

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

February 2018



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 FEBRUARY 2018

Sun 4 th Feb	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 11 th Feb	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Machrina Ejaz
Sun 18 th Feb	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mr Robert Dart
Thu 22 nd Feb	10.30am	Midweek Service	Rev. Jack Roche MA
Sun 25 th Feb	10.30am	Covenant Service	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY 2018

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 4 th Feb	Jean Reeve	Marion Fidell	Marion Fidell
Sun 11 th Feb	Heather Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 18 th Feb	Malcolm Brown [Holy Communion]	June Gargrave	Jean Reeve
Sun 25 th Feb	Jean Reeve	Janet Wimbleton	Janet Wimbleton

FLOWER ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Sun 4 th Feb	
Sun 11 th Feb	Keith & June Gargrave - for the Gargrave family
Sun 18 th Feb	
Sun 25 th Feb	

ELDERS' MEETING	CHURCH MEETING
Wed 14 th Feb 7.30pm	No meeting in Feb

<p>HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS</p> <p>Minister: Vacancy</p> <p>Hon. Secretary: Mr Royston Brackin (01702 558862)</p> <p>Acting Hon. Treasurer: Mr Royston Brackin</p> <p>Serving Elders: Mr Royston Brackin Mrs Heather Brown (01702 557678) Mr Malcolm Brown (01702 557678) Miss Jean Reeve (01702 554907)</p>	<p>Useful information</p> <p>Address: Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, SS7 2DQ Website: www.hadleighessexurc.org.uk</p> <p>An invitation</p> <p>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.</p>
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Unity

On Sunday 21st January, in the middle of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Rev. Jim Tarrant gave a reflection on the subject of unity on the Peter Holmes Show on BBC Essex. Jim has kindly allowed it to be published here.

We are in the week of Christian unity and I offer my experiences and thoughts as follows: I was a boat boy in a high Anglican church in Bucks, confirmed of course, but after dropping the boat and spilling the fuel in mid service instant promotion was given to acolyte. Later, the family moved to Essex, and another high church, but nearby was a thriving youth club in a congregational church where I was persuaded to present the sermon at a youth service leading to lay preaching, and eventually ordination as a self-supporting minister. Between courses at university, I taught for two years in a Roman Catholic boys' school. Much later, I was asked to conduct some morning services at a parish church during their interregnum and was pleased to do this, though, sadly, existing divisions required an Anglican come and take the early communion service.

Meanwhile, I discovered the existence of the Church of South India which, amazingly, had a congregational bishop. How so? The Church of South India was the result of the union of Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed churches. Inaugurated in September 1947, it was organized into 22 dioceses, with bishops, of whom the congregational minister-made-bishop was one. What a wonderful achievement in unity, I thought, and still do.

Here, there have been serious unity discussions by all denominations from Catholicism to nonconformity and successes in terms of mergers between different denominations of which the

Congregational Presbyterian merger is an obvious example, though not all member churches felt able to participate. Moreover LEPs and churches together have been a considerable success story. However, negotiations between Anglicans and Nonconformists have revealed formidable obstacles to unification: different conceptions of ordination, of the sacraments, especially the eucharist, and different organizational structures consequent upon different theologies, always with the danger of creating new divisions.

One sceptical nonconformist minister I knew, claimed that if one was serious about unity between two or more denominations involving Anglicans and Nonconformists there was a need to consider the following scenario. Imagine a vast stadium where you can go in for a mass ordination by a bishop or decline, retaining your existing ordination. To go in, he felt, would invalidate his own ordination. I disagreed, given that they were two different conceptions of ordination, both valid relative to their own organizations. But what would I do about this?

In the time available I have mentioned some of the formidable problems of denominations coming together. Why, then, I would go in to that stadium? Because my experience of different denominations and the success of the Church of South India has taught me that my notion of God is too small, and that is why in the face of all the problems I would still go into that stadium.

Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant



A Prayer from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

God of unity,
Trinity of the Three,
You call your people to be one
That the world may believe.
Grant us your Spirit
That we might act and speak with one voice
So that our world's pains and divisions
May be transformed by healing, hope and reconciliation,
Our Lord's prayer be answered,
And your name glorified and hallowed.
Amen.

From the Editor

Welcome to the February edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

If you're like me then you'll be wondering where January went. Not having a magazine to produce in January, I thought I might catch up on a few things, particularly filing and general tidying-up, but things seem to keep coming along which are more pressing. The result is that I still have lots of material from the Echo archive sitting on, beneath and all around the snooker table in our conservatory. This disappointed my daughter when she came home at Christmas because it meant she couldn't use the snooker table for its real purpose!

I'm still beavering away on scanning photos and articles from the Echo archive and copying several hundred DVDs containing digital photos. Sadly, few of the digital photos relate to Hadleigh or Thundersley but, to use a gold mining analogy, you have to dig tons of rock to find a few nuggets. Some of the material from the Echo archive will be on display at a local history day at Hadleigh Library on Saturday 24th February.

This month, we have two people leading worship at Hadleigh for the first time. On Sunday 4th February we welcome Adrian Tinning, an experienced lay preacher, who joined our

congregation a few weeks back to observe how we do things.

On Sunday 11th February, we welcome Machrina Ejaz, who happens to be the wife of Sohail, the minister at The Cornerstone and Southchurch Park churches. Machrina is only just starting out as a lay preacher so I hope we can put her at ease.

On Sunday 25th February, we welcome back Rev. Jim Tarrant who has kindly agreed to incorporate our annual Covenant promise in the service, to continue the tradition which Jack Roche re-established when he joined us.

A few people have already given me a donation towards the cost of producing this year's magazines, which is very thoughtful. I didn't mention this subject in the Dec/Jan edition because I wasn't sure that I would continue to produce the magazine on a monthly basis. However, I have decided to soldier on for the time being on that basis so if you would like to make a donation please see me or Heather. The suggested donation is £5.00 plus extra for any postage costs.

As always, I welcome contributions from the readership – it is your magazine after all and I'm only supposed to be the editor!

Malcolm Brown



Bottle of Wine

For all of us who are married, were married, wish you were married, wish you weren't married, or glad you never married, this is something to smile about the next time you open a bottle of wine:

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car. Resuming her journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. "What in bag?" asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband."

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said, "Good trade."

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Mon 5 Feb 2018 - Film Night at SA Hadleigh Temple starting at 7.00pm with 'Coach' and 'Music Box'. Admission £3.00.

Sat 10 Feb 2018 - Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12 noon.

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

Tue 13 Feb 2018 - 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 14 Feb 2018 - Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church Community Room, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath from 10.00am to 11.45am. £2.00 for cake and as much coffee/tea as you wish.

Thu 15 Feb 2018 - Poetry Reading Group at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month - Rudyard Kipling. Meetings on 3rd Thursday of month.

ditto - Hadleigh Gardening Association talk 'Bees In Your Garden' by John Taylor. Starts at 8.00pm. Non-members £2.00. Get there early!

Fri 16 Feb 2018 - Castle Crafters Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 1.00pm to 2.30pm (every Friday). Do you enjoy having a chat and crafting? If so, come along and join us.

Sat 17 Feb 2018 - Essex Police Active Citizen Surgery at Morrisons store (near the checkouts) from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Talk to a volunteer Active Citizen for advice on home and personal security.

ditto - Games Club at Hadleigh Library from 1.00pm to 5.00pm. Play modern board games. Share your knowledge and enthusiasm. (Every 3rd Sat.)

Mon 19 Feb 2018 - 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.

Sat 24 Feb 2018 - Library Local History Day at Hadleigh Library from 10.00am to 4.00pm. With guest speakers throughout the day, local history displays and themed activities. Organised in conjunction H&TCA.

ditto - Chess At St James The Less in St James the Less Church Vestry from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. Chess Master or Beginner? Come along to the Chess Club at St James the Less. Tuition available.

Sat 3 Mar 2018 - Southend Symphony Orchestra Concert at the SA Hadleigh Temple Starting at 7.30pm. Programme: Humperdinck ~ Hansel and Gretel Overture, Gregson ~ Tuba Concerto, Tchaikovsky ~ Symphony No 4. Tickets £10.00, conc. £9.00, U12s £1.00 available on the door, or from Benfleet Music, Roseberry Walk, Benfleet or www.WeGotTickets.com

Sat 10 Mar 2018 - Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-In at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon. Bring along old photos and documents for scanning, chat about your memories of the area or view the Community Archive website.

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

News from Churches Together in Hadleigh

The latest Churches Together meeting was held on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at Hadleigh URC

Welcome – The meeting was chaired by Leader Roger Kingston (Methodist Church). There were three people attending for the first time, namely, Wayne Johnson (Corps Sergeant Major at the SA), Rev. Ruth Cartwright (Priest in Charge of St James the Less and St Barnabas Churches) and Rev. Andy Hudson (Priest in Charge of St Peter's Church, Thundersley, and St Michael's Church, Daws Heath).

Opening devotion – Jacqui Nunn (SA) opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 8 and a prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting – The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2017 were approved after one correction.

Matters arising

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – The united service on Sunday 21st January at the SA Temple, will be led by the new leaders Captains Steve and Marian Fripp. Wayne agreed to print a poster and official booklet for each church. The final meeting on Wednesday 24th January will be held at St Barnabas Church.

[Note: The final meeting was later switched to St James the Less Church.]

Christmas card – Ruth thanked Roger for his work in producing the Churches Together Christmas card, which was handed out at the switching-on of Hadleigh's Christmas lights on Saturday 2nd December.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Short reported that the current bank balance is £173.36.

Lent Course – It was decided not to hold a Churches Together Lent Course this year. Jane reiterated an invitation to attend a course at the Baptist Church. This is being held over 7 weeks on Monday evenings, starting on Monday 12th February, starting at 7.30pm with refreshments served from 7.10pm. Each session will have an opening prayer, hymn, bible reading and reflection, small-group discussion, hymn and closing prayer.

Good Friday United Service – Ruth kindly offered to lead this service, which will start at the usual time of 10.15am. It will be followed at 11.00am by a silent Walk of Witness to our church, where refreshments including hot-cross buns will be served.

Easter Day – A Sunrise Service will be held, as usual, at Hadleigh Castle, starting at 6.30am. (Sunrise is at 6.36am.) Breakfast will be available afterwards in the Tea Room.

Prayer Meeting – Another ecumenical prayer meeting is to be held on Tuesday 24th April at the Baptist Church at 2.30pm. It will be led by Jane Brown and/or Michael Collins, the recently-appointed Minister in Training at the Baptist Church.

Christian Aid Week 2018 (13th – 19th May) – There will be no house-to-house collection this year. Wayne suggested approaching Morrisons to hold a collection there.

Pentecost (20th May) – It was decided not to hold an event on Pentecost Sunday owing to poor support of previous events. It was suggested that a Saturday evening event may be more popular.

News from around the churches

SA Temple – Wayne reported that he had had meetings with the new leaders, Captains Steve and Marian, and they begin work officially on the 11th January. Their induction will take place on Sunday 14th January.

Baptist Church – Jane Brown reported that Christingle services had been held for all the pupils at Westwood Academy and Hadleigh Infants School. Sunday evening services have been suspended but a service is now held every other Wednesday at 1.00pm.

Hadleigh Grace Church – Jane also spoke about Hadleigh Grace Church, a Pentecostal church, whose members come from the Grays/Thurrock area. They have been meeting in Hadleigh Junior School for several months and perform an outreach to footballers on John Burrows Recreation Ground by taking hot drinks. They are very friendly, a point confirmed by Ann Lowes (St Barnabas Church) who lives opposite the school and has met members of the church.

[Note: The church has a website at www.hadleighgracechurch.org.]

Methodist Church – Roger reported that the church is planning to install a defibrillator on the outside of the building. Donations towards the cost are welcomed. The machine will be unlocked by a code obtained by phoning a dedicated number.

St James the Less & St Barnabas Churches – Ruth reported that the Christmas lights switch-on event, which she led, was attended by about 400 people. During the refreshments served afterwards in St James, people enjoyed the hand bell ringers. There were good congregations at Christmas services.

St Michael's Church – Rev. Sue Croucher reported that the works to refurbish the church hall are now complete. These include a new ceiling, new toilets, new windows, new flooring and new cladding. The church has received enquiries to hold Quiet Days.

St Peter's Church – Since his licensing service on 15th November, Andy has been visiting local schools and many children have been to the church. At a Christmas service, pupils from Dark Lane School sang Silent Night in five languages.

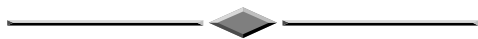
URC – I reported that we were still without an Interim Moderator. I sought offers of help to prepare the church for the Good Friday Walk of Witness refreshments and to return the church to normal afterwards.

[Note: The Elders' Meeting later decided that help would not be needed to prepare the church as this job could be spread over time.]

Dates of next meeting & AGM – The next meeting will be the AGM, to be held on Tuesday 15th May at the SA Temple at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Future meetings will be held on 16th October at the Baptist Church and 8th January 2019 at the URC.

Closing – Roger thanked everyone for their help and comments and closed the meeting in prayer.

Malcolm Brown



Wives' Fellowship Programme for Feb & Mar 2018

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 13 th Feb	2.30pm	Presentation: 'My Miraculous Healing after 6 Years in a Wheelchair' by Grace Habbershaw
Tue 13 th Mar	2.30pm	AGM followed by Members' Afternoon

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

Women's World Day of Prayer 2018

The local service for the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held at St Michael's Church, Daws Heath on Friday 2nd March starting at 2.00pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please join us.



The interdenominational movement of the Women's World Day of Prayer invites everyone to attend one of over 5,000 services being held on Friday 2nd March with the title 'All God's Creation is Very Good!'. We will join an estimated 3 million people around the world that day in a service which has been written this year by the women of Suriname in South America.

Starting in Samoa as the sun rises, and ending as the sun sets off the coast of American Samoa, the service will have been translated into more than 95 languages and 1000 dialects as we are reminded that we have responsibilities in caring for this wonderful world we live in. With its vast rainforest and wealth of resources, Suriname asks us to pray for conservation and the protection of wildlife, through an awareness of pollution, misuse and abuse, as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future.

Building Up the Castle – from Reform Dec 2017/Jan 2018

When I came to Crossway, south London, in 2009, there was no eldership, no secretary, no treasurer. They didn't know they had any reserves or how their church worked. It was a low place to start. But Southwark Council was planning a £3bn regeneration project in Elephant and Castle, London, and I went to every meeting going. That helped church become more a part of the community. I became borough dean, which took me into the council offices, then set up a chaplaincy there. That was a pass to all desks in the council, so I got great advice from officers about how to navigate the system.

Chaplaincy also gave me a top table seat with councillors, who I invited to the old church building. We'd already opened up to other worshipping congregations, and the council was looking into the problem of faith communities renting unsuitable properties. They realised these churches could come to Crossway, and got excited about what we could achieve with a new building. They said it would be 'the jewel in the crown of regeneration' – which was a phrase I quoted back to them a lot.

We created an in-depth heads of terms – legal protocols to establish intentions – which prevented cost cutting later on. I wanted to ensure that the new building was not just 'good enough for Elephant and Castle' but the best it could be. Within the denomination, there was some discussion about what should happen with the church here, because developers were offering £1.75m for the church. We also have income from residential and commercial properties that were built on an old chapel, and we had to sell the manse too. All together that could raise £5m, which is a lot of money when there are only 19 members here. But I argued that we had got to keep a presence in Elephant and Castle. This was an opportunity to build the wider church, build the community and build the congregation.

Actually, I don't think I could have done it with a big congregation. They wouldn't have been willing to release me 25 to 30 hours a week for building work. I've moved a long way from core business while I've been here, though I'm re-engaging now.

The new building opened in February 2017. There are ten congregations worshipping here throughout the week – Latin American, Brazilian, Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Eritrean – with five services

on Sunday. We all coexist very comfortably, and we're planning to start a joint leadership prayer meeting once a quarter.



We're creating a community choir – funded by LendLease, the Elephant and Castle developer, after I became chaplain for

them – which will involve all ten churches using this space, plus Lendlease staff. There are three day centres using the building: a free community kitchen with food donated from Borough Market, prepared by volunteers from a college for people with learning difficulties; a day care session for Southwark and Lambeth's winter night shelter; and a Spanish language advice service run by one of our Latin American churches. We have a shower room for the homeless shelter.

There are dance and drama groups who rehearse here, and we have one very nice little room specially set up for counselling and prayer ministry. We've also been approached by companies to use our rooms for training and meetings; I add 50% to our standard charity prices for commercial use, but even so one of them gave a donation as well because they like what we're doing for the community. Three rooms are equipped with prestige audiovisual facilities. No one is allowed to store anything here, so instead we provide everything – microphones, stands, all the cables for PowerPoint. You just plug your guitar or your computer into the wall and go.

I hope what we've done here will be an inspiration for the URC and challenge the narrative of decline. Such things are possible. In other parts of the country, you might not get ten churches together in one place, but there are ways of partnership – working with organisations, being ready to share. It goes back to the Levitical code: if your family isn't big enough to eat the Passover by itself, ask your neighbour to come. What it doesn't say in Leviticus is who washes up afterwards. And that's the nub. Crossway has to understand that it is the servant of the community.

Peter Stevenson

In Memory of a Happy Day in February

Blessed be Thou for all the joy
My soul has felt today!
O let its memory stay with me
And never pass away!

I was alone, for those I loved
Were far away from me,
The sun shone on the withered grass,
The wind blew fresh and free.

Was it the smile of early spring
That made my bosom glow?
'Twas sweet, but neither sun nor wind
Could raise my spirit so.

Was it some feeling of delight,
All vague and undefined?
No, 'twas a rapture deep and strong,
Expanding in the mind!

Was it a sanguine view of life
And all its transient bliss-
A hope of bright prosperity?
O no, it was not this!

It was a glimpse of truth divine
Unto my spirit given
Illumined by a ray of light
That shone direct from heaven!

I felt there was a God on high
By whom all things were made.
I saw His wisdom and his power
In all his works displayed.

But most throughout the moral world
I saw his glory shine;
I saw His wisdom infinite,
His mercy all divine.

Deep secrets of his providence
In darkness long concealed
Were brought to my delighted eyes
And graciously revealed.

But while I wondered and adored
His wisdom so divine,
I did not tremble at his power,
I felt that God was mine.

I knew that my Redeemer lived,
I did not fear to die;
Full sure that I should rise again
To immortality.

I longed to view that bliss divine
Which eye hath never seen,
To see the glories of his face
Without the veil between.

Anne Bronte

Never say never...

“Any more cruises planned?”, friends and neighbours enquired last year. “None,” I replied, “my cruising days are over.” However, when, early in May, sister Ruth and her daughter Claire suggested that the three of us should aim for some pre-winter sunshine, I succumbed and duly signed on the dotted line. “P & O – here we come again!”

‘Oriana’ had recently undergone a complete re-fit so everywhere looked and smelt brand new with acres of beautiful, newly-fitted carpeting, furniture, fabrics and fittings in our cabin and the bath, basin and tiles in the bathroom all gleamed. Everywhere sparkled.



We sailed from Southampton on 30th October, on a warm, sunny afternoon and headed down the English Channel towards the dreaded Bay of Biscay. It was no problem on this occasion. For the next two days the weather was grey and cheerless. We wondered if we had left the sunshine behind us. However, as we approached the Mediterranean, all was well. Soon we saw dozens of dolphins leaping alongside us, which affirmed that we were, indeed, in warmer climes.

The furthest venue on the itinerary was the island of Corsica; our port of call, Ajaccio (pronounced Ajaxio), a place that we had visited before.



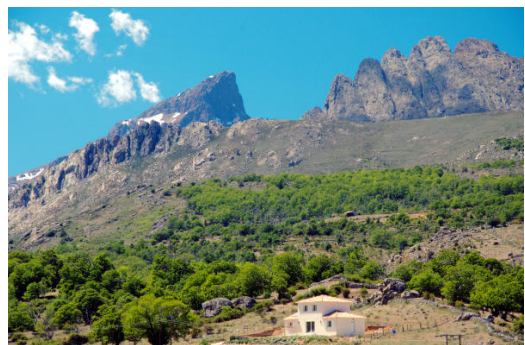
The town was a charming place with picturesque squares, cobbled, narrow alleyways lined with

small shops and cafes over which colourful washing was festooned like celebratory bunting.

Corsica’s most famous son is Napoleon Bonaparte (born in Ajaccio on 15th August 1769). On practically every street corner and in the centre of every square, a monument to Napoleon gazed down on tourists and residents alike.



Corsica is an incredibly mountainous island – the fourth largest in size in the Mediterranean. We were told to forget about mileage here as one measures distances, not by miles or metres, but by the time taken to cover them. The interior of the island is a wild tangle of gorges, torrents, forests, jagged peaks and impenetrable maquis (a low spiny aromatic mixture of shrubs such as myrtle, laurel, honeysuckle, broom, thyme, rosemary, fennel, lavender etc.).



This wild habitat proved to be the ideal hideaway for bandits for whom Corsica once had an infamous reputation. Thankfully, now, it seems, banditry has gone out of fashion. It is said that Napoleon declared that the scent of the maquis is so strong that, even when blindfold and far out to sea, he could tell when he was approaching his native land.

Ajaccio was a very sunny, scenic and interesting place to visit. The ship docked in the heart of it so it was only a very short walk to the tree-lined promenade, where we could linger to watch the world go by.

From start to finish, the sea was calm and members of Oriana's crew were some of the most helpful, kind and caring people it would be possible to meet. This was a blessing as there were quite a few wheelchairs, zimmers and walking sticks in evidence around the ship – Ruth and I fitted in well! Claire and her age group were in the minority. Ruth and I were very grateful for Claire's constant help and kindness. There were no doubt many occasions when she despaired of her mother and ancient Aunt!

We enjoyed a very happy fortnight afloat and this latest jolly nautical jaunt taught me at least one thing, if nothing else – never say never, ever again!

Vera Knapton

P.S. On each of the two Sundays that we were at sea, the three of us joined a large proportion of the passengers for an ecumenical service in the ship's theatre. The Captain led the Remembrance Service on 12th November. His Deputy Captain led the previous Sunday morning during which he read the following:

Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

Don't miss the boat.

Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Build your future on high ground.

For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Speed isn't always an advantage – the snails were on board with the cheetahs.

When you're stressed, float awhile.

Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow ahead.

Good advice for the year ahead?

Vera



Smart Minds

Age UK (Essex) has started a new group at our church. Smart Minds is a free creative programme that allows people living with dementia and their carers to explore new ways of communicating and expressing themselves to help reduce agitation and anxiety. The group meets every week on Monday afternoon from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. This is a relaxed, fun opportunity to try something new and meet other people who are living with dementia, and their carers. Please spread the word.

The group is run by Karen James, a Dementia Support Worker at Age UK. Karen is a very friendly lady and is keen to attract more people into the programme. She can be contacted on 07866 674150.



Faith in Politics: new monthly podcast launched

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) has launched Faith in Politics, a new podcast series featuring special guests discussing current affairs that link with faith. The podcast was created by Helen Byrne and Rachel Allison who are working for the Church as parliamentary interns.

Each monthly episode will feature lively discussions from the world of politics from a faith viewpoint as well as interviews and a 'musing slot', inspired by BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day. Topics such as poverty, inequality, peace-making and the environment will be regularly covered. Those taking part are people living out a faith of some kind in the public and political sphere.

Each 30-minute podcast will be released on the last Thursday of every month, and can be downloaded from <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/podcast>. You can also subscribe from Google Play for Android devices and iTunes or Podcast for Apple devices.

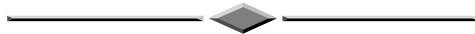
JPIT is a joint venture of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the URC and the Church of Scotland. The team works on issues of justice and inequality by influencing those in power and energising local congregations.

A prayer for those with poor health

God our Father,
we bring before you those who suffer from chronic illness or disability.
When they feel diminished, remind them that you call them by name
and hold them in the palm of your hand.
When they feel fragile and broken, mould them and heal them,
that they may more closely resemble the image of Jesus.
When they are reminded of times past, lead them to grow in the faith
that you love them today, as they are now.

When they feel uncertain about the future, lead them to that perfect love which casts out all fear.
When situations remind them - not of what they can do, but of what they cannot do -
remind them that "love never fails",
and that, living in your love, they will bear your fruit in plenty.
May all of us - whatever our circumstances - never be so taken up with our own concerns
that we do not see or respond to the needs of others.

Amen



Joyce Kies

Sadly, Joyce passed away on 1st January in a Paignton nursing home. She had been suffering from dementia but still received the Hadleigh Messenger, which was read to her. Vera Knapton has kindly written the following tribute.

Joyce and her first husband, Norman Alabaster, joined Hadleigh Congregational Church shortly after they moved into a bungalow in The Avenue. Joyce, who was a State Registered Nurse, re-established the 1st Hadleigh Girls' Life Brigade (GLB) – later to become known simply as the Girls' Brigade – and put her heart and soul into the Friday evening programmes. She was a perfectionist and insisted that every girl in the Company looked smart and wore the uniform with pride. As one of 'Joyce's girls', I remember her enthusiasm and her care towards us.

Friday evenings consisted of a formal roll call followed by team games and gymnastics. There was a large, heavy vaulting horse in the north annexe (now the Read Room) which was wheeled out by willing hands together with a couple of bouncy mats on which to land after vaulting over the horse. Other pieces of equipment included bats, balls, skipping ropes, dumbbells, and rubber quoits, all of which were used in exercises in between sessions of marching up and down the length of the church and across its diagonals.

Joyce entered the Company into various Battalion and Divisional competitions, some of which entailed trips to the Kursaal in Southend. Other competitions took place on 'home ground'. On those occasions, Major Baker from Westcliff and Major Cass from Canvey Island visited us to assess and award marks for activities such as country dancing, gymnastics, handicrafts and elocution. We then had to wait several weeks before hearing the results and finding out which Company had been proclaimed the winners.



On one occasion, Joyce arranged an outing to London for the girls to take part in a National Display at the Royal Albert Hall. We picnicked in Hyde Park before making our way to the grand venue. What excitement that entailed!

Another part of GLB life was the summer camp. The snap on the left, which includes Joyce, carrying a suitcase, was taken at Lynton, North Devon, around 1950. I remember that particular camp well because we spent one night under canvas before being washed out by an overnight storm. We then de-camped, much to my relief, to the local church hall.

Thanks to Joyce's enthusiasm, dedication and commitment, we developed many physical and social skills. Every Company evening concluded with a bible reading, a hymn and a homily from Joyce on the subject of Christian values. Thus, our Christian faith was also nurtured.

Joyce touched many lives and I am sure that there are many girls who will still remember her with affection. We thank God for her service in His name.

Vera Knapton

Editor's note: Heather and I had the pleasure of visiting Joyce and her second husband, Norman Kies, when they



lived near Kingsbridge in Devon. This visit took place after meeting Joyce and Norman at the church when the Centenary flower festival and history exhibition were held in 2004. During our visit to their home, Joyce kindly gave me some GLB badges but unfortunately she had thrown away a lot of photos that I would have loved to have seen. I believe that their last visit to the church took place in July 2011 when they called in after the morning service whilst visiting family in the area. The photo to the left was taken on that visit and shows Joyce and Norman with their daughter Rhoda, who lives in Leigh-on-Sea. Sadly, Norman passed away in March 2017 but it was thought best not to include news of his death in the magazine in case it upset Joyce.

We thank Rhoda for passing on news about Norman and Joyce and send our sincere condolences to all the family.



“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.” – *Colossians 3:23-24*

From the Moderator's Blog

'Serving God in Essex; local ecumenism at its best.'

At the end of September, I spent a day visiting a number of churches and church activities in Essex, which even today still warm my heart, even though the warm days of September seem a long time ago!

The visit to the Mid and South Essex Area Partnerships focused mainly on Chelmsford and Rayleigh. My day started when I joined the Ministers' meeting for Mid and South Essex Area Partnerships held in Christ Church URC Chelmsford – and what a great bunch of gracious followers of Jesus they are.



Christ Church URC, Chelmsford

After this good conversation, I was shown round the excellent facilities at Christ Church, and told about their good fortune of a large legacy. I was impressed to hear how they have shared their good fortune by giving and lending a substantial portion of the legacy. My morning in Christ Church concluded by joining their Celtic Daily Prayer service, held every weekday at noon, and open to all.

I was then taken from one of the largest churches in the area to one of the smallest, North Avenue URC for lunch at their regular lunch club.



North Avenue URC, Chelmsford

North Avenue has 11 members and punches well above its weight! North Avenue is on the edge of a deprived area in Chelmsford and the lunch club is one way they serve that community. The lunch club is a big undertaking for small congregation which is made possible by ecumenical (particularly Anglican) involvement. Whilst we were having lunch Bishop Stephen and a host of clergy came in for lunch, giving an opportunity

for a quick chat. Whilst I was there I also talked with two of the elders who are responsible for a youth club (North Avenue Youth Centre) run on the site (again with ecumenical support) – impressive work from two stalwart servants of Christ.

I left North Avenue to visit a Christian charity in Rayleigh, focusing on youth, called the Mega Centre. This is housed in a huge warehouse and



Mega Centre, Rayleigh

contains activities ranging from laser quest to table tennis and everything in-between. While the Christian context is underplayed, the love and care shown to the young people is an effective example of Christ's love for us all. Although not a URC initiative it is supported by URC members who do a range of activities including mentoring young people.

The day concluded with an evening meeting at Christ Church URC, Rayleigh for anyone from the partnership. I spoke for about 30 minutes using the provocative title, 'Will the URC survive?' This seemed to work as there was no shortage of difficult questions afterwards!



Christ Church URC, Rayleigh

Thanks to all who helped to organise and take part in this visit. I found it instructive and encouraging, and I hope you have too.

P.S. My answer to the provocative question ... yes, but we are likely to shrink even more which will (should) impact how we use all our resources.

Blessings,

Alan (Yates)

Posted on 14th January 2018

Computer Corner

Why printers add secret tracking dots

Interesting article

You may not be aware but many colour inkjet printers add secret microdots of ink to printed output. Read this article to find out why.

URL: <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170607-why-printers-add-secret-tracking-dots>

DocFetcher

Useful free software

DocFetcher is an Open Source desktop search application. You can think of it as Google for your local files. It creates an index for files in a particular folder (and its sub-folders) and the types of file to be indexed can be defined. I have started using it recently to search text files in which I keep snippets of information. It is not being actively developed but appears to be well-designed. One slightly annoying issue is that you cannot specify directly the file types to be indexed; you have to set up exclusions for the file types that you're not interested in if there are other file types in the folder.

URL: docfetcher.sourceforge.net

Winver

Useful Windows 10 command

It is sometimes useful to know exactly which version and 'build' of Windows 10 you are running. For instance, I record this information whenever I save an image of my C drive using Macrium Reflect (previously recommended free software). To run winver, click on the 'Start' button (bottom left of screen), type 'winver' and then press the Enter key. A box will appear with the information.

Word Search – Trees of the Bible

As Jim Clubb is preaching about trees in the bible this month, I thought I'd use the same theme.

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S	K	M	D	F	P	R	A	R	L	X	C	W	T	I	X	C	U	X	E
E	T	G	S	G	P	L	E	H	A	I	S	J	Q	A	D	I	D	G	O
Y	T	O	B	Y	M	G	V	N	C	L	V	Y	N	O	R	A	N	A	I
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ACACIA
ALMOND
APPLE
BOX
CEDAR
CYPRESS
FIG
JUNIPER
LIFE
MUSTARD
MYRTLE
OAK
OLIVE
PALM
PINE
PLANE
POMEGRANATE
POPLAR
SYCAMORE
WILLOW

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2018

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 1 st	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 4 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Mr Adrian Mr Tinning Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 5 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 6 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 8 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mrs Machrina Ejaz
Monday 12 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 13 th	No session - half term 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives' Fellowship – 'My Miraculous Healing after 6 Years in a Wheelchair' by Grace Habbershaw
Wednesday 14 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 15 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Mr Robert Dart
Monday 19 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 20 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 22 nd	10.30am	Midweek Service – Rev. Jack Roche MA
Sunday 25 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA Mth
Monday 26 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 27 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 29 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

Coffee Mornings

After years of serving refreshments to patrons of our weekly coffee mornings, Peggy Hughes had to retire early last year owing to ill-health. She continued to attend the coffee morning for several months until mobility problems made it too difficult. Peggy's retirement left Norma Paul to cope on her own and so, in April 2017, it was decided to adopt a rota system with Norma, Jean Reeve, Kay Watson and Marion Fidell taking it in turns. Shortly afterwards, Norma also decided to stand down but I am pleased to report that she still attends on a regular basis.

When the rota system was introduced, a few changes were made to the serving of the refreshments. Patrons can now choose to have their drink served either in a mug or in a cup. Biscuits are now served on individual plates, a number of which are pre-prepared with a variety of biscuits to allow a choice to be made. A donation is sought for the initial serving of drink and biscuits but free refills of tea or coffee are then provided. All profit from the donations for the refreshments are given to the Homeless Action Resource Project (HARP) in Southend. In 2017, donations amounting to £200 were sent to HARP.

We hope that the revised arrangements for serving the coffee morning refreshments have met with our current patrons' approval and we look forward to welcoming new patrons in 2018.

Jean Reeve

Coffee Morning Organiser