

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

April 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 APRIL 2018

Sun 1 st Apr	10.30am	Easter Day Morning Service	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
	6.30pm	Easter Day Evening Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 8 th Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Re. John Ambrose
Sun 15 th Apr	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Jack Roche MA
Sun 22 nd Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Wilf Tyler
Thu 26 th Apr	10.30am	Midweek Service	Malcolm Brown (Christian Aid)
Sun 29 th Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Major Alan Bennett

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR APRIL 2018

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 1 st Apr	Malcolm Brown	Marion Fidell	Marion Fidell
Sun 8 th Apr	Jean Reeve	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 15 th Apr	Heather Brown [Holy Communion]	Malcolm Brown	Marion Fidell
Sun 22 nd Apr	Malcolm Brown	Volunteer	Jean Reeve
Sun 29 th Apr	Jean Reeve	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

FLOWER ROTA FOR APRIL 2018

Sun 1 st Apr	Vera Knapton - wedding anniversary
Sun 8 th Apr	
Sun 15 th Apr	June Gargrave - Keith's 90 th birthday (13 th)
Sun 22 nd Apr	Heather Brown - birthday (21 st)
Sun 29 th Apr	

ELDERS' MEETING	CHURCH MEETING
Wed 18 th April 7.30pm	No meeting in April

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.

Walking the Way

This article is from the March edition of Christ Church News, the magazine of Christ Church Rayleigh URC. I am including it here because I have made very little mention to date of 'Walking the Way, a new URC initiative.

Walking the Way is the United Reformed Church's exciting focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission. It moves beyond a set of programmes into the world, where each step we take is accompanied by Jesus, helping us to bring about change in our own lives and, ultimately, in Church culture and society.

As you engage in Walking the Way, there is a hope that our understanding of what being a Christian disciple means will deepen. Who knows, we may grow beyond your wildest dreams, living as a disciple in all parts of your life.

The Greek word for 'disciple' is *mathetes*, which literally means: 'one who learns as they follow' rather than just being a 'consumer' of church and faith, turning up to Sunday service rather like one turns up at cinema to view a film.

Walking the Way explores what it means to follow actively, learn from – and eventually be transformed by – Jesus. It's for anyone at any stage of the Christian journey – whoever you are, whatever your existing relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church, whatever your personal circumstances. It's for you whether you have been following Jesus for five days or five decades.

Of course, there's nothing new about being a disciple of Christ. What is new about Walking the Way is its practical, flexible, dynamic and accessible approach, and the wide range of supporting resources produced and planned both online and in print. Over time, these rich and creative materials will help us on our walk – both

as an individual, as you walk with a few others, and as you walk courageously in the world.

The key resources that are recommended for Walking the Way is the book 'Holy Habits' by Andrew Roberts and the recently published study guides, a set of booklets exploring the 10 habits that can help us to develop new ways of Christian living.

The study guides, all available to buy from the URC's online store and places like Amazon, expand on the ten habits of discipleship covered in Mr Roberts' original book. The ten habits are: biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, sharing of resources, service, eating together, gladness and generosity, worship, prayer, making more disciples.

By looking at each habit in turn, the booklets explore how we can better recognise the presence of Jesus in all areas of our lives, seeking to play our part in building the kingdom of God, whoever we may be and whatever we may bring to the table.

There are no short cuts or quick fixes for today's Church or society, and Holy Habits does not seek to offer any. The point is to involve as many people as possible, to think and plan strategically, to be clear in our purpose, to work collaboratively, creatively and consultatively. I am sure that over the next stretch of time we will be challenged with our walk with God.

Rev. David Rees



A prayer for Walking the Way

God of all,
as Jesus walked this earth sharing love, grace and mercy,
he fed the hungry with the bread of life
and brought healing and hope to those he met.
Renew us through the gift of the Holy Spirit
so that we may do likewise.
As we step out on this exciting, yet daunting, journey of discipleship,
we pray that we will place our footsteps in yours
and walk where you lead
as we live out your life in our daily living
for Jesus' sake.

Amen

From the Editor

Welcome to the April edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

The magazine was 'put to bed' later than intended but the delay has allowed me to include information about the Easter events in Hadleigh.

Having mentioned Jim Clubb in this column in last month's edition, I am sorry to have to report that Jim was taken ill and had a spell in hospital after the first of three preaching engagements planned for March. He is currently convalescing in the Cumberlege Intermediate Care Centre. We wish Jim well and pray that he is restored to good health soon.

We were grateful to Heather Brown for stepping in at 24-hours notice to lead the Mothering Sunday service on 11th March. During the service primrose plants were handed out to all the ladies present and some were delivered to ladies who were not present, including Sylvia Patten, Vera Knapton and June Gargrave.

The March Midweek Service on 22nd March, which Jim was also due to take, was cancelled. Instead, a normal coffee morning was held and this allowed me to have the bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid, which I had been unable to do the previous week owing to an unplanned visit to our daughter in Fen Ditton.

Had Jim not been ill, he would have led the Easter Day evening service (with Heather) but we were very grateful to Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant for stepping in, which meant that he preached at both our Easter Day services.

I am glad to report that my invitation for people to write something about their memories of the Billy Graham Crusades did not fall on stony ground. Wilf Tyler has kindly written not one, not two, but three articles, the first of which appears in this month's edition. Ron Mallinson has also chipped in with a short piece.

Malcolm Brown

News from the South Essex Area Partnership

Area Partnership representatives meet twice yearly and the latest meeting was held at Basildon URC on Thursday 22nd March. (This was quite a busy day for me with the church coffee morning and the church AGM on the same day!) It was the first time that I had visited Basildon URC. (See photo below).



Basildon URC recently formed a joint pastorate with Bramerton Road (Hockley) Community Church and their minister, Rev. David Sebley, chaired the meeting. It came as a surprise (to me at least) to learn that David is leaving in July, after a long period of ministry at Hockley, but he did not announce where he is going.

We also learned that Rev. Ruth Mitchell, currently the Minister of Brentwood, Billericay and Ingatestone, is retiring. She has been treated for cancer in recent times and her husband has now also been diagnosed with cancer.

Robert Dart and Rev. Melanie Smith gave presentations about their trips to Zimbabwe and India respectively. Rev. Derek Kingston gave a personal perspective of Walking the Way and Holy Habits.

Ian Millar advised that he will be standing down as Ministry & Mission Advocate at the end of the year but he was pleased to report that Alan Clifton, from Kings Road URC, has agreed to takeover the role. Ian pointed out that there had been no grants from the Michael Benham Fund for two years. He will look into the possibility of extending the purposes for which grants can be made from the fund.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th October at Christ Church Wickford.

Malcolm Brown

Articles for the magazine can be e-mailed to the Editor, Malcolm Brown, at mgbrownmail@yahoo.co.uk. Opinions expressed in any published articles do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editor or the policy of the United Reformed Church, either locally or nationally.

Wives' Fellowship Programme for April to July 2018

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 17 th Apr	2.30pm	Slideshow: 'Exploring South Island New Zealand' by Margaret Butler
Tue 15 th May	2.30pm	Talk: 'Stories of the London Underground' by Brian Billings
Tue 12 th Jun	2.30pm	Members' Afternoon
Tue 10 th Jul	TBA	Afternoon Tea Party

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

Meeting fee £2.00 – first time free

Annual subscription – £3.00

Note from Treasurer (Jean Reeve): Following a decision at the Wives' Fellowship AGM on 13th March, we will no longer be collecting small coins for charity.

Snippets from the Church AGM

The Church Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 22nd March at 12.30pm.

- Election of Officers – Royston Brackin agreed to continue as Honorary Secretary and Acting Honorary Treasurer.
- Serving Elders – Malcolm Brown was re-elected as a serving Elder.
- Coffee Morning – The attendance at the Thursday coffee morning has increased and there is a good atmosphere. The changes to the way that refreshments are served have been well-received.
- Ladies Recreation Group report – The table tennis and chat are enjoyed by the group of ladies who attend.
- Alphabet Club – Numbers attending are low at present but those who do attend, enjoy it. There are a number of other competing groups in Hadleigh held on Tuesday morning.
- Wives Fellowship – Kay Watson said that she is finding it difficult to book speakers, but that the Wives' Fellowship AGM had decided to continue meeting on a monthly basis for the time being.
- Men's Breakfast – It was agreed with Kay Watson and Jean Reeve that these will continue but on a quarterly basis, on the first Saturday (or the next nearest Saturday) in March, June, September and December.
- Midweek services – Malcolm said it would be difficult for these to continue on a monthly basis if Jim Clubb is unable to lead services in future. Jim currently leads three of the services each year.
- Church Accounts – The accounts were accepted. A vote of thanks was recorded for Wilf Tyler's work in examining the accounts.

Malcolm Brown



Two boys were walking home from church after hearing strong preaching about the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Mon 9 Apr 2018	- Benfleet & District Historical Society illustrated Talk 'The Dissolution of Monasteries in Essex' by Ken Crowe. At Richmond Hall, off Richmond Avenue, South Benfleet. Starts at 8.00pm. Visitors £3.00.
Tue 10 Apr 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 11 Apr 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.
Sat 14 Apr 2018	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12 noon.
	ditto - Charity Concert by the Salvation Army London North-East Fellow Band With special guest Dr Stephen Cobb. At SA Hadleigh Temple, starting at 6.30pm. Admission £5.00. In aid of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance.
	ditto - Michael Glaysher as Elvis Presley In Concert at Thundersley Methodist Church, Kennington Avenue, Thundersley. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00 (5-16 years £2.00) from Anne on 01268 755291.
Sun 15 Apr 2018	- Spring Garden Fete at Hadleigh Old Fire Station for 10.00am to 4.00pm. Organised by Hadleigh Community Group to raise funds for flower baskets in Hadleigh town centre.
Thu 19 Mar 2018	- Poetry Reading Group at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month - Shakespeare's Sonnets. Meetings on 3 rd Thu of the month.
Fri 20 Apr 2018	- Castle Crafters Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 1.00pm to 2.30pm (every Friday). If you enjoy having a chat and crafting, come along.
Sat 21 Apr & Sun 22 Apr 2018	- Westwood Art Group Spring Exhibition at Hadleigh Old Fire Station With 200 paintings for sale. Open: Sat 21 Apr 9.30am to 5.00pm & Sun 22 Apr 10.00am to 2.00pm. Free admission. Tea and cakes available.
Sat 21 Apr 2018	- Grand Jumble Sale for Trust Links at St Michael's Church Hall, Daws Heath. Starts at 12.30pm. Admission 40p. Refreshments available.
	ditto - Games Club at Hadleigh Library from 1.00pm to 5.00pm. Play modern board games. Share your knowledge and enthusiasm. (Every 3 rd Sat.)
Fri 27 Apr 2018	- Hadleigh Voices & Canvey Community Choir Spring Concert for Havens Hospices at The King John School. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.00 - phone 01268 684162 or 01702 555470. Tickets also at the door.
Sat 28 Apr 2018	- Bowls Taster Session at Hadleigh Bowls Club, John H Burrows Recreation Ground from 10.00am to 12 noon. Wear soft shoes and comfortable clothes. For more info, phone John White, on 01268 753864.
	ditto - 50s, 60s & 70s Concert with fish & chip supper at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Starts at 6.00pm. Tickets £10.00 from Mike on 07796 657927.
	ditto - Shoebox Charity Concert with Simply Strings & The Yardarm Folk Orchestra at St George's Church, Rushbottom Lane. Short presentation by Diane Nicholson from Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Operation. Starts at 7.30pm. Free admission with retiring collection.

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

Easter events

Good Friday United Service & Walk of Witness

The traditional Good Friday United Service on 30th March was held, as usual, at Hadleigh Methodist Church starting at 10.15am. It was led for the first time by Rev. Ruth Cartwright, who became Priest in Charge of St James the Less Church and St Barnabas Church last September. Other members of the local clergy took part by doing bible readings and leading prayers. Louise Chessher from St James the Less Church kindly played the organ. The retiring offertory for Christian Aid amounted to £240.50.

At 11.00am, the Walk of Witness to our church took place. We now walk along the pavement – for health and safety reasons! – but it is still an act of witness and reminds the public at large just how special Good Friday is to Christians. Approximately ninety people made it to the church for refreshments, though not all of them were able to take part in the walk.



Walk of Witness passing Morrisons car park



Refreshments and fellowship

Most of the tables and chairs had been set out in the church by Heather Brown and Kay Watson on the preceding Wednesday. For once, I had little to do with it apart from bringing in a few tables from Riffhams, the room used by the Art Ministry. (The ladies had also kindly put up the tables for the coffee morning on Maundy Thursday, saving me another job!)

For the record, 140 hot cross buns are ordered from Grouts each year by Jean Reeve and she arrives early on Good Friday morning to take delivery of them. A willing group of volunteers then appears to help cut and butter them. They were served with tea or coffee after a welcome by our Church Secretary, Royston Brackin, and a prayer by one of the new leaders at the Salvation Army Temple, Captain Steve Fripp. A retiring collection towards expenses more than covered the cost of the refreshments and a further £14.46 was added to the total to be sent to Christian Aid. I am grateful to John Williams who kindly stayed to help move tables and chairs back at the end of proceedings.

Easter Day Sunrise Service



The Easter Day Sunrise Service on 1st April took place at Hadleigh Castle starting at 6.30am. The weather was very grey and there was a bit of a breeze but it was not too cold. However, with all the rain we have had recently, the path to the Castle and the Castle grounds were very wet.

The service was attended by about forty people and was kindly led by Captain Steve Fripp of Hadleigh Temple. Members and friends of the Temple Band provided music for the hymns.

Unfortunately, because of the cloudy conditions we were not able to see the sunrise but we were able to worship the risen Christ together.

Malcolm Brown

Eastern Synod Visit to the Presbytery of Zimbabwe

At the South Essex Area Partnership meeting on 22nd March, Robert Dart, from Christ Church Rayleigh URC gave a brief report of his recent visit to Zimbabwe. Robert, who preaches at our church occasionally, travelled with Rev. Paul Whittle, Moderator of Easter Synod, and members of other churches. This report of the visit, which took place between 8th and 18th December 2017, was written by Rev. Paul Whittle and appears on the URC website.

The visitors were the Rev. Paul Whittle, Team Leader and Synod Moderator, Lindsey Brown, Synod Global Links Advocate and Elder at Epping URC (twinned with Mbare Uniting Presbyterian Church (UPC)), Robert Dart, Elder at Rayleigh URC (twinned with Budiriro UPC), John Driver, Elder at Maldon URC (exploring twinning with Njube UPC), and the Rev. Sohail Ejaz, Minister at The Cornerstone URC Southend (twinned with Highfield UPC).



On arrival we were met by an enthusiastic group of our Zimbabwean colleagues, including the Rev. Tinashe Chemvumi (Presbytery Moderator), the Rev. Lydia Neshangwe (Presbytery Clerk and Convenor of the Ecumenical Relations Committee) and Mrs Victoria Chatikobo (Presbytery Treasurer).

We spent the first night at a lodge in Harare, travelling the next day to Gweru (where we left Sohail and Robert) and Bulawayo. We were all involved in preaching at different churches on the first Sunday, in my case at Makokoba, a township in Bulawayo where the Presbyterians are well established, this congregation having recently celebrated its 101st anniversary. The minister is the Rev. Paul Neshangwe (Lydia's husband) and he and I had a dialogue about the Synod-Presbytery link in a service that included much lively singing led by an excellent choir, plenty of movement – worship is lively – as well as my preaching.

While in Bulawayo we visited the agricultural project that the Presbytery is developing at Vimbridge. A covered area provides a place for growing tomatoes and cucumbers and the project workers are also beginning to cultivate maize. This project is situated on a large piece of

land owned by the Presbytery which they are beginning to develop in a range of ways. One long-term plan, very much the vision of the women, is to build a conference centre. They have already constructed a toilet block and held a conference on site using tents as accommodation. The hope is that this whole project will provide an income which can then be used in support of ministry and mission.

From Bulawayo we travelled to Chinhoyi, taking the opportunity to visit the church there (Lomagundi UPC) which houses a clinic providing much needed, and relatively cheap, medical services to the local community. This is an excellent example of practical mission, but also a reminder of the lack of resources with which the people often struggle. There is a reasonable, though limited, provision of medication, but everything has to be paid for – and the 'ambulance' usually requires a push to get it started.

Back in Harare, the emphasis for Lindsey, Robert and Sohail was on connecting with their 'twin' church, something in which John had been engaged while in Bulawayo. We all got involved in various things in the different locations. One significant visit was that made by Lindsey and myself to Lekkerwater Secondary School as the synod has raised a significant sum of money to support what is happening there. The school is in a rural area 12km off the highway near Marondera. So far they have 122 students, aged 12- 14, in two classroom blocks. The plan is for four classroom blocks and, in time, to become a boarding school, something for which there seems to be a great demand. The Presbytery runs a number of schools and this is another important part of its ministry. Again this is a location where the Presbytery has a large site with lots of development potential.

Towards the second weekend (Friday evening) we all attended a Presbytery Executive meeting and I was also invited to attend an extraordinary Presbytery meeting the following morning when Presbytery dealt with a number of reports that had not been considered at its last meeting, but particularly addressed concerns and disagreements over how the schools are managed.

I had the privilege of leading devotions at the beginning of that meeting, with the challenge of setting the tone for what was recognised as 'going to be' a difficult meeting though, in fact, an appropriate resolution seemed to be reached by the end.

The final Sunday, and penultimate day, was spent with each of the group's members preaching in a different church. For me, in contrast to the previous Sunday, I was sharing in worship at one of the newest expressions of church in the Presbytery, not yet a properly constituted congregation. Southlea Park, one of the developing townships on the edge of Harare, is a fast-growing community with lots of new housing. Challengingly, there is no running water, though most homes have their own well. The wooden 'hut' was erected about two years ago, the congregation having started two years prior to that in a member's home.



A small, but lively, congregation, currently looked after by the Revd Stan Chatikobo (currently without formal appointment) made me very welcome and it was a fitting end to this particular Zimbabwean journey as we greeted each other in the hot sunshine, in the traditional Zimbabwean way, following the service.

Rev. Paul Whittle

Budiriro Uniting Presbyterian Church

Robert kindly sent me some notes that he had made about the visit to Zimbabwe. Here are just a few of those notes, which relate to Budiriro UPC, the church with which Christ Church Rayleigh URC is twinned.

The minimum Ministers' stipend set by the Presbytery is \$850 a month for a full-time Minister. Tatenda is currently being paid as a half-time Minister at Budiriro – but in practice he is actually working nearer to full time hours. Budiriro isn't able to afford even the half-time stipend so they are one of a few churches piloting a new Central Fund approach being developed by the Presbytery. Budiriro is currently required to pay \$300 a month and the Presbytery then contribute \$125 to make this up to the Half-time stipend.

Tatenda is married to Juliet and they have a one-year-old son. They live in three tiny rooms – a kitchen, a living area and a bedroom – in a shared house which is rented for them by the church. Tatenda is currently on a one-year term at Budiriro until the end of 2018 when the position of the congregation will be reviewed and a decision will be taken about any possible extension of his term.

Tatenda is working with the church to develop a 5 year plan and priorities. They want to identify ways that they can reach out more to the local community and also develop links with other localities where there isn't currently a UPCS church.

The church has five Elders but it's often difficult to have Elders' meetings as people are often out trying to work and earn money where they can.

There are currently only eight men in the congregation. There is an issue with men drinking alcohol, even if they don't do it to excess. There's a strong view among churchgoers that it is wrong/sinful to drink alcohol and this discourages lots of men from attending church as they feel they will be judged by the congregation.

The purpose of the partnership between our churches is to be united, co-workers, to help each other. The vision is for the church at Budiriro to become a self-sustaining congregation. Tatenda said our partnership with Budiriro has really restored the hope of the congregation. Everyone I met expressed their deep gratitude for all that we have done and there is a genuine bond of fellowship and love which the congregation feel towards our church in Rayleigh.

Robert Dart

Editor's note: There are several other reports about the visit to Zimbabwe on the Eastern Synod website. The Synod/Presbytery partnership also has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/URCGlobalLink>

1954 Billy Graham Crusade - Harringay

Responding to last month's invitation to contribute personal memories of the Billy Graham Crusades, Wilf Tyler has kindly written three articles, the first of which appears below, and Ron Mallinson recalls one particular conversion.

Great preparations were made by churches in England prior to the arrival of the Billy Graham Crusade in 1954. Classes were held to train counsellors and advisers to be ready to work at Harringay Arena and in churches in towns and cities around the country, to which the London services would be relayed. Volunteers to be stewards, choir members, etc. were also to be enrolled. However, the minister of the church where I was a member was not a Crusade supporter so I knew nothing of these preparations and opportunities, except for what I read in the national press.

A week before the opening meeting, family friends David and May, who went to Leigh Road Baptist Church, said they were going to Harringay on the Saturday. David had trained as a counsellor and May was going to the one and only choir practice that was being held before the Crusade started. We were asked why didn't we go too? So we did!



Outside Harringay Arena

There were some 3,000 of us – sopranos, tenors and basses. What an experience! And what a conductor – Cliff Barrows. We sang and sang that night but majored on 'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine', which started every Crusade meeting. We also practised 'This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Saviour all the day long and 'Just as I am'. The latter hymn was sung as the appeal was being made and enquirers streamed to the front each evening.

Most choir members would go to two or three evenings each week. We soon made friends with several others who went on the same evenings. Most of us worked in London and we would go straight from work to Harringay. The first to arrive would 'book' four of five seats for our

group. We would take sandwiches, which we would eat as we gathered and shared our news.

On one occasion, two of the typists from the office where one of us worked were coming to the stadium; or it might be a couple of colleagues of another person or perhaps the church that one of us attended was sponsoring a coach up to the meeting. After eating, we would all pray together for the people who we knew were coming or give thanks for someone who had answered the appeal on the previous evening. Then it was time for the choir to practise the hymns that we were going to sing that night.



Inside Harringay Arena

Billy Graham was a riveting speaker, quoting verse after verse from the Bible to back up his sermon. He spoke with an assurance which did not always come across in our home churches and his illustrations were always bang up-to-date. I shall never forget him saying, during a sermon on David and Goliath: "And Goliath was so tall, when he played basketball, he just **dropped** the ball in the net."



Billy Graham

Just listening to the sermon, having our biblical knowledge increased and our faith strengthened, Christians gained in their spiritual life night after night.

Our faith was also strengthened as we prayed during the sermon for unsaved people in the audience and saw people streaming to the front in their hundreds. As Billy Graham made his appeal, those people who wished to give their lives to Christ went forward and were helped by the counsellors and advisers. As people came forward, the choir sang 'Just as I am'. Cliff Barrows would signal to us which verse to sing next. Some nights, if there was a larger number coming forward, we would sing some verses three or four times.

When the service was over, I would join my parents and May and go with them to find where Dad had parked the car. I would then go back to the counselling room to meet David and take him to the car. One evening I got back to the counselling room to find my sister-in-law coming out. She had come up on a coach from Watford and was converted. What rejoicing!

While the meetings were held every night in Harringay, members of the team were running rallies all over the south of England. One evening Grady Wilson, associate evangelist, spoke at a meeting in Rayleigh Speedway Stadium. Local counsellors were asked to go to Rayleigh that

night instead of Harringay. The Salvation Army provided the music. The stadium was packed and many enquirers came forward at the end.

After the first few days of the Crusade, it became normal for Crusade supporters, including choir members, stewards and counsellors, to sing 'Blessed assurance' whilst travelling on the Tube. When a train stopped at a station and the doors opened, passengers on the platform would hear different parts of the hymn being sung in different carriages.

On the journey home after a meeting, the singing on the platform and in the train was even more enthusiastic. By the end of thirteen weeks, most non-church-going commuters must have known the hymn by heart. Londoners heard the gospel even if they didn't go to the arena!

Perhaps I should end by saying that long before the end of the Crusade my church became fully supportive and on three occasions hired a coach to take people up to the services. Several people who had been invited to come on the coach answered the appeal, were converted, and joined the church.

Wilf Tyler

During the 1954 Crusade at Harringay, I was serving with 32 Assault Engineer Regiment based at Perham Down, near Tidworth. At Tidworth Military Hospital, the staff held a thriving Christian Fellowship, which a few members of our Regiment attended, when duties permitted.

The fellowship at the hospital hired a coach to attend one of the Crusade meetings and a few Royal Engineers were invited, including myself. One of the Catering Corps staff said that he would like to attend, just to make a change from cookhouse duties. He was an anti-social type of individual, whose language was coarse indeed.

The meeting was typical of Billy Graham and his soloist George Beverly Shea. To the surprise of us all, the Catering Corps cook made his way down to the front, which was a long way from where we were seated. This meant that we were delayed in returning to Camp. However, it was well worth it because this man was wonderfully converted and subsequently proved to be a marvellous witness for the Lord.

These Crusades will long be remembered, especially by those of us who were privileged to attend.

Ron Mallinson

From 'Just As I am' – Billy Graham's autobiography

I have often said that the first thing I am going to do when I get to Heaven is to ask, "Why me, Lord? Why did You choose a farmboy from North Carolina to preach to so many people, to have such a wonderful Team of associates, and to have a part in what You were doing in the latter half of the twentieth century?" I have thought about that question a great deal, but I know also that only God knows the answer. 'Now we see but a poor reflection; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.'" (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Family News

Stan Balls

Sadly, Stan passed away in the early hours of 2nd April after suffering Parkinson's Disease over many years. He lived far longer than doctors expected, which is a testament to the love and care he received from his wife, Brenda, his family and carers.

Although, he was not known to many of the current congregation, Stan was remembered in our prayers every week.

Funeral details will be available from the Church Secretary, when known.

We send our sincere condolences to Brenda and all her family at this sad time. May they feel the presence of God upholding them in the days ahead.

Pam Marchant

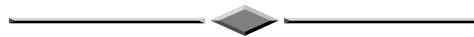
We have also learned that Pam passed away recently. Pam, who suffered from dementia, had been resident in Fairview House care home in Southend for several years. She was moved to a care home in Cornwall shortly before her death.

We send our condolences to Pam's family and friends affected by her passing.

A prayer for the bereaved

Heavenly Father,
embrace in your loving arms
all who are grieving the loss
of family and loved ones;
where lives are in turmoil,
hope turns to despair
and pain is all that's felt.
Be with them in their sorrow,
uphold them with your strength,
and through the generosity
of love shown by others
and your presence within their hearts
may they know they are not alone,
in their struggle through today.

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



Mike Barker (1929 – 2018)

As reported in last month's magazine, Mike died on 14th February in Brooklands Nursing Home in Eastwood, not far from his home in Dandies Drive. He was eighty-eight and had been resident in Brooklands for several months since being admitted to Southend Hospital after a fall and then suffering a stroke. His funeral took place on Monday 5th March at Southend Crematorium and the service was led by our former minister, Rev. Jack Roche.



Mike was born in a Leigh-on-Sea nursing home on 24th November 1929 and grew up in South Benfleet. He was an only child, which he always regretted. His father, Ernie Barker, became the first golf professional at Boyce Hill Golf Course when it opened in September 1925.

Mike was more inclined towards his mother's main interest, singing. He eventually joined her as a member of Hadleigh & District Choral Society, led by Percy Witty. At that time, Mike worshipped with his mother at Thundersley Congregational Church, where he eventually met up with Keith Gargrave. There, Mike sang baritone to Keith's tenor in performances of two Easter perennials; Stainer's *Crucifixion* and *Olivet to Calvary*. Mike and Keith were members of Benfleet Operatic & Dramatic Society and Mike also sang for the Benfleet Choristers. (The photo of Mike was taken at a Benfleet Choristers concert in 2005.)

Mike and Joan first met at a dance on Southend Pier and were married on 1st April 1956 at Crowstone Congregational Church (now Kings Road URC). They had no children so Joan continued in her job with William Cory & Son, a London coal and oil shipping company. Mike worked in a clerical capacity for the Shell Petroleum Company at Shellhaven for 28 years, after working for a time at the Benfleet Urban District Council offices in Thundersley.

Mike and Joan enjoyed holidays in France and Switzerland, although Mike's preference was always nearer home at places like Torquay in Devon and Looe in Cornwall.

Mike became a church member at Hadleigh URC in 1986 and attended the evening services. He was an old-fashioned gentleman, quietly spoken, courteous, polite, self-effacing. Given his love of music and performing one can well imagine his sense of loss at his declining mobility over recent years, particularly when he had to give up driving, and the difficulty he had in speaking after the stroke. Mike and Joan were extremely grateful for the support of their nephew Laurie and niece Lynne in their time of need.

We thank God for Mike's talent as a singer and the enjoyment that he provided to many people over many years. He will no doubt be part of God's celestial choir in Heaven. We pray for God's blessing on Joan at this time and are pleased to know that she is now settled in the Abbeyfield home in Southend.

Malcolm Brown

June Gargrave remembers Mike

The Gargrave family came to Thundersley in 1961 and, in fact, we found a church – Thundersley Congregational – before we found the house that we live in now, as the Thundersley Lodge Estate was just being approved for development. As was his usual wont, Dr Doug Acres, the Secretary of Thundersley Congregational Church, would stand at the doorway of the church speaking to people as they entered and was quick to suggest to any newcomers that they sign themselves on at his surgery.

Early on Keith made contact with Mike Barker, who, with his mother, were regulars at 'The Congregational'. There was a lot of music performed there as the organist was Denis Bayer, a great pianist and organist and a professional musician with the New Philharmonic Orchestra. Denis put on musical events at the church and Keith and Mike were involved in many of them.

There was a good choir at the church and so at Easter there would be something performed there – perhaps *Olivet to Calvary*, *The Crucifixion* or solos, because Mike was the baritone soloist and Keith was the tenor soloist. On one occasion the church, with all its own members, put on *The Messiah*. Another event I remember well was when Mike and Keith sang *The Two Gendarmes* dressed as gendarmes and, with their batons, marched across the stage. That always went down well.

June Gargrave

From the Moderator's Blog 'Moving Mountains'

On Sunday night (11th March) I returned home following a four-day mission in Cumbria as part of the Moving Mountains campaign. The ecumenical mission involved Anglicans, Methodists, Salvation Army and URC. 33 teams worked across the county and were engaged in around 500 different activities reaching about 25,000 people. Each team consisted a group of local Christians supported by a number of others who volunteered to help. Four Synod Moderators (Steve Faber, Andrew Mills, David Pickering and Paul Whittle) and myself each brought a few others with them.

My little, but perfectly formed, team consisted of Gwen Collins and Kate, my wife. In addition, we were supported by Alan Winstanley, the ex-Bishop of Peru and Bolivia. Our team was allocated to the Furness peninsular region, excluding Barrow-in-Furness. This is a rural area that has the feel of an island. It is bordered on three sides by water and to the north by the A5092. Typically, people do not go south of the A5092 unless they need to. Despite being beautiful countryside, typical of the Lake District, it is just outside of the National Park and so not a tourist hot-spot. A peninsular, but definitely not insular! My team was made to feel very welcome and we quickly became part of the community.



The launch of Moving Mountains at Penrith Auction Mart

On Thursday 8th March, Moving Mountains started with a commissioning service held in Penrith (in the Penrith Auction Mart) directed by the Mike Talbot (the Evangelism Enabler in the Carlisle Diocese and the programme manager for Moving Mountains) and included the Archbishop of York, The Most Revd and Rt Hon John Sentamu, Loraine Mellor (President of the Methodist Conference), Major Drew McCombe

(Divisional Commander for the Salvation Army in the North West) and myself. The mission ended with the UK's largest Messy Church held in the Rheged Centre, Penrith on the Sunday.

The main work of the mission took place on Friday and Saturday. Our work centred on Urswick, a market town close to the centre of the peninsular and covered many activities from school assemblies and country markets to coffee mornings and a film night. On the Sunday morning I took the service in the Urswick URC. This was quite a poignant service given the church meeting has recently decided to close the church, which only has eight members.



Loraine Mellor, Jill Baker, Archbishop Sentamu, James Newcome (Bishop of Carlisle) & Alan Yates, after the Commission service

Was the mission a success? It is too early to say if we have enabled new people to get to know Jesus. I'm sure that this is the case, but I believe two other significant benefits have already been 'delivered'.

Firstly, through the commitment made by a whole host of senior people (27 bishops, nine Methodist District Chairs, five URC Moderators and one Salvation Army Divisional Commander) we have encouraged and inspired the local teams to enhance their mission focus.

In addition, we have demonstrated that the four denominations are more powerful together than they are apart. This is ground breaking in the life of our churches in England, and in no small part due to the ecumenical vision, grace and enthusiasm of the Bishop of Carlisle, the Right Reverend James Newcome.

Blessings,

Alan Yates

Posted on 13th March 2018

Computer Corner

Beyond The Point

Interesting website

Beyond the Point is run by two young local lads, Liam Heatherson and Joe Mander. Their mission is to archive and record historic remains and to enlighten residents about their local history. Their adventures cover many areas within Essex and beyond, discovering old structures and surviving remnants from the past, which they film and photograph. In 2012 they were awarded the titles of 'Best Online Community Website' and 'Best National Archive'.

URL: <http://www.beyondthepoint.co.uk>

TED Talk – Billy Graham on 'Technology and Faith'

Interesting video

Speaking at TED in 1998, Rev. Billy Graham marvels at technology's power to improve lives and change the world -- but says the end of evil, suffering and death will come only after the world accepts Christ. A legendary talk from TED's archives.

URL: https://www.ted.com/talks/billy_graham_on_technology_faith_and_suffering

Snap2HTML

Useful free software

Snap2HTML takes a "snapshot" of folder structures on your hard drive and saves it as HTML files. What's unique about Snap2HTML is that the HTML file feels more like a "real" application, similar to Windows Explorer, displaying a treeview with folders that you can click to view the files contained within. There is also a built in file search. Everything is contained in a single HTML file that you can easily store or distribute.

URL: <http://www.rlvision.com/snap2html/about.php>

Word Search – Spring

Spring is sprung so what better theme for this month's Word Search.

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

BLOSSOM
BLUEBELL
BREEZE
BULB
CLEAN
COMPOST
CROCUS
CULTIVATE
DAFFODIL
FERTILE
GREEN
LAMB
LAWNMOWER
NEST
REBIRTH
SHOOTS
SHOWER
SNOWDROP
VERDANT
VERNAL

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL 2018

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Sunday 1 st	10.30am 6.30pm	Easter Day Morning Service - Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh Easter Day Evening Service with Holy Communion - Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Monday 2 nd	Cancelled - BH	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 3 rd	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 5 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Saturday 7 th	8.30am - 10.00am	Men's Breakfast Meeting
Sunday 8 th	10.30am	Morning Service - Rev. John Ambrose
Monday 9 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 10 th	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 12 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 15 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion - Rev. Jack Roche MA
Monday 16 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 17 th	9.30am - 11.00am 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives' Fellowship - 'Stories of the London Underground' by Mr Brian Billings
Wednesday 18 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 19 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 22 nd	10.30am	Morning Service - Mr Wilf Tyler
Monday 23 rd	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 24 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 26 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Midweek Service - Malcolm Brown (Christian Aid)
Sunday 29 th	10.30am	Morning Service - Major Alan Bennett
Monday 30 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group

A Prayer in Spring

"Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees."

Robert Frost