfast Meeting	
Sunday 2 nd	10.30am	Morning Service - Rev. Jack Roche MA	
	6.30pm	Evening Service – Mr Jim Clubb	
Monday 3 rd	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group	
Tuesday 4 th	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots	
Thursday 6 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	
Sunday 9 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Roger Brett	
Monday 10 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group	
Tuesday 11 th	No session - holiday 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives' Fellowship Easter Meditation & Communion led by Rev. Jack Roche MA	
Thursday 13 th	10.30am - 12 noon 7.30pm	Coffee Morning Maundy Thursday Passover Communion	
Sunday 16 th	10.30am	Easter Day Service with Holy Communion - Rev. Jack Roche	
Monday 17 th	8.00pm - TBC	Ladies Recreation Group	
Tuesday 18 th	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots	
Wednesday 19 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING (postponed one week)	
Thursday 20 th	10.30am - 12 noon 12 noon - 1.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid LifeBuilders and prayer time (postponed one week)	
Sunday 23 rd	10.30am 12.30pm	Morning Service - Rev. Jack Roche MA Farewell Lunch for Minister Rev. Jack Roche	
Monday 24 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group	
Tuesday 25 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots	
Thursday 27 th	10.30am	Monthly Midweek Service - Mr Malcolm Brown (CA)	
Sunday 30 th	10.30am	Morning Service - Rev. Celia Whitman	

CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL 2017

Loveliest of trees

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now Is hung with bloom along the bough, And stands about the woodland ride Wearing white for Eastertide. Now, of my threescore years and ten, Twenty will not come again, And take from seventy springs a score, It only leaves me fifty more. And since to look at things in bloom Fifty springs are little room, About the woodlands I will go To see the cherry hung with snow.

A. E. Housman, A Shropshire Lad, 1887