

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

May 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 MAY 2018

Sun 6 th May	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. John Ambrose
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mrs Janette Stevens with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 13 th May	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Machrina Ejaz
Sun 20 th May	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Thu 24 th May	10.30am	Midweek Service	Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 27 th May	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Roger Brett

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR MAY 2018

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 6 th May	Heather Brown	Malcolm Brown	Jean Reeve
Sun 13 th May	Malcolm Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 20 th May	Jean Reeve [Holy Communion]	Marion Fidell	Marion Fidell
Sun 27 th May	Heather Brown	Janet Wimbleton	Janet Wimbleton

FLOWER ROTA FOR MAY 2018

Sun 6 th May	
Sun 13 th May	
Sun 20 th May	June Gargrave - for her birthday and in memory of her mother
Sun 27 th May	

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 9th May 7.30pm

CHURCH MEETING

Thu 24th May 12.30pm

HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS

Minister:

Vacancy

Hon. Secretary:

Mr Royston Brackin (01702 558862)

Acting Hon. Treasurer:

Mr Royston Brackin

Serving Elders:

Mr Royston Brackin

Mrs Heather Brown (01702 557678)

Mr Malcolm Brown (01702 557678)

Miss Jean Reeve (01702 554907)

Useful information

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

Website: www.hadleighsexurc.org.uk

An invitation

We invite you to join us for worship and fellowship at any of our services where a warm welcome awaits. If you are in need of help that the ministry of the church can supply then be assured of our interest and concern. If you are suffering from ill health, loneliness or bereavement and feel that we could help, or if you would like to ask for a prayer or personal visit then please let our Minister or any of the other church officers know. All such requests are treated in the strictest confidence.

Pentecost

Introduction

Pentecost takes place fifty days after Easter Sunday, marking the end of Eastertide. We hear in the account from the Acts of the Apostles how Jews from all over were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish feast. It is recorded that 120 people, including Mary and the Apostles were in the upper room where they had seen Christ after his resurrection. They had been told by Jesus ten days previous, just before he ascended, to wait there to receive ‘what the father has promised, power from on high’.

On Pentecost Sunday the sound of a mighty wind filled the room, witnesses saw what looked like tongues of fire resting on each person’s head and despite being from different parts of the world they could all communicate and understand to each other.

The Role of the Holy Spirit Today

The Holy Spirit transformed fearful apostles into courage witnesses to Christ. They received the gift to preach the Gospel in all languages and on that day 3,000 people were baptized and converted.

From these humble beginning the Church of Christ spread to every land which is why we consider Pentecost to be the birthday of the Church. Ever since the Holy Spirit has guided and strengthened the Church and still continues to do so today.

Reflection

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity, equal in majesty and power to the father and the son. The Spirit is the vehicle of love between the father, son and us on earth and Jesus sends us the spirit to remind us of ‘what he taught us whilst on earth’. Moved by the Spirit, we can change the face of the earth.

When we ask for the Holy spirit we receive the gifts of the spirit – wisdom; understanding; right judgement; courage; knowledge: reverence and fear of the Lord which work in us to produce the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The Spirit is very much alive and active in our world today. He brings new life into the world and gives many the gifts of prophesy and healing. He reminds the Church of her mission, calling people into service and sending them the necessary gifts to do it.

The Spirit works in our life too. He makes us receptive to God; teaching us to pray and helps us to be there for others. Augustine calls the Holy Spirit “The quiet guest of our soul” so in order to sense his presence we must be still. The more receptive we are to the Spirit in us, the more he comes the master of our life.

From the Diocese of Salford



From the Bible

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

Acts 2 1-11 (NIV)

From the Editor

Welcome to the May edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

This edition contains a second article by Wilf Tyler about the Billy Graham Crusades and a third is waiting in the pipeline. I have also received an article on this subject from Royston, our Church Secretary. These articles will appear in due course.

Further to the article in the March edition about the early history of our church, I have produced a similar article containing two reports from the Southend Standard about our first minister – Rev. Emlyn H. Davies. Although the church opened in 1904, it was not until 1908 that we had our first minister, and we shared him with Pitsea Congregational Church (which no longer exists).

I was very excited when I first discovered these two articles on the British Newspaper Archive website because one of them included a photograph and we do not have a photograph of Rev. Davies in the church archives. However, the online scan of the article was very dark and

the features of Rev. Davies's face were barely discernible. Fortunately, the Echo newspaper group has a large collection of bound volumes of the Standard at their Basildon office. When I went there a few weeks ago, I was able to find the volume containing the relevant edition and to take a photograph of the original page which has produced a photograph of much better quality.

Christian Aid Week falls in May and this year will take place from 13th to 19th May. I have included an article about the event although there will not be a house-to-house collection in Hadleigh this year. We will have a church collection though and hopefully other churches that normally have a collection will do so again.

One or two of the pages in this month's magazine look slightly different to usual. I realised at a very late hour that I had only fifteen pages' worth of material so had to do some rejigging, which resulted in an edition of fourteen pages. Normal service will hopefully be resumed next month!

Malcolm Brown

URC Ministers' Gathering

More than 340 United Reformed Church Ministers and Church Related Community Workers (CRCW) from across the denomination's 13 synods, recently spent four days being inspired and challenged. The URC's first Ministers' Gathering took place at Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre, near Stone in Staffordshire, between 30th April and 3rd May as part of Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today. The gathering offered ministers and CRCWs an opportunity to reflect on their own roles as disciples of Jesus and to consider what it means to serve in a Church that seeks to empower everyone in their call to and participation in missional discipleship.



people, intercultural discipleship, and social media .

Attendees benefitted from an extensive programme that included talks from the two keynote speakers: the Rev. Dr Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury and current Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and the Rev. Dr Peggy Kabonde, General Secretary of the United Church of Zambia. Workshops explored a range of topics such as sustaining ministering in a time of change, prayer when there doesn't seem much point in it, discipling children and young

Sohail Ejaz, Minister of The Cornerstone URC, in Southend-on-Sea, spoke about how much he enjoyed the event. 'I didn't come with high expectations,' he admitted. 'But, by coming here, I can see how many people are in the URC that I haven't met in nine years of ministry. It's good to see we're here, coming together, sharing my story, hearing others' stories and the direction we're heading.'

Videos of the six keynote speeches are available online – visit the YouTube website and search for 'Minister's Gathering'.

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.

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Tue 8 May 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 9 May 2018 - Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church Community Room, Daws Heath from 10.00am to 11.45am.
Sat 12 May 2018 - Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12 noon.
ditto - Community Archive Drop-in at Hadleigh Library. 10.30 to 12 noon.
ditto - 2 nd Thundersley Scouts Jumble Sale at St Peter's Church Hall starting at 1.30pm. Admission 50p..
Thu 17 May 2018 - Poetry Reading Group at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month - WH Auden. Meetings on 3 rd Thu of the month.
Fri 18 May 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 26 May 2018 - Chess at St James from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. Beginners welcome. For more information, phone Colin Melliush on 01702 555291
Sun 27 May 2018 - Artists' Exhibition & Food Market exhibiting local artists' work inside with food stalls and refreshments outside. At Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Free entry.
Sat 2 Jun 2018 - Strawberry Cream Teas at St Michael's Church, Daws Heath from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. In aid of Christian Aid.
ditto - Handicraft Sale at St Michael's Church Hall, Daws Heath from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. In aid of St Peter's & St Michael's churches.
Sat 16 Jun 2018 - Hadleigh Gardening Association Summer Show at Hadleigh Methodist Church Hall from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Admission £1.00.

Wives' Fellowship Programme for May 2018

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 15 th May	2.30pm	Talk: 'Stories of the London Underground' by Brian Billings

Meeting fee £2.00 (first time free) ~ Annual subscription £3.00

Pentecost Praise Café – Sat 19th May 7.00pm

On Saturday 19th May, there will be a special gathering to celebrate the gift and power of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. The event will take place on the evening before Pentecost Sunday and is being publicised as a Pentecost Praise Café. It will be hosted by Hadleigh Methodist Church and will run from 7.00pm to about 9.00pm.

The event is being organised for Churches Together in Hadleigh by Roger Kingston from Hadleigh Methodist Church and all are welcome. Roger describes it as “a relaxed, café-style celebration where we can let God lead us and inspire us to move forward in faith.” Roger is keen to enlist musicians and singers who can offer their skills to enhance proceedings. For further information or to offer your musical or singing skills, please contact Roger on 07818 201039.

1954 Billy Graham Crusade – Wembley and the follow-up

This is the second of three articles by Wilf Tyler written in response to the invitation in the March edition to contribute personal memories of the Billy Graham Crusades.

The purpose of the Harringay Crusade was not only the conversion of unbelievers but also the building of the Christian church in Great Britain generally. To this end, Harringay classes were held for those who wanted to be trained as counsellors to work in their own churches after the Crusade and to teach how to teach others to lead people to Christ.

Lorne Sanay, who ran these classes, expounded on 2 Timothy 2:2 in which Paul was saying to Timothy – ‘don’t bring people to me so that I can lead them to Christ but lead them to Christ yourself. Don’t park your baby on my doorstep. And when you have led them to Christ, teach them how to lead others to Christ. Don’t let them park their babies on your doorstep.’

Read 2 Timothy 2:2 again. This is how the church will grow from generation to generation. Are we ignoring this verse? Is this why church attendances are dropping?

The Harringay Crusade ran for thirteen weeks. After about ten weeks it was announced that the meeting on the final Saturday would be held at Wembley Stadium. The choir were told that at Wembley we would be singing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah. As the time drew near, choir members who had been attending Harringay two or three nights a week began going four or even five nights a week. We wanted to enjoy the experience for as long as possible but we also needed the nightly practice of the Hallelujah Chorus for the Wembley meeting.

It was anticipated that Wembley would be packed with tens of thousands of people and that extra counsellors would be needed. Those of us who had been attending the teaching classes at Harringay were enrolled and given badges as ‘EXTRA RESERVE COUNCILLOR’. We were told to only go out onto the field if we were specifically called out – most of us were in the choir – and given very strict instructions to only counsel someone of our own age and sex.

The final day arrived. Wembley was packed. There were five thousand of us in the choir – imagine the strain on Cliff Burrows, the conductor! When the voices of the tenors (on the far right) reached the basses (on the far left), the basses were already singing the next note. The sermon was gripping. During the closing appeal,

enquirers flooded onto the pitch and, yes, all the extra reserve counsellors were needed and our strict instructions had to be ignored.



Wembley 1954

I was twenty two and the first person who I was told to go to was a delightful lady in her mid-fifties. She was an active Christian in her own church in Somerset. Her church had hired a coach to come up to the final meeting and she had taken the opportunity to experience a Billy Graham Crusade. She came forward at the appeal merely to get details of the literature that we gave to enquirers so that she could contact the printers and get copies for use in her local church.

I was next directed to a group of five boys aged from nine to fourteen and an older one of seventeen. They had all come in a special coach from an orphanage in Sussex. With no reserved seats they had been split into small groups with either a prefect or a staff member, in order that none should get lost in the vast crowd. They were told that, at all costs, they must stick with their prefect or staff member.

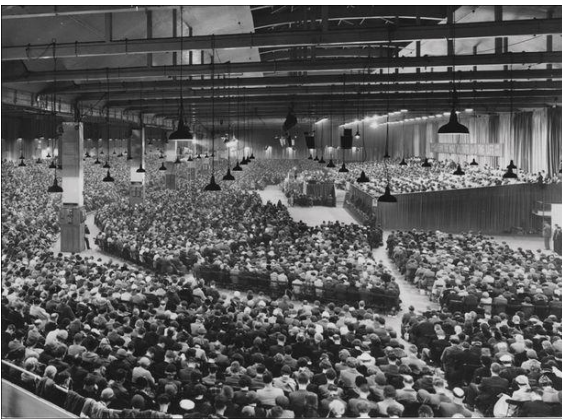
The seventeen-year-old wanted to come forward when the appeal was made. He genuinely wanted to become a Christian. In order to come forward he had to bring the five younger boys with him. He was very intent on giving his life to Christ and as he and I talked and prayed together, the other five stood patiently by. I often wondered if the seventeen-year-old led any of the younger boys to Jesus on the way back to the orphanage on the coach.

When enquirers went forward to be counselled, many of them had some connection with a church – a child going to Sunday School; a teenager going to the youth club etc. Where they had no connection with any church, the Billy Graham

organisation sent their details to a local church where they could find fellowship and be nurtured in their new faith.

When the Crusade was over, meetings of advisers and counsellors were held. We went to one held in a church in East Ham. The aim of the meeting was to enlist volunteers to visit those people who had no connection with a church to make sure that they had been contacted by the local church. As Dad had a car (remember this was 1954), we volunteered to visit some half dozen people who lived in far out Essex villages. In each case we were made very welcome.

In the Spring of 1955, Billy Graham held a Crusade in Scotland at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.



Kelvin Hall 1955

My parents and I took a week's holiday in Glasgow. Taking our choir badges and musical supplements, we were made welcome. We toured Glasgow by day and sang in the choir at the Kelvin Hall each evening. A holiday with a difference!

A film of the Harringay Crusade was made entitled 'Souls in Conflict', which was shown all around the country. After each showing an appeal was made and counsellors were on hand to speak to those who came forward. On the poster advertising the showings was a picture of Billy Graham on the platform at Harringay with part of the choir behind him. My mother had worn a hearing aid on her chest which sparkled in the spotlights and you could see her plainly in the poster. You could also see May, a family friend, sitting next to her.

The film was shown every night for a week at the Ritz Cinema in Southend (where The Royals shopping centre now is). On one night, Joan Winmill, one of the stars of the film, came and spoke after the film had been shown and then made the appeal. My parents were very privileged to bring her home for tea before the evening showing.

Wilf Tyler

Harringay Crusade testimonies – from Crusade magazine June 1955

a business woman

"I had been searching for God a long while... trying to find a way to Him... trying to understand about Him. I had been to many churches and listened to many people.

Quite unexpectedly I found the answer at Harringay. The message was so simple and yet such a challenge I could not ignore it. I just had to decide and after the meeting I received Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

My life has been completely changed and I have found a deep joy that I did not know before. Now my life is positive – no more drifting along. God is guiding me and I know that as long as I obey Him I shall be in the centre of His will. It was at Harringay that I realised that Christianity was not a matter of accepting a theory or set of ideals, but it's the fact that Jesus Christ lives and has taken charge of my life."

a chartered accountant

"As a church official, I asked the person who counselled me after the meeting to record me as one who had reaffirmed his faith. But to my joy and amazement I found, as the days passed after my decision to receive Christ, that my very nature had undergone a transformation. The chains of certain habits, forged in selfishness, had been struck away. My heart overflowed with prayer and praise, the Bible, once dry and uninteresting, leapt into life for me – I had never known such happiness before.

What happened? My eyes opened through God's Word; 'Behold,' says Jesus, 'I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door I will come in.... If any man be in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, all things are become new.'

Mine was no reaffirmation of faith. Previously I had given mental acknowledgment to these promises, but now, having received the Son of God for the first time, God's plan of salvation became a living reality."

Rev. Emlyn H. Davies

Two reports from the Southend Standard about our first minister

Thursday 12th August 1909 – Page 10

The Rev. Emlyn H. Davies, B.A., B.D., who has accepted the invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational churches of Hadleigh and Pitsea, will take up his residence at Hadleigh and begin his ministry on Sept. 5th. Mr. Davies is a native of Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire. He received his early education in that town and in the village of Talybont, Cardiganshire, where his uncle was schoolmaster. At the elementary school of Talybont, Mr. Davies passed several examinations in elementary science, and prepared for the matriculation examination of the University of London. From school he was apprenticed to a chemist, and in that business he spent about four years, of which six months were passed in London. After leaving the elementary school, Mr. Davies matriculated by private study, in the London University at the age of sixteen, and when later he sought an entrance into the Congregational College at Bangor, he was admitted, being placed first on the list of new students. Three years were spent at Bangor, where Mr. Davies studied at the University College and gained the degree of B.A. in the University of Wales.

Mr Davies was desirous, from the commencement of his ministerial career, to labour in the foreign mission field, and with that object in view, he some few months after leaving Bangor entered New College, London, Here Mr. Davies had a successful course; gaining college prizes, passing the Intermediate B.D. examination in the first division. In 1904 he gained the B.D. degree of the University of London, In 1905 he was appointed to Calcutta under the London Missionary Society, and he sailed for India in the autumn of that year (having visited Hadleigh before sailing). But events proved that he was not to remain in the foreign field. After a bad attack of fever in the first year, he had a serious breakdown of health in the spring of 1907. He was ordered three months' complete rest and change of climate, and, accordingly, proceeded to Mussoorie, North India, to recuperate. Afterwards, he resumed work again in Calcutta, but was forced again to abandon it, and this time under medical advice to return home to England at once. That was just two years ago, and after prolonged rest, Mr. Davies' health has been by this time thoroughly re-established.

In the meantime he decided to seek a settlement in the English ministry at home. He came to London in January of this year, and in February he visited Hadleigh. Since then, as is known, the Congregational churches of Hadleigh and Pitsea have amalgamated to form one ministry; the scheme being approved by the Essex County Union, and Mr. Davies has accepted the unanimous invitation which was sent to him to become the pastor.



Thursday 18th November 1909 – Page 8

A new epoch was marked in the history of Congregationalism in Hadleigh and Pitsea on Tuesday, when, at the former church, the recognition services of the Rev. Emlyn H. Davies, B.A., B.D., as minister of the Hadleigh and Pitsea Congregational Churches, were held. The proceedings opened with a service in the afternoon. Tea followed in the small hall, and in the evening a largely attended public meeting was held. The Reverend Edward Hamilton (late of Cliff Town Church, Southend), presided, and he was supported by Revs. Professor H. T. Andrews B.A. (of New College), T. Rees Richards (Chairman of the Union), D. Ewart James, M.A., Emlyn H. Davies, H. J. Howell, T. Davies, Roberts Moxley, Col. Laurie, Ald. J. H. Burrows, J.P., Mr Archibald Davies, B.A. (tutor of Mansfield College, Oxford), Messrs. T. Dowsett, J.P., Herbert J. Mitchell (Church Secretary), J. Chapman and J. Cook (Pitsea).

The Chairman commenced his address by saying that they had no conception of what joy, pleasure and privilege it was for him to be present at the gathering. They could not understand the feelings he had as he stood there that evening. It seemed that a strange parenthesis had taken place in his life. Some of them might

not know that it was through his instrumentality that this little cause was formed. He could look back upon his life at Southend, and recalled that one evening Mr. Mitchell called upon him and asked him to help form a church and do some work at Hadleigh. (Applause). Rev. Hamilton proceeded to recall the names of those assisting in the establishment of the church.

The Rev. H. T. Andrews then proceeded to give an address upon "Congregational Principles." In the course of his remarks, he said he did not think a more gracious and kindly spirit left their college for many years than Mr. Davies. They all loved him at New College, and he was a man of a lovable nature. He urged them to take him to their hearts. A pastor's first ministry either made or marred him, therefore, it was a great exchange of trusts they were making.

Mr H. J. Mitchell, before making a statement on behalf of the churches, read several letters of apology for absence. He then went on to say that it was befitting the occasion Mr. Hamilton should occupy the chair at that meeting, as it took them back some six years, for it was he who heard the voice of the crying in the wilderness that the Congregationalists of Hadleigh had no building in which to worship. They also recalled those who so generously helped in starting the work, the late Mr. Thomas Dowsett, and Mr. Talbot Hart (first church treasurer). The first sermon, he said, was preached on June 20, 1904, and he then went on to speak of the different institutions in connection with the church. In the Sunday School they had 130 scholars, and they also had a P.S.A. [Pleasant Sunday Afternoon], Total Abstinence Society, Working Party, Young People's Meetings, Penny Bank, with a total of 157 depositors, Women's Thrift Slate Club, and Men's Slate Club, with over 100 members. They also had a branch of I.B.R.A. [International Bible Reading Association] and other useful institutions. Their services had been well attended and rendered more helpful by the choir. The total membership was 64, five members having joined during the year. It was most gratifying to the officials of the church when, in 1908, a grant was readily made to enable them to seek a pastor. When it was known that Pitsea was about to lose its pastor, the Rev. D. Ewart James suggested that the two churches should unite, and this was agreed upon. Mr. Davies was not quite a stranger, as he occupied their pulpit in 1904, and after he had attended both churches it was the unanimous wish that he should be invited to the pastorate. It was on September 5th that he

commenced his ministry. Although they had property of £1,200 they had a debt of £30 due to the bank, but after a strong effort and a two days' fete, the debt was cleared off, so that their minister would not have any worry on that account. In the name of the Church he thanked Mr. James and those at Cliff Town Church, and others, for what they had done, also the New College. In conclusion, he was pleased to say that that already there were marked signs of awakening in the church and they trusted and believed that they would have a prosperous future.

The Rev. T. Rees Richards followed with an address of welcome, on behalf of the Essex Congregational Union, and the Rev. Dr. Ewart James also spoke.

Alderman J. H. Burrows said the first remark he wished to make was one to themselves, in that he called upon them to recognise that there was coming to Hadleigh a gentleman. (Hear, hear). Also, they had a cultured and Christian gentleman coming to reside amongst them. He proceeded to throw out suggestions to Mr. Davies which would lead to success.

The Rev. Emlyn H. Davies was greeted with loud applause upon rising to speak. He commenced by saying the remarks he had to make were strictly personal. Four years ago he sailed down the Thames from London to Calcutta, and in the summer of 1907, he returned to England, owing to the failure of his health. It was a great experience to go out to India, but it was a harder task to return home than go out. In Calcutta medical advice was that he should return to England at once. That day his health was restored, but why had he not returned to India? Because he thought his work was at home. The burden of his message was "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." His ideal of a Christian was that he should represent the perfect type of manhood. For his own part, he had no fear as to the outcome of the battle for the Scriptures. He had accepted the call as the call of God, and he would need their prayers in his work. As a Congregational minister, he believed Congregationalism approached nearer the ideal than any other body of Christian beliefs.

Addresses were also given by Messrs. W. Archibald Davies, B.A., and T. Dowsett; and the choir sang the anthems, "Lift up your heads," and "Thine, O Lord is the greatness."

The collection amounted to £10 2s 2½d and the singing of the Doxology and the pronouncing of the Blessing, by the Chairman closed the meeting.

Family News

Stan Balls funeral

As reported last month, Stan passed away on 2nd April, at the age of 82. His funeral was held on Friday 27th April at Southend Crematorium and the service was led by Rev. Peter Brewer, who knew Stan from his time as minister at our church.

Malcolm and Heather Brown and Royston Brackin attended the funeral and I (Malcolm) had the privilege of taking part in the service by reading several messages including one from Stan's wife, Brenda, and one from daughter, Samantha. I hope to include an obituary for Stan in the June magazine.

A Pentecost Prayer

When was the last time we heard the wind of your Spirit roar through this place?
When was the last time your fire lit up this room?
When was the last time we took you at your word
and met together in expectation of your Spirit filling this place, and these lives with
your Glory and Power?

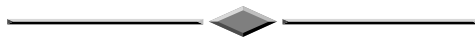
Lord, you challenge us with Pentecost.

Do we believe that this was a once in eternity experience, never to be repeated?
That the Holy Spirit was poured out on your followers for a single purpose, and
ended His work at that instant?
If so, then maybe that is why the Church seems so powerless in this age,
helpless when faced with the spiritual and physical needs that we see in the world.

Lord, as we meet together, and celebrate once again the memory of that first
Pentecost,
may it be for us as it was then a moment of empowerment, an awareness of your
Glory in this dark world, a life changing experience.

Amen

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



Christian Aid Week 2018

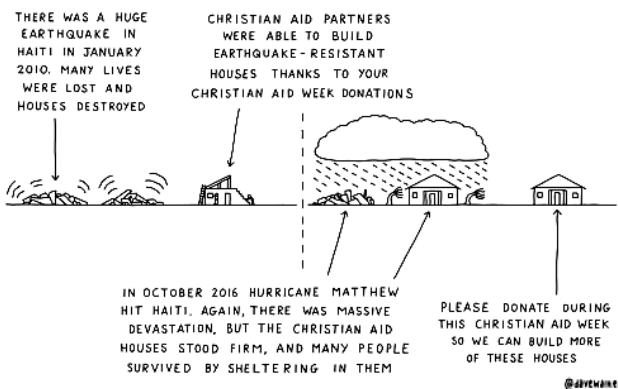


Christian Aid Week 2018 runs from Sunday 13th to Saturday 19th May. Sadly, there will be no house-to-house collection in Hadleigh this year as I retired from that after last year's collection and no-one else has come forward to continue it. However, the usual collection will be held with envelopes handed out on Sunday 13th and collected the following Sunday or as soon as possible thereafter. Envelopes will be available in the church foyer for anyone who visits the church at other times.

This year's Christian Aid Week is highlighting the plight of the millions of people displaced around the world, but who remain within their own countries. Today, more than 40 million people are internally displaced by conflict, accounting for approximately two thirds of those who find themselves forced from their homes. A further 24 million were displaced by disasters in 2016 alone. Yet, because they haven't crossed a border, the general public rarely hear about them. Despite the huge number of people affected, situations of internal displacement receive almost no political attention, funding or support.

In Haiti, thousands of people regularly experience some of the worst natural disasters on earth. The country is one of the poorest in the world, and a high number of its inhabitants live in precarious houses or have been uprooted from their homes entirely, making them especially vulnerable when another disaster strikes. More than seven years on from the devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince in 2010, an estimated 38,000 people are still displaced. In November 2016, Hurricane Matthew wreaked yet more havoc across the southern coast of the country, killing 546 people and destroying homes, businesses and infrastructure. Up to 90% of some areas were destroyed.

THE EARTHQUAKE-RESISTANT HOUSE



Vilia was left homeless by the earthquake in 2010 and her mother was killed. Bereaved and homeless, for Vilia, her husband and their seven children, life became a struggle. They didn't even have a safe place to sleep. Christian Aid's local partner, KORAL, helps local people prepare for disasters. In the aftermath of the earthquake, it reached out to Vilia and built her and her family a new home, that was safe, stable and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters.

Ahead of Hurricane Matthew, KORAL was able to warn local communities, helping to evacuate around 5,000 families and saving many lives. In the immediate

aftermath Christian Aid and KORAL distributed urgently-needed shelter materials, hygiene products such as soap, food seeds and cash, so people could buy other items that they really needed. Disaster-resistant homes were built, giving people safe, secure places to live. Of the dozens built before the hurricane hit, only one lost its roof in the disaster, and Vilia's home was able to shelter 54 people over several days following the hurricane.

Those who attended the April Midweek Service (sadly, only four people!) watched a video about Vilia and this can be viewed on YouTube – search for 'Vilia's storm'. (There are two versions – one with subtitles and one with an English voiceover.)

If you live in Hadleigh and would like to donate but don't attend the church then I will gladly deliver an envelope if you phone me on 01702 557678. The fundraising for Christian Aid Week does not formally end until mid-July so if anyone would like to organise an event there is still time. In May, the third coffee morning of the month at which I run a bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid happens to fall in Christian Aid Week (17th May) so it would be good if people could support that to make it a bumper month.

On Saturday 2nd June, St Michael's Church in Daws Heath are holding their usual Strawberry Cream Tea for Christian Aid. (As an extra attraction, a Handicraft Sale in aid of St Michael's church funds will be held at the same time.)

Malcolm Brown

From the Moderator's Blog 'Mission Council – Mission Possible!'

Kevin Watson and I have just surfaced from our last Mission Council as General Assembly (GA) Moderators. The next time we attend in November we will be 'has beens', or as the church politely calls us – Immediate Past Moderators!



Rev. Kevin Watson and Alan Yates at their induction in 2016

This Mission Council is the last one before the 2018 General Assembly, and as such we were refining a number of papers and honing the resolutions in order to try to smooth their passage through General Assembly; and now the General Secretary and the Assembly Committees are putting the final touches to the papers that will end up in the Book of Reports.

This was a poignant meeting for us as it signals our term as GA Moderators is drawing to a close. But it was also for a number of other people. As some Assembly posts naturally come to an end at each Assembly the list of people for whom this was their last Mission Council was humbling – you know who you are ... and thanks for your years of dedicated service.

Alan and I have just surfaced from our last Mission Council as General Assembly Moderators. And if you think you have just read that already, no, you haven't as it is now Kevin writing so it's the other way round! But how much the other way round?

I am making the point of how well Alan and I have dovetailed together as a team of moderators (there probably is an appropriate collective noun for moderators). So, much so, there have been times when we have been totally interchangeable and it has hardly been noticeable. Though we are both men of a certain age and both from the North East, our characters and gifting, interests and experience are very different. This has been invaluable in taking on the privilege of being General Assembly Moderator – we have built on each other's strengths and made up for each other's weaknesses. It seems that together, and only together can you see why God needed us in the role at this time and place. But it could have come all unstuck, if we had not trusted and valued each other.

This is the message for the body of Christ, and from our part of the body, the United Reformed Church. Now is the time we should be working together, in each of our separate councils, and committees, churches and communities, synods and nations – and also between them, a unity of spirit and service, a heart of trust and respect. If we are the body of Christ – it needs the mind of Christ, so "If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favour: agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself." (Philippians 2:1-5)

Blessings,

Kevin & Alan

Posted on 24th March 2018

General Assembly 2018

The next General Assembly meets in the Albert Hall, Nottingham, from Friday 6th to Monday 9th July. The Moderators-elect are Rev. Nigel Uden, Minister of Downing Place URC (uniting Emmanuel URC and St Columba's URC) in Cambridge, and Derek Estill, Elder at Westbury Gardens URC in Blackburn.

Computer Corner

Principles of Reformed Worship

**Interesting
download**

The text (in Word format) of a talk by Rev. David Cornick. A very detailed article with lots of historical background explaining about why we worship and why we worship in the way that we do.

URL: <https://downingplaceurc.org/david-cornicks-talk-principles-reformed-worship>

My Classic Boat. Finesse 24. 1969

**Interesting
video**

A film about Nick and Christobel Ardley from Daws Heath and their classic boat, Whimbrel, a Finesse 24. The boat was built in Daws Heath by Alan Platt. Nick has written an article on the Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive about his sailing life that includes a photo of Alan and his former boatyard – visit www.hadleighhistory.org.uk and search for 'Daws heath boat builder'.

Nick has also written several books about growing up on a boat and sailing the local creeks. The latest one is entitled 'Rochester to Richmond: A Thames Estuary Sailor's View'. For more information, visit www.nickardley.com.

URL: <https://vimeo.com/199464239>

Belarc Advisor

**Useful
free
software**

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Download from: https://www.belarc.com/products_belarc_advisor

Word Search – Water fowl

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ALBATROSS
AVOCET
CORMORANT
CURLEW
EGRET
FULMAR
GANNET
HERON
KITTIWAKE
MOORHEN
PETREL
PUFFIN
RAZORBILL
SEAGULL
SHEARWATER
SKIMMER
SKUA
SNIPE
TERN
WHIMBREL

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY 2018

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday 1 st	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 3 rd	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 6 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Rev. John Ambrose Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mrs Janette Stevens
Monday 7 th	No session - BH	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 8 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Wednesday 9 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 10 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 13 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mrs Machrina Ejaz
Monday 14 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 15 th	9.30am - 11.00am 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives' Fellowship – Mr Brian Billings Talk: 'Stories of the London Underground'
Thursday 17 th	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 20 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant
Monday 21 st	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 22 nd	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 24 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Midweek Service – Mrs Heather Brown
Sunday 27 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Roger Brett
Monday 28 th	No session - BH	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 29 th	No session - half term	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 31 st	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

Trees

“The trees are coming into leaf
 Like something almost being said;
 The recent buds relax and spread,
 Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again
 And we grow old? No, they die too,
 Their yearly trick of looking new
 Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh
 In fullgrown thickness every May.
 Last year is dead, they seem to say,
 Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.”

Philip Larkin