

# THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

July & August 2017



The Magazine of the  
United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

## SUNDAY SERVICES

at 10.30am (every Sunday) & 6.30pm (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
with Holy Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evening  
and on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning of each month

Monthly Midweek Service  
at 10.30am on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of most months

## PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JULY 2017

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Joyce Berry
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Major Alan Bennett
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Jul	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Jack Roche MA
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Keith McCullough
Thu 27 <sup>th</sup> Jul	10.30am	Midweek Service	Mt Malcolm Brown
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Wilf Tyler

## SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR JUL 2017

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

### ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Jul 7.30pm

### CHURCH MEETING

Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Jul 12.30pm

## PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUGUST 2017

Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10.30am	Morning Service	Miss Katherine Davison
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Hetty Sabayinda
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Celia Whitman
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10.30am	Midweek Service	CANCELLED
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Jim Clubb

## SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR AUGUST 2017

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Heather Brown	Marion Fidell	Marion Fidell
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Malcolm Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Jean Reeve [Holy Communion]	Malcolm Brown	Marion Fidell
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Heather Brown	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

### ELDERS' MEETING

No meeting in August

### CHURCH MEETING

No meeting in August

# Everybody Welcome!

The concept of hospitality has changed down the centuries. For most of us today it conjures up shared meals with friends or the ‘hospitality industry’, hotels and restaurants – places where people ‘buy hospitality’. This latter picture is perhaps as far as you can get from the original meaning of hospitality. Hospitality is about our relationship with God and calls us to welcome and care for ‘those who are strangers, enemies, or distressed, without regard for reciprocation’ (Sutherland, 2006, xiii).

Hospitality is a theme which runs through the Bible. In the Old Testament, the law and the prophets challenge us to consider hospitality in its widest sense as care for the orphan, the widow and the alien, the most vulnerable in society, ‘strangers and the distressed’. Strangers are to be at the heart of religious festivals (Deuteronomy 16:9-12), and the widow and the alien are to have their share of the harvest (Deuteronomy 24:19-21). The people of Israel are constantly reminded of their own history as strangers and exiles in the land of Egypt who were rescued by God.

Hospitality is key to the way Jesus lived. He is often shown sharing food with those considered outsiders by the respectable religious people of the day and he is unambiguous about offering hospitality without strings: ‘But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’ (Luke 14:12-14).

He pushes the boundaries even further in the parable of the Good Samaritan: in answer to the question, ‘Who is my neighbour?’ Jesus responds, ‘Everyone’. Perhaps one of the most challenging passages around hospitality is found in Matthew 25:31-40, where people are judged because of what they did or did not do for others. The key phrase seems to be ‘When did we see you?’ The implication is that if they had known it was Jesus they would have treated the person differently. How we see people is crucial to the way we treat them.

Hospitality is central to the early church community in Acts who would ‘sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need’ (Acts 2:45). Paul, who himself depended on the kindness of strangers, encouraged the early church to extend hospitality to those who needed it (Romans 12:13).

However, our actions don’t have to be as radical as the Acts model to be effective. A church in North Yorkshire began a craft group, somewhere people could come to chat over coffee while knitting or sewing. A newcomer who had moved into the community to access sheltered housing joined the group and soon became a regular. After about six months they arrived at the group with a birthday cake to share and told them, ‘You’ve saved my life’. When they had felt lonely and a stranger, coffee, conversation and relaxing together had made a real difference. In another village, a newly bereaved man was able to come and share in the Christmas lunch knowing his tears would be understood and there would be friends to talk to.

Sometimes as churches we can be almost embarrassed about the coffee mornings and lunch clubs we hold as if they are somehow not important. However, an increase in loneliness and isolation means a place where people feel truly welcome with space to talk over good quality refreshments can be a lifeline. We need to claim these events as spaces of true hospitality, where everyone is welcome and which focus on the needs of the guests rather than the convenience of the hosts. It requires us to seek out those who really need hospitality, rather than just catering for people like us.

Given our society’s increasingly toxic narrative around strangers, the challenge of hospitality and welcome seems particularly relevant at the moment. Anyone perceived as different because of their skin colour or language can be cast as ‘other’, to be feared or bullied. If we allow strangers to be seen as ‘not like us’, then we run the risk that we will not treat them properly. Challenging both stereotyping and scapegoating is an important part of what it means to offer hospitality and welcome. It may not always make us popular but if we are to take hospitality seriously Jesus reminds us that we cannot pick and choose who to welcome.

As we offer a welcome to all without fear or favour we will find that we look into the face of Jesus: the lonely Jesus, the rejected Jesus, the despised Jesus. And these encounters will transform us each time they happen.

*Rev. Elizabeth Clark*

National Rural Officer for the Methodist and United Reformed Churches

## From the Editor

Welcome to the combined July and August edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

It is a good job that there are five Sundays in July otherwise I could have just called it the August edition, seeing as its production is so delayed. As usual there are a variety of factors behind the delay but I won't bore you with an explanation, but will offer humble apologies.

The month of June saw the third and final Hadleigh Dig organised by archaeologists from Cambridge University. A report appears below.

On 18<sup>th</sup> June we celebrated the 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church with the usual Anniversary Tea. The evening service after the Tea was led by our former minister, Rev. Jack Roche, and by

coincidence that Sunday was also Jack's birthday so he was presented with a birthday cake.

There is no news about a possible Interim Moderator at our church but there is good news for some of the other churches in Hadleigh. A report on the Churches Together in Hadleigh AGM includes news about the appointment of two priests to serve the local Anglican churches.

We are enjoying one of the best summers of recent years so I hope that it continues. I have not had a holiday yet but I hope to spend a few days in East Yorkshire at some point to explore my home town of Hull whilst it celebrates being this year's UK City of Culture.

*Malcolm Brown*

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## The Hadleigh Dig 2017

This year was the third and last year of the Hadleigh Dig organised by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA). On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June, nine teams of boys from Southend High School dug test pits in various gardens around Hadleigh but I was in a team from the AGES Archaeological & Historical Association (AHA) who dug a third test pit in our church lawn.

The second day of the dig saw the launch of AGES AHA's latest project entitled 'Romans in Hadleigh', for which a Heritage Lottery Fund grant has been obtained. Sadly, unlike last year, we didn't find any Roman pottery in the church lawn but we did find some sherds of medieval pottery and an old penny.

During the dig, we were visited by photographers from the Echo and the Leigh & Westcliff Times. I have included the photo from the Echo as it shows AGES AHA members in their corporate T-shirts emblazoned with the slogan 'I've been digging for AGES'! (Ignore the textual errors.)

Interestingly, ACA have expressed interest in digging test pits in Thundersley so if you know anyone who wouldn't mind a test pit in their garden do let me know so I can pass on their details to Terry Barclay. The possibility of basing a Thundersley dig at St Peter's Church is being investigated.

*Malcolm Brown*

[www.echo-news.co.uk](http://www.echo-news.co.uk)

Friday June 9, 2017

### ARCHAEOLOGISTS DIG DEEP FOR THE PAST IN HADLEIGH



■ History - the archaeology dig with Access Cambridge Archaeology

**ARCHAEOLOGISTS** are digging deep to explore the history of Hadleigh.

A team from Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) led the dig.

ACA is an outreach unit within the Division of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge.

The primary aim of it is to enhance educational, economic and social wellbeing through active participation in archaeology.

Joining them were members of the public and students from Southend High School for Boys, in Prittlewell Chase.

They dug several trenches at Hadleigh United Reformed Church, in Church Lane, Hadleigh, to see what could be discovered.

The name Hadleigh was first recorded at the turn of the 11th century as Haethlege to mean 'heath clearing' or 'the clearing where heather grows.'

# Wives' Fellowship Programme for July 2017

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> July	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Afternoon Tea (no entrance fee for this meeting)

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

## A message from Kay, Leader of the Wives' Fellowship

Many thanks to members for your support over the first part of 2017. I hope that you have found the meetings interesting and that you enjoy the summer break. The autumn session commences on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September with a presentation by John Amos about the House of Roses, a home for young adults with learning disabilities supported by the Romanian Crestin Trust charity of which John is a trustee.

*Kay Watson*

## Wives' Fellowship Afternoon Tea

The delay in publication of the magazine means that I am able to include a report on the Wives' Fellowship Afternoon Tea, which was held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July. There was a very good turnout, which was a relief for Jean (Reeve), who was responsible for organising the spread. The two photos below were taken from opposite ends of the table but unfortunately those on the 'top table' are rather distant.



Clockwise (from first photo) : Mary Milne, Angela Lingard, Lily, Norma Paul, Joan Curtriss, Margaret Iribarren, Jim Clubb, Christine Cherrett, Paul Reed, Jean Reeve, Kay Watson, Keith Gargrave, June Gargrave, Daphne Lockwood, Pamela George, Mary Hawthorne, Vera Knapton and Jean Parnell

After a lovely tea of sandwiches and buns of various kinds, Kay kept us amused by reading out a series of jokes that she had collected from various sources, many of which I had not heard before. I then set up my laptop and the church projector to show a few videos. The first one was a short video showing David and Ron Hurrell playing the Last Post at the Poppy Wave in Shoebury. The second was a new video about Salvo the Clown, details of which are in the Computer Corner section of the magazine. The third was a video from 1976 featuring a boat journey along the Essex Coast from Purfleet to Harwich. Interestingly, it included footage of the fishermen at Leigh unloading cockles by hand using the traditional yoke,

As a thank-you for all their hard work in keeping the Wives' Fellowship going, Kay and Jean were each presented with a plant. I would like to offer my thanks publicly via the magazine and to encourage anyone reading this who is not a member to come along in September.

*Malcolm Brown*

# WHAT'S ON

## A round-up of future events in the area

- 
- Wed 26 Jul 2017 - Canvey Community Archive Talk - 'Canvey Man ~ Tales of His Journey' by Chris Fenwick, manager of Dr Feelgood. At the War Memorial Hall, High Street, Canvey Island. Starts at 2.30pm. Admission £2.50.
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- Sat 29 Jul 2017 - Summer Mini Market with stalls, raffle and refreshments at St Barnabas Church, Church Road/Woodfield Road corner, Hadleigh, SS7 2EJ. From 10.30am to 12.30pm. Admission £1.00.
- 
- Wed 9 Aug 2017 - Coffee Morning at St Michael's Church Community Room, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath from 10.00am to 11.45am. (Every Wednesday.)
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- Fri 11 Aug 2017 - Castle Crafters Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 1.00pm to 2.30pm (every Friday). Are you passionate about craft? Do you enjoy having a chat and crafting? If so, come along and join us.
- Sat 12 Aug 2017 - Summer Fete at Hadleigh Methodist Church with paintings and artwork, woodwork, face painting, bouncy castle, soaps and candles, clothes, fidget spinners, pebble art, craft stalls and lots more. From 10.00am to 4.00pm. Refreshments and BBQ.
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- Thu 17 Aug 2017 - Poetry Reading Group Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month's subject - Tennyson. Meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month.
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- ditto - Hadleigh Gardening Association Talk - 'Tales from the Smithy' by Roger Dorking - at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Meet from 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Admission: Members £1.50, Non-members £2.00.
- 
- Sat 19 Aug 2017 - Hadleigh Heritage Centre Coffee Morning with the theme of 'Celebrating Hadleigh Heritage' at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12 noon.
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- Mon 21 Aug 2017 - CAVS Ways To Wellness drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 1.30pm to 3.30pm - every 3rd Monday of the month. CAVS Ways to Wellness aims to improve your health and wellbeing by linking you to activities and opportunities available in your community.
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- Sat 26 Aug 2017 - Castle Point Council Compost Giveaway at Farmhouse Depot, Canvey Road, Canvey, SS8 0QU. From 8.30am to 1.00pm. Bring a container and collect yours. Made from food waste.
- 
- 2 -10 Sep 2017 Hadleigh Art Trail - various venues and opening times.
- 
- ditto - Coach Trip to Audley End House & Grounds leaving St Michael's Church, Daws Heath at 9.45am. Cost £35.00pp. Call Ken on 07784 687891.
- 
- Sat 9 Sep 2017 - Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-In at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon. Bring along old photos and documents for scanning or chat about your memories of the area.
- ditto - Hadleigh Gardening Association Harvest Show at Hadleigh Methodist Church Hall. Entries from 9.00am to 11.00am, Viewing from 2.00pm to 4.00pm followed by raffle. Admission £1.00. Refreshments served.
- Wed 27 Sep 2017 - Canvey Community Archive Slideshow - Photos of Essex & Canvey Wildlife by Dave Blackwell - at the War Memorial Hall, High Street, Canvey Island. Starts at 2.30pm. Admission £2.50.

More events listed on the HELIX website at <http://www.hadleighessex.info>.

# News from Churches Together in Hadleigh

The AGM of Churches Together was held at the SA Cottages on Wed 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Opening** – The AGM was chaired by Major David Woodman (Salvation Army), the outgoing leader of Churches Together. The meeting opened at 7.30pm with a reading from Acts Chapter 3 and a prayer.

**Election of Officers** – Major Woodman felt that, despite difficulties, it was important for Churches Together to continue, even if only on an informal basis. After discussion, Roger Kingston (Methodist Church), agreed to act as Leader for the forthcoming year. Paul Short (St Thomas More Church) and Maureen Lennard-Brown (Methodist Church) agreed to continue as Treasurer and Minutes Secretary respectively. Maureen said she would circulate the minutes and would send a reminder shortly before each meeting.

Rev. Sue Croucher (St Michael's Church) offered to lead the opening devotions at the next meeting at St Michael's Church. I agreed to continue to order Lent Course material and maintain the minutes archive. Major Woodman said he would ask the new administrator at the SA Temple to print material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity free of charge.

**Treasurer's Report** – Paul Short reported that the current bank balance is £128.36. It was agreed to keep the annual subscription at £10.

**Leader's Report** – Major Woodman gave a verbal report in which he stressed the importance of the fellowship within Churches Together. He felt that it had been a good year despite struggling numerically with committee members. The prayer meeting initiated by Jane Brown was a good opportunity and should continue more frequently. The Good Friday service was well received by the congregation. It had been a collaborative event, which worked well and should be repeated. Major David Woodman concluded by expressing his enjoyment at being involved in Churches Together.

The AGM was then closed and Roger Kingston took the chair for the ordinary business.

**Minutes of the last meeting** – The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January were agreed and signed by the chair.

**Matters arising** – The Treasurer reported that the transfer of the bank account from HSBC to Lloyds Bank, following the closure of the HSBC branch in Hadleigh, is still ongoing.

**Review of recent events** – I mentioned that I would not continue with the Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection next year and proposed holding an event as an alternative way of raising funds. Rev. Sue Croucher reported that Strawberry Tea held at St Michael's on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, for Christian Aid Week, raised nearly £300.

A second prayer meeting was held at the SA cottages on 1<sup>st</sup> June. It was agreed that prayer meetings should continue and the next one was arranged for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Methodist Church at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

## News from around the churches

**St Michael's** – Rev. Sue Croucher said that she would be ordained at St Mary's Church Prittlewell on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and a celebratory Eucharist would be held at St Michael's on 8<sup>th</sup> July at 4.00pm. All were invited to the Eucharist.

Sue also reported that Rev. Andy Hudson has been appointed as Priest-in-charge for the Parish of Thundersley, starting in November. He will become Team Vicar in a team ministry covering St Peter's, St Michael's, St James the Less and St Barnabas churches.

**URC** – I reported that Jack had retired as our Minister on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and that an Interim Moderator would be appointed in the short term.

**Salvation Army** – Major Woodman said that he is moving to Ilford in July to become a Mission Enabler for the London North Division. His last service would be on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Major Geoff Ashdown is retiring and his last service will be on 18<sup>th</sup> June. A new leader will not be appointed for at least a year. On behalf of everyone, Ann Lowes wished David well in his new post.

**Dates of next meeting** – Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm at St Michael's Church with refreshments served from 7.15pm.

**Closing** – The meeting closed with a prayer by the new Leader, Roger Kingston.

## Malcolm Brown

Post-meeting note: Rev. Ruth Cartwright has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge for St James-the-Less and St Barnabas churches. Ruth is currently part of the Grays Thurrock Ministry Team covering four churches in south-west Essex. She will start work in Hadleigh in September and will become Team Rector in the ministry team mentioned in the above report.

# Christian Aid Week 2017



Christian Aid Week 2017 ran from Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May and this year marked the 60<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the first such week. In 1945, British and Irish churches set up 'Christian Reconstruction in Europe' to help resettle refugees in Europe after World War II. This organisation then changed its name to 'Department of Inter-church Aid and Refugee Service'. In 1957, the Department decided to hold a 'Christian Aid Week' to raise awareness and raise money. This became an annual event and, because of its success, in 1964, the Department changed its name to Christian Aid.

Refugees were then the main focus of work, but over the years Christian Aid started to work with poor communities around the world. In the 1960s, Christian Aid began to educate its supporters on the causes of poverty as well as asking for donations. Christian Aid also started campaigning and working with governments to change aid, trade and debt policies. They helped set up the Fairtrade Foundation.

Christian Aid now works with more than 700 overseas partners in around 50 countries. Its focus changes with the issues that the world faces but the refugee crisis, climate change, tax dodging, gender inequality, HIV/AIDS and malaria eradication are some of the current areas of work. It continues to campaign, fundraise and work on long-term projects, as well as providing emergency aid for people affected by the increasing number of natural disasters.

You could say that the focus of this year's Christian Aid Week was a return to its roots because it was about supporting those who are seeking safety and solace, particularly refugees fleeing conflict and disaster. One of the resources was a moving video entitled 'Theodor: The refugee who never forgot' (available on YouTube) which told the story of 92-year-old Theodor Davidovic. Theodor now lives in Scotland but came from Serbia. He was orphaned when he was eight and at 12, he left school and was sold into service, where he remained until he was 16.

When WW2 broke out Theodor was freed from domestic slavery and joined the resistance movement against the Nazis. After the Nazis capitulated there was a civil war between the royalist Chetniks and Tito's communists.

Theodor fled Serbia at the age of 20 and lived in tented camps for two-and-a-half years in Italy and Germany. It was in those camps that he received food parcels from Christian Aid. At the



age of 22, Theodor escaped the refugee camps and found his way to Scotland. Theodor met his future wife Betty in a dance hall in Kirkcaldy.

They married in 1953 and now have two sons and four grandchildren.

Theodor has been involved with Christian Aid Week since its beginnings 60 years ago, running local youth club events, barbeques and plant sales to help raise money for the charity. He feels that he owes his life to 'the cause' and is grateful to the community that welcomed him in.

Turning to this year's fundraising, there was a very limited house-to-house collection in Hadleigh. I did my normal patch around central Hadleigh and the total raised was £322, slightly down on last year's £343. I have decided to retire from the house-to-house collecting but hope to organise an event or two next year that will raise an equivalent amount. The overall total was also slightly down on last year – £1,332 compared to £1,452. (Last year included £158 profit from an Ever Green Singers concert at the church for which there was no equivalent this year.)

The Good Friday United Service offertory was a healthy £206 (but down from £260 last year). However, friends at St Michael's surpassed themselves when their Strawberry Tea produced £288 – a record amount! I am grateful to Ken Jones and his helpers at St Michael's for running the event and for friends from St Michael's, St Peter's and elsewhere for supporting it. Although St Michael's is a member of Churches Together in Hadleigh, it is not within in the Hadleigh Christian Aid Group area, i.e. the Parish of Hadleigh.

Only three Hadleigh churches undertook church collections but the donations from those collections increased this year from £337 to £362. Monthly bric-a-brac sales at our church coffee morning, together with proceeds from a book and bric-a-brac sale held during Christian Aid Week contributed £110. I am grateful to everyone who donated items to sell and to all who bought items. I am also grateful to the Wives' Fellowship who kindly donated £45.

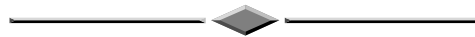


The table below shows totals for each of the sources of income in Christian Aid Week 2017.

Source	£	Gift Aided
House-to-house collection	322.14	56.35
Church collections: URC (£166.80), St Barnabas (£150.00), Methodist (£45.00)	361.80	145.00
Churches Together Good Friday service offertory	206.00	
St. Michael's Church Strawberry Tea	288.00	
Hadleigh URC coffee morning bric-a-brac sales	46.80	
Hadleigh URC Book & Bric-a-brac sale	63.05	
Hadleigh URC Wives' Fellowship donation	45.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 1,332.79</b>	<b>201.35</b>

On behalf of Christian Aid, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this year's fundraising by making a donation or supporting one of the events.

*Malcolm Brown*



## July

Summer now is sweetly reigning,  
Shedding glory, o'er the earth.  
Now the verdant lands are ringing,  
With the sounds of joy and mirth.

In the sunny lanes and meadows,  
Beauteous flowers may now be found.  
And on cottage doorways peeping,  
Clustering their porches round.

Now the purple vetch is scatter'd,  
All amongst the dewy grass,  
And the graceful woodbine twineth,  
Round the brambles that we pass.

God in love bestows his bounties,  
Freely on His children now;  
Corn is ripening in the meadow,  
Fruit is cluster'd on each bough.

Many are the happy faces,  
Gazing out upon the sea.  
Many are the children playing,  
On the sands in merry glee.

Loving father we would praise Thee,  
For these golden July hours;  
For the waves that fully glitter,  
For thy lovely fruits and flowers.

*H.J. Evans (Prittlewell)*

Published in The Southend Standard  
on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1881

# Doing Good and doing God – from Mar 2017 REFORM

How has Christianity changed in the last ten years, and what does this teach us about the future?

It's the kind of question you can't help but ask yourself at a birthday party. Is the champagne glass half-full or half-empty? The Christian thinktank Theos recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. Launched a month after Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion* was published, it has enjoyed some memorable moments since coming into the world at the end of 2006, and is still around to tell the tale. The anniversary got us thinking, however. How has Christianity in the UK changed over the last ten years – and, by implication, how might it change over the next ten? Is the glass half-full or half-empty (or 95% empty)?

The anniversary report, 'Doing Good', crunched the numbers. Here are three headlines for you: first, affiliation has fallen off a cliff. Figures disagree (and the 2001 and 2011 censuses are outliers in the figures they reported) but it seems that at some point in the last ten years, the country crossed the 50:50 mark, with the number of Britons who don't call themselves Christian now exceeding the number who do for the first time in over a millennium.

Second, attendance has declined, but at nothing like as precipitous a rate. Here the data is fiendishly complex and incomplete, but at best guess, the Sunday after Theos was founded there were approximately 4.5 million people in church in the UK, whereas in early 2017 the figure is more likely to be something like 4.2 million.

Third is the level of Christian social action. This has certainly not decreased, and indeed has almost certainly increased. Again, the data is incomplete but those studies and surveys that do exist suggest that there are more Christians, churches and Christian charities socially active today than there were a decade ago.

Does this make the glass half-full or half-empty? The answer naturally depends on which of the three narratives means most to you. For those concerned to preserve the Christian culture that has marked these islands for centuries, the picture is not a happy one. The Christianity-and-water that children have long imbibed with their mother's milk is now so diluted as to make a minimal difference to their worldview and lifestyle. More powerful the Apple store than the story of the apple.

For those concerned about the future of a worshipping Church, the picture is more complex.

Congregations have declined and also, it seems, shifted from established and institutional settings towards more independent (and, of course, immigrant) ones. The most encouraging narrative – that of the apparent rise in Christian social action – is self-evidently a good one, but it also carries a warning with it. All too easily, the 'social action' bit can grow to occlude the 'Christian' bit, particularly in a society that wants your soup kitchens and debt counselling services but not the beliefs that motivate them.

We have seen it before. The so-called social gospel movement flourished among mainline US Protestant denominations at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Deeply committed to addressing the social and economic injustices that plagued the rapidly industrialising US, it petered out because it detached its mission from its theological core, becoming, in effect, indistinguishable from any other social action initiatives. For admirable if ultimately misguided reasons, love of neighbour eclipsed love of God.

If Christian social action is to transform the face and future of Christianity in 21<sup>st</sup>-century Britain, it will need to sidestep this problem and show that you can do both: love God and love neighbour. 'Doing Good' calls this 'Christian social liturgy'. Our word liturgy derives from the New Testament Greek word *leitourgia*. This was used in different ways and can be understood to have meant different things, but two meanings stand out as particularly relevant.

*Leitourgia* was used to mean a service that was obviously religious or sacrificial – a priestly or Levitical service that was conducted, more likely than not, within the Temple. Thus, when Luke's gospel talks about the priest Zechariah completing his 'time of service in the Temple before returning home', it uses the word *leitourgia*.

At the same time, the word *leitourgia* could also be used in a less overtly religious sense to refer to the kind of charitable activity or gift or benefaction such as was central to the life of the earliest Christian communities. Thus, when Paul writes in to the Church in 2 Corinthians praising them for their readiness to give and their enthusiasm for action, and commending their 'service' in supplying the needs of the Lord's people, he uses *leitourgia*.

The liturgy in 'Christian social liturgy' is intended to capture both these meanings: the idea of charitable public action – working for and 'being with' the other – that is also deliberately God-conscious, or priestly. It is a way of serving the other in a way that is also publically, demonstrably, serving God; loving one's neighbour in a way that visibly, unapologetically – and, yes, evangelistically – reflects love of God.

The last word, 'evangelistically', will make many people – and not just jittery secularists – nervous, so we should be clear, we are not talking about 'rice Bibles', getting people to sing hymns for their supper, or using power relations to manipulate conversions. Rather, this is simply about honesty. Christian social liturgy invites Christians, churches and their charities to serve others in ways that are authentic to their faith and

perhaps even distinctively so. Christian social liturgy is about lighting a lamp, putting it on a stool and trusting that others will see it, trusting that they will be intrigued and attracted to it and will move to take a closer look.

There are no guarantees, but then real life has few true guarantees. Christianity in the UK stands at a crossroads – but then Christianity always stands at a crossroads, forced to choose between narrow and wide paths. 'Doing Good' argues that the narrow one today is that of leitourgia – open, confident, evangelistic love of neighbour and of God.

*Nick Spencer*

Editor's note: Nick Spencer is Research Director for the Theos thinktank. The 'Doing Good' report can be downloaded from [www.theosthinktank.co.uk](http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk).

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## A new friend in Canada

One Sunday in September last year, there was a lady in our morning congregation who was a stranger to us all. After the service, I chatted to her and discovered that her name was Michelle and that, although she had family in Basildon and had worked at Basildon Hospital, she was now working in Canada and had recently bought a condominium there.

Michelle was staying in Hadleigh but was due to fly back to Canada the following day. I told her about my trips to Canada to see my son, Mark, and his family, and, as a result of this link, we have kept in touch. I also met Michelle's friend, John, at the time, and later invited him to our New Year's Eve Social. John was very brave and came despite not knowing anyone apart from me. Fortunately, Malcolm knew that John might turn up and helped to make him feel welcome.

In December, John visited Michelle in Canada. He took with him a copy of our November magazine so Michelle could read the obituary for Angela Cotton, whom she had met as a result of John living next-door to the Cottons at Mount Zion..



Michelle was back in England recently to visit family in Basildon and in Norway and to see John again. Before she went back this time, I invited her and John for afternoon tea at my new flat. I also invited Malcolm because he had got to know John better over recent months as a result of them both helping David Cotton.

It was lovely to meet Michelle and John again and I was interested to hear that they had met whilst members of an operatic and dramatic society which practised at Basildon URC. Michelle used to worship at the church and knew the Minister, Rev. Martin Kitchener, who retired last year.

Malcolm suggested that he take a photo of me with Michelle and John for possible inclusion in the magazine. Michelle has already seen the photo because Malcolm e-mailed it to John, She will also see this article because she has asked for future editions of the magazine to be sent to her via John.

Hopefully, I will see Michelle and John again in the not too distant future.

*Kay Watson*

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## Family News

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### **Moira Baptie**

Moira was admitted to Southend Hospital on 10<sup>th</sup> June suffering from dehydration and several infections. Treatment was unsuccessful and she was moved back to Westcliff Lodge care home where, sadly, she died on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Moira was a stalwart of Westcliff URC but also preached at our church on a number of occasions, usually at the evening service. She was very proud to have been officially recognised as a Lay Preacher after successfully undertaking the URC's Training for Learning & Service course. Moira also spoke at our Wives' Fellowship on more than one occasion.

A committal service for family and close friends will take place at Southend Crematorium on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 9.40am. A service of thanksgiving for Moira's life will then be held on the same day at 12.00 noon at Westcliff URC.

*We thank God for Moira's life of Christian service and witness and send our sincere condolences to her family.*

### **Joan Ferrari**

We were saddened to learn that Joan had passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Joan and her husband, Paul, had moved to Clacton in November 2016 to be near their daughter but Joan was already concerned about the possible return of breast cancer. Tests showed that it had returned and also spread such that treatment was not possible.

Joan used to attend our coffee morning regularly with her close friend Jean Parnell and also attended the Wives' Fellowship and other functions from time to time.

Her funeral will be held at Pitsea Crematorium on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 2.40pm. There will be a wake afterwards in our Small Hall.

*We send our condolences to Paul and family at this sad time and to Jean who must also be feeling the loss of her close friend.*

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## From the Moderator's Blog

### 'When a closure does not bring closure'



On Saturday many of us met together to celebrate the life of the Windermere Centre and mourn its closure. The

decision to close the centre was contentious and that was understandable, but the debate wasn't just about resources and priorities of stewardship. It involved a place that many had found and treasured as a spiritual home, a building and far more than that, through the friendships made there and the experiences shared there over thirty years.

People will give testimony to how Scripture was opened up to them in new ways, how faith was enlivened for them, and confidence grown to share the Gospel. No wonder there was a tangible grief in the service, and this was recognised in prayers and sermon, silence and conversation, hugs and goodbyes. We sang a beautiful hymn by Jan Berry, with the author present. The hymn ended with words, intensely powerful yet sensitive to the Spirit:

*We grieve for a place where the story is ending  
doors and dreams closing on all that is lost;  
in struggle and anger we hold to our mem'ries,  
a home in the Lakes that bears too high a cost.*

*We long for a place where new vision can  
flourish,  
dreams and ideas springing up in dry ground,  
we mourn for the passing of all that we've  
cherished,  
and hope for a future where God can be found.*

This theme was taken up by Rev. Tony Burnham, which was so clearly of Christ – facing up and recognising the bad news and the terrible feelings and yet seeing the need for Faith at this time to see through the mystery of God's purpose to what comes next. Nothing in the life of the centre has been in vain, or wasted, but God will use the lives of all who have been transformed by the centre, and all who want to carry the torch for all the centre meant as a place of learning and training, healing and inspiring God's people.

Much to thank God for and much to pass on. And so we prayed our thanks for the founder Stephen's vision, for the leadership of the directors, Graham, Peter and Lawrence, but also

for the many staff and volunteers for humble service to God's kingdom.

And I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks for hospitality of Carver Chapel and the shapers of the service, the many who came to offer support to others – all who enabled this occasion to have deep meaning, the holding together of even deeper grief, but deepest of all, our Faith in God.

My own prayers ended with:

*As today the weather has given us rain for our  
tears, cloud for the mystery of God's purposes,  
and wind to remind us of the presence of God's  
Spirit – we now need the vision of Faith – to  
Walk the Way into our unknown future. As the  
house is cleared, and the door closed, windows of  
opportunity shut and the pathway soon  
overgrown, where is the journey of Faith to take  
us, to find another spiritual home?*

*We pray for all who will go on bearing the Good  
News, through prophet and preacher, evangelist  
and community builder, teacher and pastor,  
administrator and financier, host and servant.*

*Grant us:*

*new ways of witnessing to your Kingdom,  
knowing the power of the God's Love  
new service in your kin-dom, brothers and sisters  
in Jesus' Way*

*And so we honour Windermere as part of our  
kynren, our story of this generation,  
as the Spirit's gift and legacy to inspire the next.  
Lord grant us closure to re-pitch the tent of your  
presence.*

**Alan Yates**

Posted on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Editor's note: The Windermere Centre, one of four URC Resource Centres for Learning, closed on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017. A Thanksgiving Service was held at Carver Uniting Church on 15<sup>th</sup> July. A link to a video of the service may be found at:

<http://www.urc.org.uk/general/2369-the-windermere-centre.html>

Alan Yates, author of the blog post and current Moderator of General Assembly, will be speaking at the South Essex Area Partnership meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at Christ Church Rayleigh URC. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to go but need transport. please speak to the Editor.

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## Computer Corner

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### Salvo by Natalie Hazelden

**Interesting  
video**

Many readers will know of Salvo the Clown from Thundersley, who can often be seen on Southend High Street. As part of her degree course at Norwich University of the Arts, Natalie Hazelden has produced this short video. The description reads as follows: "A story of Southend-on-Sea's local celebrity clown nearing the end of his lifetime career. Delving into his eventful past, exploring his days in the circus and troubled childhood, whilst observing his appreciation for life with the help of the Lord and giving back to his community." Worth watching even if you don't know Salvo.

URL: <https://vimeo.com/221246646>

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### AGES AHA Facebook site

**Interesting  
website**

The AGES Archaeological & Historical Association Facebook site is managed by local historian, author and photographer Robert Hallmann. Robert does a very good job of unearthing interesting items of national and local interest. Posts are often enhanced with photos from Robert's own collection built up over several decades.

URL: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/356810951142530>

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### PicPick

**Free  
software**

PicPick is a multi-purpose graphics program that features a screen capture tool, image editor, colour picker, colour palette, pixel-ruler, protractor, crosshair, whiteboard and more. The screen capture tool is very useful because it can capture a scrolling window. The whiteboard facility is also a novel feature.

Download from: <http://ngwin.com/picpick>

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## Wordsearch - By the Seaside

Q	Y	P	R	O	I	V	T	F	Y	G	W	S	W	C	T	W	R	S	S
B	K	E	L	N	C	E	N	T	Q	A	U	A	E	F	O	E	L	G	U
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P	F	W	C	X	C	H	S	I	F	R	A	T	S	S	K	Z	S	O	B
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E	D	F	B	I	M	M	O	A	D	T	Z	C	H	V	S	C	E	V	O
J	L	F	I	S	M	V	L	T	N	O	D	G	N	R	K	R	R	E	U
F	U	T	R	I	M	U	S	S	E	L	S	X	I	P	G	Z	X	D	D
C	L	B	S	X	Q	K	D	D	T	F	A	A	O	R	C	Y	P	U	N
T	J	I	H	A	C	Z	G	N	P	S	H	O	L	E	T	N	S	B	S
G	S	Y	P	P	C	R	A	A	K	C	L	K	F	S	Y	C	J	A	S
V	X	R	A	F	O	D	Q	B	K	M	B	P	D	W	R	S	U	R	W
Z	T	A	M	Y	L	F	N	C	W	I	N	D	B	R	E	A	K	C	Y
H	L	H	N	N	U	O	E	A	T	L	T	R	Q	H	V	X	A	M	O
B	Q	E	C	E	S	D	P	X	S	K	L	O	V	R	Q	G	G	F	D
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Q	M	D	P	F	U	J	S	R	A	B	U	F	M	T	O	P	P	X	A

BANDSTAND  
CLIFF  
COCKLES  
CRAB  
DECKCHAIR  
FLIPFLOPS  
FLOTSAM  
GROYNE  
ICECREAM  
LOBSTER  
MUSSELS  
PIER  
ROCKPOOL  
SANDCASTLE  
SEAWEED  
STARFISH  
SUNBURN  
WAVE  
WINDBREAK  
YACHT

Words may appear in any direction including diagonally, back to front and upside down.

## CHURCH DIARY FOR AUGUST 2017

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Miss Katherine Davison Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	CANCELLED	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service – Mrs Hetty Sabayinda
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning - with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Celia Whitman
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning [MIDWEEK SERVICE CANCELLED]
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Coffee Morning

### The British Newspaper Archive

The British Newspaper Archive website at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) is currently adding some

The Southend Standard & Essex Weekly Advertiser - Thursday 22nd July

## HADLEIGH Garden Fete and Sale of Work

ALSO

### Poultry Show & Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Show

Will be held

**On AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY,**

At 2 p.m.,

**. In HADLEIGH COTTAGE GROUNDS .**

(Kindly lent for the occasion).

**BRASS BAND. SPORTS. REFRESHMENTS. SIDE SHOWS, &c.**

The Fete and Sale of Work will be continued on Tuesday, August 3rd.

**ADMISSION—MONDAY, 6d. TUESDAY, 3d.**

Conveyances meet all trams at Leigh Church. Proceeds in aid of Building Fund, Congregational Church.

**H. J. MITCHELL, Hon. Sec.**

editions of the Southend Standard to its database. The database is free to search but you normally have to pay a subscription to view actual pages. However, at present several editions of the Southend Standard are being displayed free of charge each day.

The advert on the left appeared in the Standard on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1909, five years after our church (then the Congregational Church) opened. I believe that Hadleigh Cottage was on Rectory Road, towards Scrub Lane.

*Malcolm Brown*

## CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY 2017

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am - 10.00am	Men's Breakfast Meeting
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service - Mrs Joyce Berry Evening Service with Holy Communion - Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am - 11.00am 3.00pm - 5.00pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives' Fellowship - Afternoon Tea
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service - Major Alan Bennett
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion - Rev. Jack Roche MA
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service - Mr Keith McCullough
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Midweek Service - Mr Malcolm Brown (Songs of Praise)
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service - Mr Wilf Tyler

### Sonnet 18

Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
 Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
 And summer's lease hath all too short a date:  
 Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
 And often is his gold complexion dimmed,  
 And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
 By chance, or nature's changing course untrimmed:  
 But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
 Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,  
 Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
 When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st,  
 So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,  
 So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

*William Shakespeare*