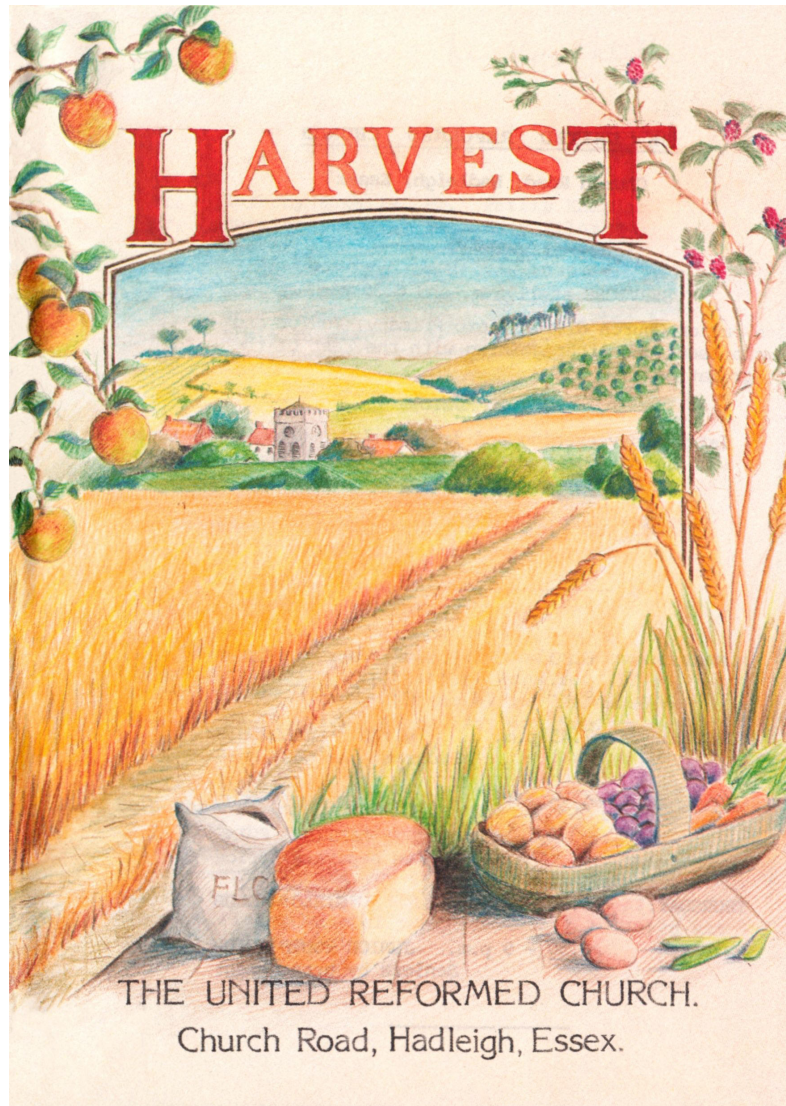


THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

September 2017



SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Monthly Midweek Service

at 10.30am on 4th Thursday of each month

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun 3 rd Sep	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Janette Stevens
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 10 th Sep	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. John Ambrose
Sun 17 th Sep	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Dr. Jim Tarrant
Sun 24 th Sep	10.30am	Harvest Festival Service	Major Geoff Ashdown
Thu 28 th Sep	10.30am	Midweek Service	Mrs Heather Brown

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 3 rd Sep	Malcolm Brown	Marion Fidell	Marion Fidell
Sun 10 th Sep	Jean Reeve	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 17 th Sep	Heather Brown [Holy Communion]	Malcolm Brown	Jean Reeve
Sun 24 th Sep	Malcolm Brown	Janet Wimbedon	Janet Wimbleton

FLOWER ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun 3 rd Sep	Keith & June Gargrave - wedding anniversary
Sun 10 th Sep	
Sun 17 th Sep	
Sun 24 th Sep	

ELDERS' MEETING

Tue 12th Sep 7.30pm

CHURCH MEETING

Thu 21st Sep 12.30pm

HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS

Minister:

Vacancy

Hon. Secretary:

Mr Royston Brackin (01702 558862)

Acting Hon. Treasurer:

Mr Royston Brackin

Serving Elders:

Mr Royston Brackin

Mrs Heather Brown (01702 557678)

Mr Malcolm Brown (01702 557678)

Miss Jean Reeve (01702 554907)

Useful information

Address: Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, SS7 2DQ

Website: www.hadleighsexurc.org.uk

An invitation

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 health, loneliness or bereavement and feel that we could help, or if you would like to ask for a prayer or personal visit then please let our Minister or any of the other church officers know. All such requests are treated in the strictest confidence.

Editor's note: I hope Mark Meatcher won't mind but I've used his pastoral letter from the August & September 2017 newsletter for Danbury, Great Baddow and Howe Green URCs (No. 60). As a result of Great Baddow and Howe Green churches joining Christ Church Chelmsford URC in a new pastorate, the future of Danbury URC is uncertain. The editor of the newsletter writes: "Newsletter No. 1 was published in June 2007, ten years ago... The print run started at 175 copies, it is now down to 125, plus 92 by e-mail. I must confess that I am beginning to run out of ideas to fill up the newsletter, but with the change of pastorate this may be the last one." Please pray for the folk at Danbury and consider what Mark has to say.

Another Chance?

"Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it.'" (Luke 13:6-8)

Several of you are aware of the fact that one of the things that I do for the URC as a denomination is that I collate the list of reports on churches that have closed, and, in theory, new churches that have opened (sadly there have not been too many of them).

When I receive these reports it is often fascinating to me to read the stories of the churches that have closed, why they have closed and the details of how they started, what kind of ministry they received, seeing informative stories of the good times they enjoyed and receiving pictures of some of the events that have happened down through the years in those churches.

Each one of them is different. Some churches have kept on going until there was only one or two members left – others have made brave decisions (in my view) that it was time to close when they still had what many of us would call significant membership lists. One in particular I recall reading about had 30 members when it took the decision to close and I am aware today of one that has made that decision with about 20 members remaining (but sadly having a large building to look after).

How and when should we make these sort of decisions? How long do we keep going doing the same things, and how do we discern what God is saying to us about our churches? Where do we look for new shoots of growth within the URC and within the community?

In reflecting a little on what I have learned over the past couple of years while working as a Transitional Minister within the Chelmsford area,

I am still not sure whether we in the URC have got our approach right. I don't think we are taking enough risks, using the financial resources we have in the best possible way, but I also think that there are potentially too many people who see church as simply being something that is done on a Sunday, and that it needs to happen that way "for ever and ever Amen...".

I see it as part of my role to keep on challenging that kind of thinking because, for me, following Jesus is a 24/7, 365 day a year commitment and we all need to be open to hear Jesus speak to us at all times and in all places.

If we go out for a coffee are we prepared to enter into a conversation about faith, ethics, life, death or whatever it might be with a person who suddenly starts speaking to us? If we walk along the street and see a homeless person sitting on the ground do we begin a conversation with them or walk on by? If we have an hour to spare do we open the doors of the church to sit and pray?

At what point do we close the door and switch off the lights in our churches? When do we die to allow resurrection to happen? Do we have a vision for our life, for the life of the church we serve?

May God give you wisdom as you discern your way ahead.

Rev. Mark Meatcher
Group Minister
Chelmsford Area of the URC



Kings Road URC

Crowstone St George's URC and Westcliff URC are merging to form Kings Road URC, based at the Crowstone site. A service of celebration will be held at Westcliff URC on Sunday 15th October at 3.00pm.

From the Editor

Welcome to the September edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

Summer has gone but memories will linger on through the articles kindly submitted by June Gargrave, Jean Reeve and Kay Watson. The same might be said in respect of the two people for whom obituaries appear in this edition, namely Moira Baptie and Pat Porcher.

We now look forward to a time of celebrating God's bounty so please join us, if you can, for our harvest supper and harvest festival service. (See back page for details.) It seems to have been a good year for most things and our small pear tree is once again loaded with pears. I also visited Jean Hodges (Derek Barber's cousin) in Hockley recently and I have never seen apple trees with so many apples on.

In the last couple of weeks, I've been spending a great deal of time clearing Echo archive material from our house. I took a lot of photos and cuttings home before I arranged storage in Hadleigh Gardening Association's store and their continued presence was not appreciated in certain quarters!

I've also been busy because the Community Archive website is being updated to run on open-source WordPress software, (The Heritage Lottery Fund won't fund enhancements to websites running on proprietary software.) As I'm seen as the most knowledgeable in the Community Archive group when it comes to computer matters, I have been involved in discussions in the design of the updated website, which have not always been easy because there are six archives involved in the project and we have to agree on certain aspects.

I continue to look at the British Newspaper Archive website each day as they make available old editions of the Southend Standard. On most days there is very little of interest but there are the occasional small nuggets and very occasionally a large one. At the risk of spoiling the surprise, I have found an article about our very first minister – Rev. Emlyn Davis – which I will be revealing in the next edition.

Unfortunately, there is still no news about a possible Interim Moderator at the church.

Malcolm Brown



Some Parental Quotes To Help You Re-Live Your Childhood

- If you poke your eye out with that thing, don't come looking for me!
- Why are you crying? Stop crying or I'll give you something to cry about.
- Why didn't you go before we got in the car?
- What's the magic word?
- Just hold your nose and you won't taste the cough syrup at all.
- Who taught you to sit/walk/talk like that?
- Who squirted toothpaste all over the rug? I'm going to count to three...
- If all your friends jumped off the Eiffel Tower, would you jump too?
- Don't slam the door. Come back here and close it nicely.
- I'll tell you when you're older.
- Carrots will help you see in the dark.
- It won't hurt.
- I'll tuck you in just a second.
- Just because, that's why!

Can readers come up with any more of these timeless quotes?

Wives' Fellowship Programme for September 2017

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 12 th Sep	2.30pm	Illustrated Talk on 'The House of Roses' by John Amos. The House of Roses is a home for young adults with learning disabilities supported by the Romanian Crestin Trust charity of which John is a trustee.

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

Walking the Way

When Alan Yates was inducted in July 2016 as one of the Moderators of General Assembly, along with Rev. Kevin Watson, he urged the Church to take up the challenges of a renewed focus on discipleship.



He linked the challenges that the United Reformed Church faces with a personal challenge that he took up to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats, covering about 1,000 miles in 12 days,

despite never having cycled as much as 100 miles in a single day before. He emphasised the importance of overcoming fear and lack of confidence when travelling into the unknown, of taking each day as it comes, preparing well, and enlisting the support of others.

Long distance cycling is a challenge for the mind as much as the body, he said: "You have to deal with the gremlin on the shoulder that says "too old, too cold, too wet... Give up before you hurt yourself." He managed the journey by taking

each day as it came, concentrating on the next footstep, the next pedal stroke.

Turning to the challenges facing the United Reformed Church he invited the Assembly to take up the recently-renewed focus on discipleship wholeheartedly. "We have started on a new course," he said, "a new direction to our journey." Mr Yates noted that the URC's membership is about 40% smaller today than it was a decade ago and could easily be another 40 to 50% smaller in another decade.

"That's not to say that there are no good things happening. In my time as Moderator-elect I have met wonderful people and seen wonderful things. I see what we are doing and some of it brings tears to my eyes and joy to my heart."

He introduced the URC's focus on missional discipleship, *Walking the Way*, as a new course that will drive the church to something different and concluded by saying: "Walking the Way is our call to arms. We need to set off with courage and determination, even though we don't know exactly where and how and when we will get there, taking one step, one pedal stroke, at a time."

Editor's note: Alan Yates, an accredited lay preacher and church elder, is a management consultant, engineer and former associate partner at IBM, specialising in supply chain and logistics. He hopes over his period of office to encourage more recognition of the URC's work, more use of technology, and a better balance between the Church's goals and resources. You can hear more about *Walking the Way* from Alan when he visits our area on Thursday 28th September. He will speak at the South Essex Area Partnership meeting to be held at Christ Church Rayleigh URC starting at 7.30pm, with refreshments served beforehand.

For those with Internet access, there are two short films available at <http://www.urch.org.uk/wtw/films.html> to inspire your thoughts and steps in *Walking the Way*. *Walking with Trippy* is a light-hearted animation about what Living the Life of Jesus today might mean for any one of us. It is designed as a conversation starter to lead any size of group in understanding the concepts of *Walking the Way*, and to begin to ask questions about what might come next for them in their choice of that one, small, next step. *Voices to hear* is a selection of vox pop interviews posing two questions: 'What would you expect to see in the life of someone who says they are a Christian?' and 'What do you think churches are for?' The voices will help local discussions on wide-ranging topics, such as the nature of welcome, behaviour, and spirituality.

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

-
- Sat 16 Sep 2017 - Hadleigh Heritage Centre Mini-Talks with the theme of 'Celebrating Heritage' at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12 noon.
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- Mon 18 Sep 2017 - NHS Blood Donation Sessions at Runnymede Hall, Kiln Road, Thundersley, SS7 1TF. From 1.20pm to 4.00pm & 5.00pm to 7.45pm. For more info, visit www.blood.co.uk. or phone 0300 123 23 23.
- ditto - CAVS Ways To Wellness drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Aims to improve health and wellbeing by linking you to activities and opportunities available in the community.
-
- Wed 20 Sep 2017 - Churches Together Prayer Meeting at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Starts at 7.30pm with refreshments served from 7.10pm. All welcome.
-
- Thu 21 Sep 2017 - CAVS Community Breakfast with guest speakers: Neil Fenwick (Essex Fire & Rescue) on 'Making Communities Safer and Safety in the home' and Don Sandgrove & Graham Freimuller (First Responders) on 'The role and work of a First Responder'. At Runnymede Hall, Thundersley from 9.30am to 11.30am. To book a free place, phone 01268 63841.
- ditto - Poetry Reading Group Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month's subject - Gerard Manley Hopkins. Meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month.
- ditto - Hadleigh Community Group Meeting at Hadleigh Conservative Club starting at 7.30pm. Raising funds for new Christmas lights in Hadleigh and other projects to improve Hadleigh town centre. All welcome.
-
- Fri 22 Sep 2017 - Macmillan Coffee & Cake raising money for Macmillan Cancer support at the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple from 10.00am to 1.00pm.
- ditto - Quiz Night organised by Friends of Hadleigh (St James the Less) Church at Westwood Academy. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets £5.00 pp - booking essential, phone 01702 553263.
-
- Sat 23 Sep 2017 - Hadleigh Community Group Barn Dance at Western Dance Centre, High Street, Hadleigh, starting at 7.30pm. Fundraising for Christmas lights. Tickets £15 single/25 couple, incl. fish & chips, from Amos Estates.
-
- 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.
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- Sat 30 Sep 2017 - Essex Poetry Festival Poetry Reading with Dorothy Turner (from Hadleigh) at Westcliff Library, 649 London Road, Westcliff, SS0 9PD. Starts at 2.00pm. Free admission. No need to book.
-
- Sat 7 Oct 2017 - Folk Night with Uggy Brown, Terry Hiscock and When Rivers Meet at St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Thundersley from 8.00pm to 10.00pm. Tickets £9.00 - phone 07784 687891. BYO food and drink.
-
- Wed 11 Oct 2017 - Coffee Morning at St Michael's Church Community Room, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath from 10.00am to 11.45am. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a home-made cake. Held every Wednesday at the same time.
-
- Sat 14 Oct 2017 - Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12 noon.
-

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

A European Summer Camp Working Holiday

Unfortunately, Keith and I will not be able to go on holiday this year but we have enjoyed hearing about the working holiday undertaken by our son Richard and his family – wife Vera, son Alex and daughter Karina. They went to a Summer Camp in Ukraine where underprivileged children go for a holiday of a week (or two) in a forested area living in a wooden camp site (like an army camp) with instructors and officers in charge. The idea is to give these children time to let off steam, to enjoy themselves in the open air, to learn something new or to improve their knowledge of various subjects and to get used to people from other countries.

Richard's firm, which works with many Eastern European countries, was asked by someone from Ukraine whether any of their staff would be prepared to go out to Kiev for up to two weeks to help out at such a camp, to help the youngsters with their English, to take games like football, basketball, handball, etc., and generally to get them mixing with English people. Vera is from Ukraine near the Russian border and both Alex and Karina speak Russian, as does Richard. The whole family lived in Kiev for three years when Richard worked there.



Vera, 2nd from left, then Karina and Richard, 3rd from right

The Camp was outside Kiev, near the Dnieper river. As well as the Gargrave family from the U.K., there were volunteers from Egypt. At any one time there were 100 children there, split into groups according to their age, sex, and what they were going to do. Alex took groups of boys for football and basketball and Karina took a group of girls for handball, dancing, musical items, etc. They also helped them to improve their English, to sing some songs, and Alex also had a group for healthy eating and living. (I hope he remembers all the information when he starts at Uni.) Unfortunately, the food was not to the liking of my family because they seem to have been given children's portions, but they managed to find a small shop nearby where they could buy other food to keep them going.

Despite the food situation, they all came back having enjoyed the experience. I was not surprised as I spent two and half years at a School Camp during the war, in lovely Surrey at Tilford, near Farnham. I enjoyed it so much I did not want to return to live in Leytonstone where there were just row upon row of houses and no green fields or woods nearby!



Vera on left, Alex holding banner on left, Karina on right

Recently, I saw a report from a new Prime Warden of a Livery Company in the City, a lady with very impressive experience in a variety of jobs. She wrote that, during her undergraduate studies, her ability with languages led to her becoming part of an international team organising summer camps across Europe for underprivileged children from 10 countries. Finding venues, training student volunteers in non-verbal communication, and managing the logistics of moving hundreds of children across borders provided a challenge, which she claims no subsequent job ever matched.

Alex had been completing his Duke of Edinburgh Gold award before the summer and could have used this experience for the 'volunteer section' but it will still look good on his C.V.

June Gargrave

Gargrave exam news: Alex has achieved high enough A-level grades to do a degree in Finance & Management at Portsmouth University. Karina took 11 GCSEs and most were graded A or A* with the three sciences and Maths at A* grade. She hopes eventually to study Natural Sciences at Durham.

Diary of My Week in Weymouth

Jean Reeve gives an account of her annual stay in Weymouth with friends Hazel and Mike Benson. Hazel is the daughter of the late Sylvia Fowler, from Hadleigh, who was a close friend of Jean's.

Mon 18th Aug – This year I didn't feel like travelling by train so I booked a car to take me to Weymouth and back – door-to-door transport - much better! The car arrived at 8.30am and we had a very stress-free drive with no hold-ups. We arrived at Hazel's at 12.20pm. It was lovely to be greeted at the door by Mike and Hazel and I was pleased to see that Charlie, their son, was home. I can't believe that Charlie was 21 this year. I had a wonderful welcome from them all, including Molly, their lovely black Labrador.

We all had lunch in the garden and then Mike drove Hazel and me into Weymouth for my usual wander around. After a couple of hours, Mike came and picked us up. Later, I relaxed in the lounge while Hazel went to the gym and Mike took Molly for a walk.

After Supper, we watched a DVD of *Fantastic Beasts* and at midnight I climbed the stairs to bed. The afternoon and evening was a lovely way to start my holiday.

Tue 15th Aug – Hazel and I went to Abbotsbury Sub-tropical Gardens. Before the visit, Hazel drove through the village. The houses along the main road are all built of local stone and the front doors open straight on to the pavement.



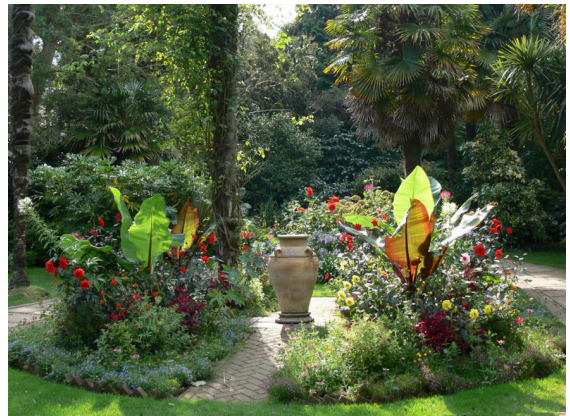
Abbotsbury village

We drove to 'The Hive Beach' café, which is on top of a cliff overlooking the iconic coastline. We enjoyed a coffee sitting outside admiring the lovely sea view and then went on to the sub-tropical gardens.

The gardens were established by the first Countess of Ilchester, Elizabeth Fox-Strangeways, in 1765 as a kitchen garden for the nearby castle. It has grown into a magnificent 30-acre garden filled with rare and exotic plants from all over the world.

Many of the plants were first introductions to this country and were discovered by plant-hunting descendants of the Countess. In the guide book, it is described by Alan Titmarsh as "one of the finest gardens I have ever visited".

I thoroughly enjoyed strolling through the various gardens to see the exotic plants and trees from Australia, New Zealand, South America and Eastern Asia, to name just a few of the places of origin. The micro climate and shelter enable the garden to grow these many tender and exotic-looking plants species and make you think and feel as if you are in locations far afield.



Abbotsbury Sub-tropical Gardens

We drove home about 4.30pm, where I spent an hour or so in the garden before going indoors to spend the evening relaxing in the lounge.

Wed 16th Aug – Today was Weymouth Carnival and many of the roads were closed to traffic so Hazel decided we would go to Dorchester as Wednesday is market day and she knows that I love strolling around the various stalls.

I decided I would look and not buy but things didn't go to plan as I took home two handbags and three pairs of ear-rings! We arrived home at 3.30pm where I flopped in the nearest garden chair. At 5.30pm, Mike drove us to the top of one of the cliffs to watch the Red Arrows flying display. I couldn't believe how many people were on the cliff, sitting or lying on the grass. Luckily, Hazel managed to find me a seat on one of the benches or I would have had to stand – no sitting on the grass for Jean otherwise she would never have got up!

The Red Arrows display was a wonderful sight. I couldn't believe how low they flew and how close they seemed to be to each other.

It was magical to me as they performed their various formations with red, white and blue smoke leaving a trail behind them. As they flew very low over us,



Red Arrows

I cannot describe the loud noise of the engines – I don't think my ears will ever be the same again. However, the display was a lovely way to end the day.

Thu 17th Aug – Off to Bournemouth today to visit the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum. We were unable to visit it last year owing to the fact that we chose the one day of the week when they were closed. The villa was built by Annie and Merton Russell-Cotes in 1901, as their home. It is filled with their extraordinary collection of British paintings and sculptures, as well as souvenirs from their travels around the world.

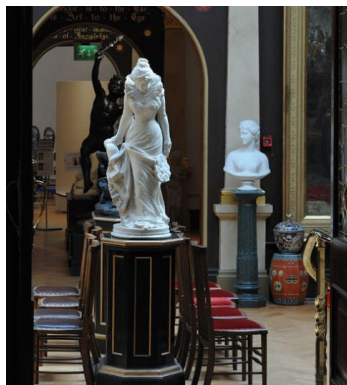


Throughout his life, Merton Cotes suffered bouts of lung disease and, with medical advice, Merton and Annie spent the summer of 1875 exploring the South Coast. They spent two weeks in the Bath Hotel at Bournemouth. The town then was an exclusive health resort of

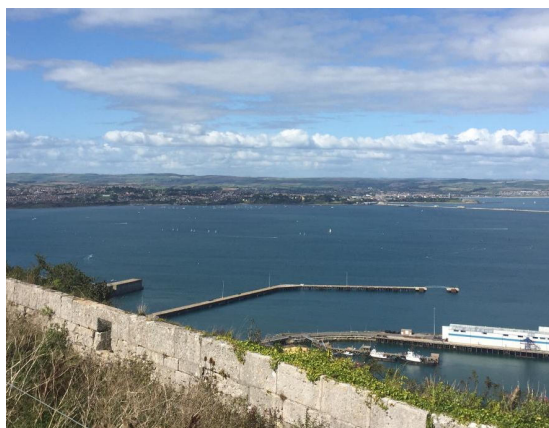
just over 6,000 residents. At that time, the hotel was up for sale and Merton saw a business opportunity so by Christmas Day 1876 were the new owners of the Bath Hotel – Bournemouth's first hotel.

In 1878, the hotel closed for refurbishment and enlargement. It reopened in 1880 as the Royal Bath Hotel as Merton had discovered that the Prince of Wales (the future Edward VII) had once visited the hotel. In 1901, the villa was built next to the hotel. On their deaths in 1921, Annie and Merton left the house and its collections to the people of Bournemouth.

I thoroughly enjoyed strolling around the villa, climbing stairs to different floors and the gallery, seeing all the beautiful paintings, sculptures etc, visiting the gift shop and buying a few more things to bring home. I arrived back at Hazel's at about 5.30pm, tired but very happy.



Fri 18th Aug – Today we revisited the Verne Jailhouse Café, which was closed when we went last year. I once again had a strange feeling as we drove through the gates and tunnel leading to the top of Portland and the prison. This year the café was open when we arrived so we enjoyed a coffee there looking at the panoramic views over Weymouth Bay, Portland Harbour and along the Jurassic Coast.



Weymouth Bay from the Jailhouse Café

As we left Portland, it suddenly clouded over and it started pouring with rain, really heavy rain. Luckily it stopped as quickly as it had started and the sun shone so Hazel drove us to Dorchester, this time to window-shop. In one shop I discovered a pair of pale, blue shoes and Hazel found a skirt to go with them. Did I buy them? Yes, I did!

We arrived home at about 5.00pm and the rest of the day was spent chatting until about 11.00pm when I climbed the stairs to bed and to pack.

Sat 19th Aug – Going home day. My car arrived at 12.15pm so after hugs, kisses and thank yous, I waved goodbye to Hazel and Mike and we set off for home. It was another pleasant drive with no hold-ups, just a steady flow of traffic, and we arrived back in Hadleigh at 4.15pm.

Jean Reeve

Evelyn Moira Baptie (1933 – 2017)

Editor's note: Along with several other members of our church, I attended the Thanksgiving Service for Moira on 1st August at Westcliff URC. Moira used to preach at our evening service from time to time and spoke to the Wives' Fellowship on several occasions. The obituary below appeared in Christ Church Rayleigh URC's magazine for September. The photo of Moira with her Accredited Lay Preacher's Certificate was taken by me in November 2015 when she was still living at Carnival Gardens..

Moira spent her childhood in Rayleigh and joined the Girls' Life Brigade (G.L.B.) – later known as the Girls' Brigade (G.B.) – at Rayleigh Congregational Church. Through the people she met – her first Captain, Mrs Baker, ministers, Sunday School teachers and friends – she found her faith and never looked back. Moira was an officer in 1st Rayleigh Company of the Girls' Brigade for many years and was in charge of the Junior section (8-11 year olds), which grew to 50 girls under her loving care.

We remember one evening at G.B. camp, when the younger girls could not settle and she volunteered to go into their room to ensure that they would not chatter and would go off to sleep. She was gone for a long time and when one of us went to peep in, she was discovered standing against the wall, fast asleep herself. As a former G.B. member said, "Moira was always kind and thoughtful. At G.B. she had a great way with us, both as children and when we were teenagers. She could relate to us at any age."



The Girls' Brigade met every Monday evening during term time, with a varied programme. Each week during their time of worship, Moira would tell a Bible story and had the girls enthralled! They were very attentive.

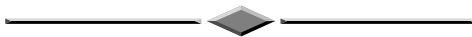
This special skill led her later in life to lead worship and she achieved her National Lay Preacher's Certificate in the United Reformed Church. She did not find the course easy but thanks to all who helped her, she persevered and she was thrilled when she had gained her certificate. That certainly was a valued achievement for her. She was in great demand and was asked to lead worship in local Methodist and United Reformed churches.

In her working life, when she had recovered from epilepsy, Moira was able to achieve her childhood ambition and did her Nurse training, qualifying as a State Enrolled Nurse. This certainly was an achievement as she hadn't been involved in academic learning since she left school. When she worked in the Accident Centre at Southend Hospital, the staff came to find her whenever a frightened child was admitted and she would soon calm them down, by telling them a story. She certainly had a special gift! In the words of one of our church members with whom she worked, "Moira was a big help to me as a student nurse on Balmoral Ward and she enriched my nursing experience. She was a brilliant nurse."

Moira went along weekly to the Night Shelter during the winter months and talked to or played table games with the men there. She also prepared and served Christmas Day dinner for the lonely.

She would have been surprised at the large number of people in the congregation for her Thanksgiving Service especially all the ministers and so many representatives from the local churches and beyond... and Salvo!

How amazing Moira was, with all she did in her life. One life lived – many lives touched!



Rev. Peter & Celia Elliott

One of the upsides to attending funeral services is meeting people that you don't see very often. Some readers will remember that Rev. Peter Elliott was our joint-minister (with Rev. David Littlejohns) for two years back in the 1990s. It was lovely to meet him and his wife, Celia, again at the Thanksgiving Service for Moira.

Peter and Celia worship at Christ Church Rayleigh URC, where Peter was the Minister when he was in joint-charge of Hadleigh.

Pat Porcher (1939 – 2017)

Many readers will remember Pat, as she and her husband, John, were members of the church until they moved to Woodbridge in 2007. Pat and John worked hard for the church but Pat will perhaps be best remembered as the leader of the Wives' Fellowship. Sadly, Pat passed away on 5th August only a few weeks after she and John had moved to Penarth to be near their daughter Mo. The following obituary is based largely on the tribute that Mo read at the Thanksgiving Service for her mother on 24th August at Stanwell Road Baptist Church in Penarth.



Pat was born on 17th January 1939, the third eldest of six children in the Wilkes family. She grew up in Hayes, but spent a short period in Wales during the war when her mother, Violet, took her and her two elder sisters, Tommy and Jo, to the Welsh Valleys whilst her father, Thomas, was stationed abroad. Much of Pat's family remained in Wales so the area was well known to her and there were many visits back there.

Music played a large part in Pat's life. As a girl she played the accordion and sang with her sisters and later she took piano lessons and grew to love classical music. In later life she enjoyed the music of Andy Williams and Nana Mouskouri. Wilkes' family occasions would often involve everyone coming together in song.

Spending time together as a family was very important to Pat. She believed in the value of family and friends, and the love and support these communities offered. This went beyond immediate family and close friends, as her involvement in the wider communities she lived in, and the church community in particular, was important to her, springing from her Christian faith, which was a central part of her life.

Pat met John at church and they married in 1958. Mo was born one year later, followed by Jackie and later Darren. Pat and John did almost everything together, they liked to 'walk the block' each evening and always strolled together hand in hand. The love and warmth that they showed for one another was reflected in the affection showed to their children. Pat was a protective mother but she was terrified of thunderstorms, no doubt linked to her memories of the war and a particular injury she had when hiding under a table during an air raid.

Childhood in the Porcher household was sound tracked by the hum of the sewing machine and the click clack of knitting needles. Pat had a gift for dressmaking and crafts. The children were lucky enough to wear bespoke, handmade outfits such as matching crimpolene trouser suits with tassels, and plastic macs in different colours. She was prolific – Mo remembers leaving for school in the morning and returning home to a brand new handmade dress. Pat's love of textiles never diminished. She mastered quilt making, embroidery and tapestry and loved making gifts for family and friends. She made bridesmaids' dresses for family weddings, for both her daughters and her granddaughter. Items that she made with such love and attention are cherished.

Having left her nursing studies when Mo was born, Pat thought about returning to nursing when the children were older but instead became a secondary school teacher. As with everything she did, she fully committed herself and went on to become Head of Year at King Edmunds School. She loved language and words and enjoyed completing crosswords and playing highly competitive word games, helping all her opponents improve their own language skills!

Pat led the Wives' Fellowship at our church until the move to Woodbridge. Fortunately, she left behind a superb example of her handiwork, namely the beautiful tapestry made for the church centenary in 2004, which hangs on the wall above the piano. After the move, members of the Wives' Fellowship and friends made an annual outing to visit Pat and John. We were always treated to a delicious sit-down meal before relaxing in the spacious garden or, occasionally, venturing into the centre of Woodbridge. On our final outing in 2014, Pat was relieved of catering duties and we enjoyed lunch together in a Woodbridge café. Those happy visits will leave those fortunate to have been there with lasting memories of a kind and caring friend but Pat was also a loving mother and a devoted wife who will be sorely missed. However, we think especially of John at this time and pray for strength and peace for him as he builds a new life in a new home without his beloved Pat.

Malcolm Brown

Family News

Pat Porcher

We were saddened to hear of the death of Pat, so soon after she and John had moved to Penarth in Wales. Sue Marchant made the long journey to attend the funeral and kindly brought back an order of service. A service of committal at the crematorium was followed by a service of thanksgiving where the two hymns sung were 'The King Of Love My Shepherd Is' and 'Bless The Lord, O My Soul'. Donations were invited for the Pulmonary Hypertension Association and St Elizabeth's Hospice in Ipswich. An obituary appears elsewhere in the magazine.

We send our heartfelt condolences to John and pray for him and his family at they come to terms with the loss of Pat.

It's Jim, but not as we know him



Jim Clubb writes (after a little arm twisting):
"On holiday in Yorkshire we went to Scarborough where my friend suggested having our photos taken. Just as I was about to have mine taken, I felt something being placed on my head and you can see the result. I am still awaiting a response to the invitation on the hat!"

Pam Marchant

I visited Pam in Fairview House care home on her 84th birthday on 20th July, taking a card from the church and some chocolate. She seemed not to have deteriorated since my last visit about three months earlier but, because of dementia, she was not aware that it was her birthday.



Pam doesn't remember me but I showed her some photos on my tablet from the Wives' Fellowship Afternoon Tea and when I mentioned Enid Rundle's name, Pam recalled that Enid had a sister. (Pam was a friend of Enid and Avis.)

We send our love and best wishes to Pam.

From the Moderator's Blog

'Twice in one day!'

Towards the end of July, I spent a day visiting our church in the town where this statue celebrates one of the products the town is famous for. Do you know where I was?



The Sock by Shona Kinlock

This was the first time I had to preach two different sermons in one day ... I know there will be a number of ministers out there saying: welcome to the real world!

For those of you who haven't come across this statue before, the statue is of a man seated on a bollard, wearing only a sycamore leaf and a single sock, which he is looking down at admiringly (the sock, not the leaf!). The Sock was created by the sculptress Shona Kinloch, and is symbolic of Loughborough's hosiery industry.

I preached at the morning service in Loughborough URC, which was led by their minister Rev. Elizabeth Thomson.



Loughborough URC

In the afternoon, I preached at the service to mark Mike Playdon's 50th anniversary of his ordination, which was led by the Synod Moderator, Rev. Peter Meeks. I have known Mike for many years, so it was a joy to take part in his celebration.

His last pastorate before his retirement (Cores End), was in the neighbouring church to the one where I worship, Trinity High Wycombe. The service was followed by a delightful tea which gave me time to circulate and chat.



Loughborough URC Community Centre sign

Following the tea, I visited the Soup Kitchen, held on the premises every Sunday evening by local Loughborough University students. It was good to see the students getting involved with the homeless people of Loughborough. It was equally good to see how Elizabeth engaged with both the students and the homeless guests (whom she knew all by name).

Other church members also get involved with other lettings when they had a mission context. Is this a new model for small churches where some of the mission activities are 'outsourced' to other groups – outsourced but not abdicated as the church retains a significant involvement in the activity? Well done, Loughborough.

Blessings,

Alan Yates

Posted on 15th August 2017

Blogging puns

- I once wrote a blog about a 4-foot tall fortune-teller who escaped from prison. It was entitled "Small Medium at Large."
- Did you hear about the blog post on oxygen and potassium? It was OK.
- I was writing a blog one day about how lightning works. I was having trouble coming up with an ending, and then it struck me.
- I believe we can all become better bloggers if we network and share simile experiences.

Watson family travels

My three-week holiday with my son Mark, daughter-in-law Cindy and granddaughters Autumn and Sienna ended recently when they flew back home to Canada. My granddaughters were full of fun and had grown so much since last year when I visited them in Canada.

Their holiday started with a two-day special treat – a break to ‘Peppa Pig World’ in Poulton’s Park, Hampshire. The girls had been promised this treat for a long time as apparently there is nothing like it in Canada or elsewhere. They enjoyed every minute of it.

The family then arrived to stay in Old Leigh for four days, where they rented a cottage overlooking the estuary and each day they were able to watch out of the windows as the tide came in and out and see the cockle boats arriving with their hauls of shellfish. The girls were in their element there as one of their other ‘to do’ things was to build sandcastles, so that was part of their daily routine.

After Old Leigh, we all moved onto Harlesdon in Norfolk for a week, where my other son, Andrew, lives. It was so lovely having my family living under the same roof for a while and where other family members were able to visit. On arrival at Harlesdon, Andrew said that he had a surprise for me and he opened his garage door to reveal a Harley Davidson motorbike that he had bought recently. He had not told me about it over the phone as he wanted to surprise me, as indeed he did, because he was never interested in motorbikes when he was young, only pushbikes. I was talked into getting on the bike and then the camera started rolling hence the photo below!



Kay trying out a Harley Davidson

Andrew assures me, that he is a very safe rider and he and his partner, Andrea, are enjoying their new hobby and have joined the Harley Davidson Motorcycle Club.

Another outing that my granddaughters wanted to do was to visit an English castle and we were in the right area for that in Norfolk, where we were able to visit Framlingham Castle and Norwich Castle, both really enjoyable days out.

After our stay in Norfolk, we motored up to Yorkshire via the Yorkshire Dales, passing through Beverley and booked into a wonderful B&B Country House in Bridlington, not far from the resort’s wonderful and very clean, sandy beaches. Again, we had a great time building sandcastles and exploring the area. We visited Flamborough Head Lighthouse, which was first built in 1669 but was never lit. The current one was built and lit in 1806. Mark, Cindy and the girls walked down the very steep cliff path to the bottom of the huge cliff to see the seals bathing in the very clear, shallow water below.

After our two-day stay in Bridlington, we motored on to stay in Keswick, Cumbria, where my sister and brother-in-law live. They live a couple of minutes from Derwent Water, where my granddaughters had great fun feeding the ducks and swans each day, on which we had a boat trip.

After four very enjoyable days in Keswick, we headed back home to Essex. Mark had booked a flat for the family on The Leas where they stayed for three nights. It had a wonderful view, overlooking the sea. The day before Mark and family were due to fly home, Andrew and my two grandsons joined us for the day. Once again, but for the final time, sandcastles were built!



Cindy, Autumn, Ben, Andrew, Sam, Mark, Sienna and Kay

The weather for the three-week stay was wonderful, with only two days of rain. All in all, a very enjoyable three weeks of my life, with my beloved family.

Kay Watson

Computer Corner

Interesting video

Fragments of a Life: A Curbside Mystery

A quest to solve the mystery behind an abandoned bag of photo slides found on a New York City street corner leads New York Times reporter Deborah Acosta to uncover truths about life, love, and loss.

URL: Google "new york times fragments life" and select the first item in the results list.

Interesting website

The Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture

This site records the surviving Romanesque sculpture in Britain and Ireland, providing a unique window on the aesthetics, beliefs, daily life, preoccupations, humour and technical skills of the artists and people from the late 11th century to the late 12th century. Every entry includes information on the historical and architectural context of the building, a photographic record, and a scholarly description of the sculpture.

Of particular local interest is the entry for St James the Less Church.

URL: <http://www.crsbi.ac.uk/site/1505>

Free software

Macrium Reflect (disk imaging program)

With Microsoft recommending use of 3rd party disk imaging software, suggesting they will drop the program built into Windows 10, it is worth mentioning Macrium Reflect again.

This program creates a backup – known as an image – of a complete hard drive or of one or more disk partitions (where a hard drive has been subdivided). A disk image of the C: drive can be very useful because your system can be restored without the need to reinstall Windows and all your programs. Your own data should be backed up separately.

Download from: <https://www.macrium.com/reflectfree>

Wordsearch – Harvest

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

APPLE
BARLEY
BLACKBERRY
CAULIFLOWER
COMBINE
CORNUCOPIA
CROP
FARMER
GLEAN
HARVEST
MALLOW
MUSHROOM
PLOUGH
REAPER
RICE
SOWER
THRESHING
TRACTOR
VINEYARD
WHEATSHEAF

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 2 nd	Cancelled	Men's Breakfast Meeting
Sunday 3 rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Mrs Janette Stevens Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 4 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 5 th	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 7 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 10 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Rev. John Ambrose
Monday 11 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 12 th	9.30am - 11.00am 2.30pm 7.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives' Fellowship – Mr John Amos Illustrated Talk on "The House of Roses" ELDERS' MEETING (b/f one day)
Thursday 14 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 17 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Dr. Jim Tarrant
Monday 18 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 19 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 21 st	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid CHURCH MEETING
Saturday 23 rd	6.00pm	Harvest Supper
Sunday 24 th	10.30am	Harvest Festival Service – Major Geoff Ashdown
Monday 25 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 26 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 28 th	10.30am	Midweek Service – Mrs Heather Brown

Harvest Festival – 23rd & 24th Sep 2017



Our Harvest Festival weekend begins with a Harvest Supper in the Small Hall on Saturday 23rd September at 6.00pm. Food will be provided but there will be a retiring offertory to cover costs and to hopefully leave a surplus for the Water Aid charity.

A list for names of those intending to come will be placed on the church noticeboard in advance. After the supper there will be entertainment in the church including items on the theme of water with some short videos on the work of the Water Aid charity.

Our Harvest Festival service will take place at 10.30am on Sunday 24th September and will be led by Major Geoff Ashdown. Geoff retired earlier this year as associate leader at the SA Hadleigh Temple but has kindly agreed to lead us in worship from time to time. Family and friends are very welcome to join us for the supper and the service.

Donations of food items, either fresh or preserved (dried, tinned etc.), may be brought to the Harvest Supper or to the service. Fresh items will be donated to Little Havens Hospice in Daws Heath and preserved items will be included in the October collection of items for HopeWorx.

Malcolm Brown