

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

November 2017



The Magazine of the
United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

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 most months

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2017

Sun 5 th Nov	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Wilf Tyler
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 12 th Nov	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant
Sun 19 th Nov	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Jack Roche
Thu 23 rd Nov	10.30am	Midweek Service	Mr Jim Clubb
Sun 26 th Nov	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Dave Bigmore

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER 2017

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 5 th Nov	Malcolm Brown	Marion Fidell	Marion Fidell
Sun 12 th Nov	Jean Reeve	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 19 th Nov	Heather Brown [Holy Communion]	June Gargrave	Jean Reeve
Sun 26 th Nov	Malcolm Brown	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

FLOWER ROTA FOR NOV 2017

Sun 5 th Nov	
Sun 12 th Nov	Jean Reeve - in memory of her father
Sun 19 th Nov	
Sun 26 th Nov	

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 8th Nov 7.30pm

CHURCH MEETING

Thu 23rd Nov 12.00 noon

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.hadleighessexurc.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.

Prayer ~ Precursor to Evangelism

The following article comes 'Pray the Way', a website at praytheway.org.uk, which is a call to prayer by GEAR, the Group for Evangelism and Revival within the URC. The website is a resource for members and ministers of the United Reformed Church (URC) who believe that prayer makes a difference. People are welcome and encouraged to make use the site to inform, enthuse, encourage and facilitate prayer. Material may be adapted and used personally, in small groups, or in congregational prayers.

The website is focussed on the URC in several ways: a) Strategic prayer for the plans and preparations for 'Walking the Way - Living the life of Jesus today'; b) Prayers for congregations, synods, events and personnel and c) a Prayer Blog for personnel with significant denominational leadership roles, including the Assembly Moderators and General Secretariat. Unfortunately, the name of the author of this article is not shown..

I continue to find prayer a mystery. Why are some prayers not answered? Why if God knows all things am I encouraged to ask, seek and knock? There are times when I am in the midst of prayer that I paused to ask God what is really going on. The mystery only seems to deepen as I draw closer to God.

Yet I know I am changed by prayer, changed for the better. Prayer does something inside which works its way out like light through an unshuttered window on a dark winter's night. I know God answers prayer and that prayer changes both the prayer and those prayed for. The fact that my limited human mind cannot work it all out is no reason to stop. This is important when we think about prayer and its significance to Evangelism and Renewal.

Our current spiritual climate is frosty to such themes. Many churches find evangelism fearful, beyond the living memory of those who gather week by week. The desire is often there, I see this when as I visit church as an ERA (Evangelism and Renewal Advocate) but the confidence to give it a try is hard to find. Even knowing where to start can be a conundrum. This is where prayer comes in.

Prayer is an essential precursor to evangelism. Asking God where to start is a fine launch pad. Seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance as to what would work in a given situation can be a breakthrough moment. God knows what we are capable of but also what we can do right now. Small steps starting from where we are can get us going and once we have some momentum God can do more than we can ask or imagine. I am not suggesting any of this is easy, if growing the church was easy there would be full churches everywhere. I am making the claim that it is possible and prayer I believe is the best place to begin.

Three prayer points that I hope offer a starting point:

What might work in this situation?

Time spent asking God "what might work here?" is very important. We may want to see 50 teenagers in our church but if we currently have 30 mainly retired worshippers then such an aspiration may be misplaced.

Stepping back and assessing the reality of our situation is very important. It often helps to draw in a more objective observer. This may be an unchurched friend or family member, a worshipper from another church or one of the user groups who is regularly about our premises. Asking them what their impressions are of our fellowship, what do we do well, what not so well?

What resources do we have in money, materials and people? Growing the church will require investment of all these things.

Show us what the first step is.

We live by faith not by sight; not knowing what the outcome of our journey may be is part of Christian Discipleship. Prayer is often the place where we figure out the first step (or our next one). God the Holy Spirit is our helper and guide and the Spirit is ever ready to reveal where we should begin. Jesus encourages us to Ask, Seek, Knock, because he is confident God will hear and answers us when we pray.

Pray for help to keep going even though it is hard.

Once we have our starting point, prayer is a great source of sustaining faith. It is hard to move beyond the safety of our familiar fellowship, praying for God's ongoing support can make a big difference. Jesus himself models this behaviour and Luke's Gospel particularly picks up this aspect of Our Lord's spirituality (Luke 4:38-44, Luke 5:15-16, Luke 6:12-16). When the pressure was on, when difficult choices were before him Jesus took time out to pray so that the Kingdom of God could progress.

From the Editor

Welcome to the November edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

Heather and I managed to get away for a few days in October to my native East Yorkshire. I

hope to write about the trip in next month's edition but please don't let that stop you writing something to make my editorial life just a bit easier!

Malcolm Brown

Praise the Lord

There was a little old lady who was very spiritual who would step out on her porch every day, raise her arms to the sky and yell, "Praise the Lord."

One day, an atheist bought the house next door to her, and he became very irritated with the spiritual lady. So after a month or so of her yelling, "Praise the Lord" from her porch, he would go outside on his porch and yelled back, "There is no Lord."

Yet, the little old lady continued. One cold, wintry day, when the little old lady couldn't get to the store, she went out on her porch, raised her hands up to the sky and said, "Help me Lord, I have no more money, it's cold, and I have no more food."

The next morning, she went outside, and there were bags of food on the porch, enough to last her a week. "Praise the Lord," she yelled.

The neighbour stepped out from the bushes and, laughing, said, "There is no Lord. I bought those groceries!"

The little old lady raised her arms to the sky and said, "Praise the Lord, You sent me groceries and you made the Devil pay for them!"

Gardening thoughts

- Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.
- What good is the warmth of summer without the cold of winter to give it sweetness – *John Steinbeck*
- Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them. – *Eeyore*
- Plant carrots in January and you'll never have to eat carrots.
- God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done.
- We can rejoice because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. – *Abraham Lincoln*
- In every gardener there is a child who believes in the seed fairy. – *Robert Brault*
- Compost is proof that there is life after death.
- If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. – *Marcus Tullius Cicero*
- A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in. – *Greek proverb*
- My neighbour asked if he could use my lawnmower and I told him of course he could, so long as he didn't take it out of my garden. – *Eric Morecambe*
- The best place to seek God is in a garden. You can dig for him there. – *George Bernard Shaw*
- When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

Wives' Fellowship Programme for Nov & Dec 2017

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 7 th Nov	2.30pm	Flowers and Craft with Carol Williams & Pat Tyler
Tue 5 th Dec	2.30pm	Slideshow of 'Bygone Views from Padgett Postcards' by Malcolm Brown
Tue 19 th Dec	2.30pm	Christmas Communion led by Rev. Jack Roche

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

Lasting Tribute to Colin George

As some will be aware, on Tuesday 10th October 2017 there was an official opening of the Colin George Laproscopic Theatre at Southend Hospital.

Colin was first a Trustee and then became the Chairman of the Southend Hospital Charitable Foundation for over 15 years until his death in 2015. During this period many large sums of money were raised by the people of Southend and surrounding areas for a great many causes, amongst which were the Heart Unit, the Stroke Unit, Breast Cancer, as well as the Bosom Pals on the road appeal. The last appeal he oversaw was the Keyhole Cancer Appeal which resulted in them raising over half a million pounds. Together with Olympus (previously KeyMed) this money was used to completely refurbish the new state of the art operating theatre built by Southend Hospital for up to the minute keyhole surgery. As Colin was so highly respected by all who worked with him it was decided to name this theatre after him as a lasting tribute to his memory in his beloved Southend Hospital.

The Charitable Foundation kindly invited myself, my son Stephen and daughter Christine to attend the opening and I was asked if I would perform the official opening ceremony which, as I said, I felt very privileged to do.



Stephen, Pamela & Christine on the left



The state of the art theatre



Laprosopic instruments

It was a lovely evening and we were shown around the new theatre and Olympus gave a presentation on what can now be done by utilising the most complex keyhole procedures for patients undergoing certain cancer operations and other conditions that will benefit from this type of surgery, meaning less trauma and swifter recovery. We also had a chance to see and handle the equipment and meet and talk to many of the people who do so much to raise funds for our hospital.

Pamela George

Editor's note: Thank you, Pamela, for writing about this wonderful tribute to Colin. The act received widespread coverage in the local press with a two-page spread in the Echo on 12th October, plus articles in the Southend Standard, the Yellow Advertiser and the Leigh & Westcliff Times. There are also reports on several websites and readers with Internet access may like to watch a YouTube video showing a timelapse film of the building of the new theatre – search on YouTube for "Colin George Laparoscopic Theatre".

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Sat 11 Nov 2017	Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12 noon.
ditto	- Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon.
ditto	- Armistice Day service in Morrisons car park at 10.45am.
Tue 14 Nov 2017	Coffee Morning & Book Sale at St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. With cakes (70p) and savouries (30p to 70p) and unlimited tea/coffee (£1.10). Books 50p each.
Wed 15 Nov 2017	Friends Of Hadleigh Church 20 th Anniversary Organ Recital at St James the Less Church starting at 2.30pm. With Louise Chessher at the organ. Tickets at the door £5.00, includes tea and biscuits.
Thu 16 Nov 2017	Poetry Reading Group at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month - Emily Dickinson. Meetings on 3 rd Thursday of month.
Sat 18 Nov 2017	Christmas Fayre at Thundersley Methodist Church, Kennington Avenue, from 10.00am to 2.00pm. With Father Christmas, arts and crafts for children, children's tombola, raffle, cakes, gifts, refreshments.
ditto	- Lace Day organised by Thames Estuary Lacemakers at Hadleigh Baptist Church from 10.00am to 3.30pm. See how lace is made. For a free taster session, including tea/coffee and biscuits, call in before 2.00pm.
ditto	- Christmas Market at St Barnabas Church from 10.30am to 2.30pm. With stalls, coffee/tea, soup and roll lunches and raffle.
ditto	- Jumble Sale organised by 2nd Thundersley Scout Group at St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Thundersley, Starts at 1.30pm. With stalls, coffee/tea, soup and roll lunches & raffle. Admission 50p.
Mon 20 Nov 2017	CAVS Ways To Wellness drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 1.30pm to 3.30pm (3 rd Mon of each month). Aims to improve health and wellbeing by linking you to activities and opportunities in the community.
Wed 22 Nov 2017	NHS Blood Donation Sessions at Runnymede Hall, Kiln Road, Thundersley 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.
Fri 24 Nov 2017	Christmas Fair at St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Thundersley, from 6.00pm to 9.00pm.
Sat 25 Nov 2017	Coffee Morning with Christmas Mini-Market at SA Hadleigh Temple from 10.00am to 2.00pm. With gifts, toys, knits, handmade cards and decorations and sweets.
ditto	- Christmas Market at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 2.00pm. With plants, games, jewellery, toys, books, raffle, soups, teas, cakes and musical entertainment.
Sat 2 Dec 2017	Hadleigh Christmas Lights Switch-On by St James the Less Church with carols from 4.15pm and switching-on of the new Christmas lights at 4.30pm. Refreshments served afterwards in the church vestry.
ditto	- BASOP Christmas Concert at Hadleigh Methodist Church starting at 8.00pm. Tickets available via Michael Tanner on 01702 551786.

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

Remembrance Sunday: A summer in Helmand Province

Soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the First and Second World Wars, along with all those who died in recent battles, will be honoured by many on Remembrance Sunday, 12th November.

In memory of all service personnel who have lost their lives in active duty, the Rev. Kevin Jones, United Reformed Church army chaplain to 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment Royal Logistics Corps, remembers summer



2012 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, as chaplain to 1st Battalion The Welsh Guards.

‘Sadly,’ he says. ‘Four Welsh Guards were killed on that deployment as were three other soldiers who were from units serving with us. What made it hard for many of their friends was that they were scattered all over Helmand in small teams, as one of our key roles was mentoring the Afghan Police. Typically, there would be a dozen soldiers based alongside a police station. When the deaths occurred, each of these teams needed to find their own way, individually and as a group, of remembering their fallen comrades and grieving for them.’

Although official parades were organised at larger bases whenever a death occurred, Kevin’s soldiers, who were based at police stations, could rarely get to them.

‘One team I remember especially was based at a police station in a town called Gereshk,’ he

continued. ‘They had created a small memorial area where they had made crosses and added objects which were connected to each of the



soldiers. For example, they had placed a toy racing car on one of the fallen soldiers’ memorials as he was a big fan of motor sports. On each of my visits there the soldiers would show me what they had

added to the memorials.’

Army chaplains, including women, are generally known as ‘Padre’, and Kevin’s ministry to the soldiers was to help them find ways to add meaning to the steps they had taken to honour their fallen colleagues, and to acknowledge those acts and give them a stamp of approval.

A short act of worship with remembrance at its centre was what they wanted from their Padre,’ added Kevin. ‘A recognition by those with faith and those with no-faith that this was important. I hope I found the right ways of doing this as the language we use isn’t always easily accessible to those whose experience of church is often limited.

When it comes to this year’s Remembrance I will be picturing in my mind once again those soldiers I have had the privilege to serve, including those who have died. As I lead worship once more I pray that God will help me find the words and ways to help others with their thoughts and memories as together we pray for peace.

Rev. Kevin Jones

Remembrance Sunday, Armistice Day & Armed Forces Day

Remembrance Sunday is held in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth of Nations as a day “to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts”. It is held on the second Sunday in November, the Sunday nearest to 11th November, Armistice Day, the anniversary of the end of hostilities in the First World War at 11 a.m. in 1918.

From 1919 until 1945, Armistice Day observance was always on 11th November itself. It was then moved to Remembrance Sunday, but since the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in 1995, it has become usual to hold ceremonies on both Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

In 2006, then Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown proposed that in addition to Remembrance Sunday, a new national day to celebrate the achievements of veterans should be instituted. The ‘Veterans Day’, to be held in the summer, would be similar to Veterans Day celebrations in the United States. This has now been renamed ‘Armed Forces Day’, to include currently serving troops to Service families, and from veterans to cadets. The first Armed Forces Day was held on 27 June 2009.

News from Churches Together in Hadleigh

The latest Churches Together meeting was held on Tue 17th October 2017 at 25 Arcadian Gardens

Welcome – The meeting was chaired by Leader Roger Kingston (Methodist Church) who thanked Maureen Lennard-Brown for the use of her home. The meeting was originally planned to be held at St Michael's Church but the old church hall at St Michael's is being refurbished which meant that other rooms were in use.

Opening devotion – Rev. Sue Croucher (St Michael's Church) opened the meeting with a reading from Acts 4:32 and a prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting – The minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2017 were agreed and signed by Roger.

Correspondence – Invitations have been received to attend the Licensing Service for Rev. Andy Hudson at St Peter's Church on Wednesday 15th November at 7.30pm.

Future events

- Sat 4th Nov – Festival of Remembrance at the SA Temple at 7.00pm.
- Sat 11th Nov – Armistice Day service in Morrisons car park at 10.45am. (To be confirmed.)
- Sun 12th Nov – Civic Remembrance Service at 10.45 followed by walk to War Memorial for laying of wreaths and short service at 12 noon.
- Wed 15th Nov – Friends of Hadleigh Church Organ Recital at 2.30pm.
- Sat 18th Nov – Christmas Market at St Barnabas Church from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- Sat 25th Nov – Christmas Market at St James from 10.30am to 2.00pm.
- Sat 2nd Dec – BASOP Christmas Concert at the Methodist Church.
- Sat 16th Dec – Friends of Hadleigh Church Christmas Concert at 7.30pm

Dates and times of Christmas services for inclusion on the Churches Together Christmas card are to be notified to Roger by mid-November. The card will be distributed at the switching-on of Hadleigh's Christmas lights on Saturday 2 December.

News from around the churches

St James the Less & St Barnabas Churches – Rev. Ruth Cartwright was inducted as Priest-in-Charge for the two churches on 4th September at a service at St Barnabas Church. She is also team Rector Designate for the planned grouping of

Hadleigh and Thundersley churches. Ruth sent her apologies for not been able to attend the meeting.

SA Temple – New leaders have been appointed and will take charge in January 2018. [Post-meeting note: Captains Steve and Marian Fripp are coming from Castleford in Yorkshire.]

St Michael's Church – Jan Kersey has been appointed as a new Licensed Lay Minister. Her licensing service took place on 14th October. The old church hall is being refurbished with a new ceiling, new toilets, new windows, new flooring and new cladding. A grant has been received from the Veolia Trust.

St Peter's Church – Rev. Andy Hudson has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge for the Parish of Thundersley (and Team Vicar Designate for the planned grouping). Andy's licensing service will take place on 15th November at St Peter's Church.

Baptist Church – Jane Brown reported that Michael Collins has been appointed Minister in Training. Michael comes from Rayleigh Baptist Church and is married to Heather and they have a daughter named Freya, aged 2½. The part-time training at Spurgeon's College will take 5 years.

URC – There has been no news about the appointment of an Interim Moderator.

Open the Book – Jane Brown mentioned that Beryl Haisman-Baker (St James the Less) has resigned as co-ordinator of Open The Book. Hadleigh Infants School changed the time of their assembly to Wednesday afternoon from the morning without informing Beryl and this did not suit some of the volunteers. Hadleigh Junior School had earlier requested that the frequency of sessions be reduced to once every four weeks (on Tuesday afternoon) from September.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Short reported that the current bank balance is £208.36. All subscriptions for 2017 have been received.

Praying Together – There have been three united prayer meetings since Jane Brown first suggested praying together – two at the Salvation Army (on 28th April 2016 and 1st June 2017) and one at the Methodist Church (on 20th September 2017). It was agreed to hold another prayer meeting on Tuesday 24th April 2018 at the Baptist Church, starting at 2.30pm.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018 – The material for 2018 has been prepared by the churches in the Caribbean and the theme is based on Exodus 15. It was agreed to follow the traditional Octave as far as possible. After some post-meeting discussion, the meetings have been arranged as follows:

- Thu 18th Jan – SA Temple – 10.30am
 - Fri 19th Jan – St Michael's Church – 2.30pm
 - Sun 21st Jan – SA Temple – UNITED SERVICE – 6.00pm
 - Mon 22nd Jan – Methodist Church – 7.30pm
 - Tue 23rd Jan – Baptist Church – 2.30pm
 - Wed 24th Jan – St Barnabas Church – 2.30pm
- Refreshments will be served for fifteen minutes before the start of each weekday meeting.

Dates of next meeting & AGM – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th January at Hadleigh URC starting at 7.30pm, with refreshments served from 7.15pm.

Subject to confirmation of the availability of the proposed venue, the AGM will be held on Tuesday 15th May at the SA Temple at 7.30pm.

Lent Course – Jane mentioned that Rev. Paul Stow is running a six-week Lent Bible Study at the Baptist Church on Monday evenings starting on 19th February 2018. People from other churches are welcome to attend. This offer is to be considered by the other churches.

Closing – The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace.

Malcolm Brown

St Michael's Church Hall

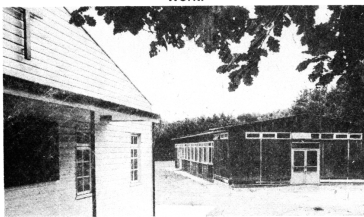
The current refurbishment of the church hall at St Michael's in Daws Heath offers a good excuse to include the article below from the **Evening Echo of 16th September 1980**, found in the Echo archive cuttings.

Churchgoers put together the £5,000 jigsaw

When Reg Curd saw a church hall for sale among the Echo adverts he was on the phone like a shot. It was just what parishioners at St. Peter and St. Michael churches, Thundersley, were looking for.



HELPING HANDS: Alan and Lucie Croucher get down to work.



ALMOST FINISHED: The new church hall.

St. Michael's Church, built nearly 60 years ago, was cramped and a new community hall was just what the joint church council and families in Daws Heath needed. So architectural designer Reg bid £500 to land developers Town and Country for the St. John Boscoe Hall in Benfleet High Road. The offer was accepted in July but there was a drawback. They had to dismantle it bit by bit.

So families from the two churches set about dismantling the old church hall panel by panel. Their hard work paid off for within 24 hours they were resurrecting the hall on its new site in the field next to St. Michael's. It is hoped that the £5,000 project will be finished in time for a Christmas dance. The shell of the new hall is now up.

The base, including steelwork and the foundations cost around £3,200. When the kitchen and toilets are added, the whole project will cost around £5,000. All the money comes from the donations.

The rector, the Rev. Peter Harlow, said: "St. Michael's was built in 1922. It had a dual purpose as a church and a hall and was limited in space. The hall, like a community centre, will benefit the people of Daws Heath as well as the church groups."

The St. John Boscoe Hall was originally owned by the Roman Catholic Church but was bought by Town and Country Developments, of Leigh. the company's managing director, Mr Arthur Hodges said: "We bought

the land for redevelopment. Rather than demolish the hall, we advertised it for sale and said whoever bought it must dismantle it themselves. We are just amazed at how quickly it was taken down."

Town and Country Developments wants planning permission to build flats on the site.

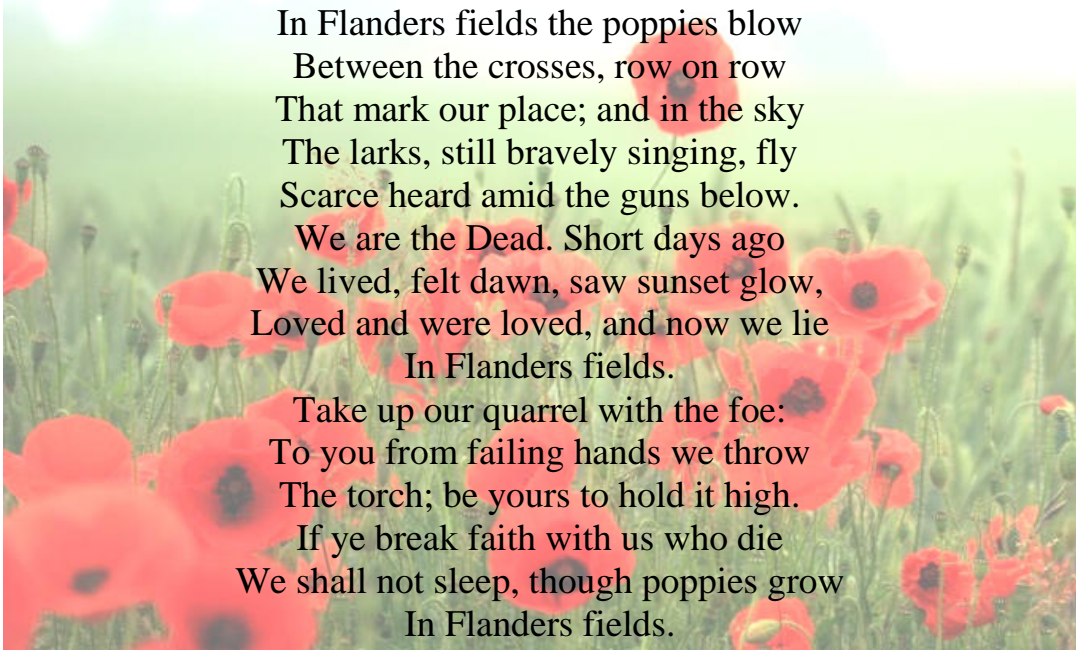
For those involved in conflicts

For those involved in conflicts,
The innocent,
The guilty,
The injured,
Orphaned,
Widowed,
Dead,
Politicians,
Peacemakers,
Relief workers.
For those involved in conflicts,
Bring comfort,
Compassion,
Sustenance,
Repentance,
Forgiveness,
Healing ,
Tears,
Love,
And a peace that can endure.

John Birch

From <http://www.faithandworship.com>

In Flanders Fields



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

John McCrae was born in 1872 and brought up in Guelph, Ontario. His paternal grandparents had emigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1849. At the age of 14, whilst being educated at the Guelph Collegiate Institute, McCrae joined the Highland Cadet Corps. One year later, he became a bugler in the local militia regiment of artillery commanded by his father. He later joined this same regiment as a gunner.

At the age of 16, McCrae was awarded a scholarship to the University of Toronto. He attended classes there until 1892-3, when he took a year off his studies due to recurring problems with asthma. After returning to Toronto and completing his BA, McCrae commenced studies in medicine at the University of Toronto. While at university, McCrae remained a member of the Guelph militia regiment and was promoted several times to the rank of Lieutenant. At the same time he was also involved with a Toronto militia, the Queen's Own Rifles, in which he rose to the rank of Captain and commanded the company.

John McCrae graduated at the top of his class in medicine at the University of Toronto, and in 1899 was awarded a fellowship in pathology to McGill University in Montreal. This award coincided with the start of the Boer War (1899-1902) and McCrae put off accepting the fellowship in order to go to South Africa with the artillery. He left for South Africa in 1900 in

command of a section of D Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery. He returned to Canada in 1901 after participating in several major campaigns.

On his return, McCrae accepted the fellowship at McGill, which he completed in 1905. McCrae was then employed in Montreal as a pathologist at the General Hospital and as a physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

When the First World War began in 1914, McCrae was appointed as Brigade Surgeon in the First Brigade of Canadian Field Artillery. He was responsible for a field dressing station at the front and treated those wounded during the Second Battle of Ypres in the spring of 1915. He also served on the guns when needed and occasionally performed burial services. It was after performing the service for a friend, Alexis Helmer, that McCrae was inspired to write *In Flanders Fields*. The poem was written on 3 May, 1915 and published in *Punch* that same year.

In the summer of 1915, McCrae was transferred to the Number 3 Canadian General Hospital in France. While still at this hospital in January 1918, he became ill with pneumonia, which was soon complicated by meningitis. Four days before he died, he was honoured by being the first Canadian appointed as consulting physician to the First British Army. John McCrae died on 28 January 1918, and was buried with military honours at Wimereaux Cemetery in France.

From the Moderator's Blog

'The Case of the Missing Shed'

Why bother to travel to the south coast of England, indeed beyond the coast, and on to an island to see a shed that isn't there – and in fact a shed that has never been there!? Well, that's what Lynne and I were invited to do during our tour of Wessex, to take a detour to visit our church on Hayling Island.

What we found was a group of men with vision, determination, passion and perseverance. Members of Hayling Island URC, having recognised that men often find it difficult to talk through their issues, and chat freely with other men, that in retirement can easily withdraw into a solitary life. They had heard of the Men's Shed Movement, began researching it, and so, a Men's Shed Group was born.



Men's Sheds began in Australia in the 1990s but soon spread to Europe and North America. There are now many in the UK, some connected with local churches. Here is what the organisation says about itself: "At the Shed we learn

from each other, mainly about how to do things but also about life. We have benches and tools we never thought we would have. We reuse materials and mend the broken; we make things we are proud of and we learn from each other. We are more active than we were and are engaged with our projects, we have more to talk about, more to

contribute and more friends. We are out of the house (not under our partner's feet) and happier when at home."

This is the positive, supportive group of men we found – a group not made up of just church members, as the project soon attracted men who shared the vision, and were determined to get involved and see a shed built. It would take all their commitment, skills and teamwork to plan and design, consult with the church and council, as well as an amazing ability to promote their project in the community to gain the goodwill of everyone and generate vital funding (raising over £4,000 so far).

Meanwhile, over the months and years, the men would meet in the church rooms, as though meeting in a shed, week by week, offering fellowship and support, developing crafts, training each other, growing in numbers (now more than 40 members), and raising their profile in the town. In the church magazine is a quotation from St. Paul and I would certainly want to use it in relation to the "Shedders" to encourage and support them in their ministry – *"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."* Philippians 1:3-6

Kevin Watson

Posted on 10th October 2017

Men's Shed at Rayleigh Weir

Editor's note: For any male readers who might be interested, there is a Men's Shed at Rayleigh Weir based at the Megacentre. The following information is taken from the group's website.

Since 2013, over 280 'Sheds' have been registered in the UK. It was found that men talk better when doing something, comparing skills or suggestions as to finding solutions to situations. Men talk shoulder to shoulder where women talk eye to eye. The centre of operation is tea or coffee – the start of any working day. From there we expect to be 'doing things', sometimes for personal satisfaction for the home, e.g. building a planter for the garden, or making something for the community, e.g. hedgehog houses for the council environment group or high planters for wheelchair bound people. These are priced to cover materials and replacement of tools etc. We have a range of equipment including a lathe.

The shed is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and alternate Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 13:00.

Interested? Email john@rayleighshed.org for more details or phone John on 01268 565320. He will arrange an informal induction at 10:30 a.m. on a Monday and you will then be shown the workshop facility, have a cup of tea/coffee and meet some of the shed members. Annual membership costs £15 and you pay £2 each session to help cover the cost of tea/coffee/biscuits and general supplies for the shed.

Computer Corner

John Truscott – Resources (free)

Interesting website

John Truscott is a church consultant and trainer who seeks to resource and encourage Christian leaders, managers, trustees, planners, communicators and administrators. To this end, he provides a series of articles and training notes on a wide variety of subjects.

URL: <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources>

Gresham College – Maritime Archaeology

Interesting videos

A series of four videos that examine the ways in which the river Thames and London (as a settlement and a port) have developed up to modern times, looking towards the future and current consultation which will take planning up to 2035. The video titles are "The Early River Thames: The Iron Age and Before", "The Growth of London as a Port from Roman to Medieval Times", "From Sail to Steam: London's Role in a Shipbuilding Revolution" and "The Port of London and its Future".

URL: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/series/maritime-archaeology>

Windows key + Break

Useful Windows shortcut

Pressing the Windows key (with the Windows flag logo) and the Break key (usually at top right of the keyboard) brings up the System window. This contains a variety of useful information such as the PC name, the Windows 10 version and build number, the processor and amount of RAM installed. Note: Some compact keyboards may not have a Break key so a combination of other keys involving the Fn key may be required, which makes the shortcut less easy to use.

Word Search – WW1 Battles

At this time of remembrance, find the WW1 battle locations listed in the right-hand column.



AMIENS
ARDENNES
ARRAS
ARTOIS
CAMBRAI
CANTIGNY
CHAMPAGNE
FROMELLES
GINCHY
LOOS
LORRAINE
MARNE
MESSINES
PASSCHENDAELE
POZIERES
SAMBRE
SOMME
VERDUN
VIMY
YPRES

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2017

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 2 nd	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 5 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Mr Wilf Tyler Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 6 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 7 th	9.30am - 11.00am 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives' Fellowship – Carol Williams & Pat Tyler Flowers and Craft Demonstration
Wednesday 8 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 9 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 12 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA Mth
Monday 13 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 14 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 16 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 19 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Jack Roche
Monday 20 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 21 st	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 23 rd	10.30am	Midweek Service – Mr Jim Clubb
Sunday 26 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Dave Bigmore
Monday 27 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 28 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 30 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

November

No sun - no moon!
 No morn - no noon!
 No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day -
 No sky - no earthly view -
 No distance looking blue -

No road - no street! -
 No "t'other side the way" -
 No end to any Row -
 No indications where the Crescents go -

No top to any steeple -
 No recognitions of familiar people -
 No courtesies for showing 'em -
 No knowing 'em!

No mail - no post -
 No news from any foreign coast -
 No park - no ring - no afternoon gentility -
 No company- no nobility -

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
 No comfortable feel in any member -
 No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
 No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,
 November!



Thomas Hood (1799-1845)