

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

July & August 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

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



The United Reformed Church (URC) began in 1972 by a union between the Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church of England - hence United. The Union has since been extended to include the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ, which joined in 1981, and the Congregation Union of Scotland, which joined in 2001.

The description 'Reformed' refers to the doctrine of the church, which derives from the Reformation of the 16th century. There is a full Statement of Belief in the Basis of Union determined by the Act of Parliament in 1972. Briefly, however, it may be stated thus:

- We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that the Word of God in the Old and the New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people.
- We believe that Jesus Christ, born into this world, living as a man among men, dying upon the cross, raised from the dead and reigning for evermore, is God's gift of himself to the world whereby his love and mercy are revealed, offering to all men forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life.
- We believe that the Church is God's people, gathered by his love to serve Him in reconciling the world to Himself.

The URC is governed by God acting through its members who are guided by the Holy Spirit in their councils – the Elders' Meeting, the Church Meeting, the provincial Synod and the General Assembly. Local churches belong to an Area Partnership (AP), which meets approximately twice a year. At Hadleigh, we belong to the South Essex Area Partnership, which is part of the Eastern Synod.

HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS

Minister:

Vacancy

Hon. Secretary:

Mr Royston Brackin (01702 558862)

Acting Hon. Treasurer:

Mr Royston Brackin

Elders: (* denotes Serving Elder)

Mr Royston Brackin*

Mrs Heather Brown*

Mr Malcolm Brown*

Miss Jean Reeve*

Mr Keith Gargrave, Mrs Mary Milne,
Mrs Sylvia Patten

Elder 'emeritus': Rev. Peter Brewer

Each Serving Elder has a list of Church members and adherents for whom they have a pastoral responsibility. Please speak to your Elder if you have any problems, news etc.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address: 1 Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, SS7 2DQ

Website: www.hadleighessexurc.org.uk

URC website: www.urc.org.uk

URC Eastern Synod Office contact info:

Address: Synod Office, The United Reformed Church,
Whittlesford, Cambridge, CB2 4ND

Tel no: 01223 830770 E-mail: eastern.admin@urc.org.uk

Website: www.urc-eastern.org.uk

An invitation...

If you are not currently connected with this church or any other place of worship then we assure you of a warm welcome at our services. *Why not join us next Sunday or at our monthly midweek service?*

If you are in need of help that the ministry of the church can supply then you can 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 any of the church officers know. All such requests are treated in the strictest confidence.

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JULY 2018

Sun 1 st Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Major Geoff Ashdown
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 8 th Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Keith McCullough
Sun 15 th Jul	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Jack Roche MA
Sun 22 nd Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
Thu 26 th Jul	10.30am	Midweek Service	Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 29 th Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Major Alan Bennett

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR JULY 2018

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

FLOWER ROTA FOR JULY 2018

Sun 1 st Jul	Vera Knapton - in memory pf Phil's birthday
Sun 8 th Jul	
Sun 15 th Jul	Pamela George - in memory of Colin
Sun 22 nd Jul	
Sun 29 th Jul	

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 11 th Jul 7.30pm

CHURCH MEETING

Thu 19 th Jul 12.30pm



Genesis 39:19-23

When his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, "This is the way your servant treated me," he became enraged. And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison.

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favour in the sight of the chief jailer. The chief jailer committed to Joseph's care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The chief jailer paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph's care, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUGUST 2018

Sun 5 th Aug	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Jim Tarrant MA Mth
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Dave Bigmore
Sun 12 th Aug	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
Sun 19 th Aug	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mr Wilf Tyler
Thu 23 rd Aug	10.30am	Midweek Service	CANCELLED
Sun 26 th Aug	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Machrina Ejaz

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR AUGUST 2018

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

FLOWER ROTA FOR AUGUST 2018

Sun 5 th Aug	Jean Reeve - in memory of her parent's wedding anniversary
Sun 12 th Aug	
Sun 19 th Aug	Vera Knapton - in memory of her mother's birthday
Sun 26 th Aug	

ELDERS' MEETING

No meeting in August

CHURCH MEETING

No meeting in August



Devotion based on Genesis 39:19-23 by Ann Brooke, Elsted URC

Bad things happen to good people, bad people, and all the people in between. Just because we're Christians doesn't mean to say we won't go through horrendous times when it seems everything and everyone is against us. Here, Joseph is blamed for something he didn't do at all. As a result, he is imprisoned and it must seem as if everything is all over for him and that even God has deserted him. Injustices can be very difficult to bear!

However, God is with Joseph always, and brings good things out of his bad circumstances. Joseph has the chance to improve his skills in both project and people management in a way he never expected – and this experience will prove very useful to him in the times ahead. God always has a plan and uses everything to bring that plan to fruition for Joseph and for all of us, no matter what is happening in our lives.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that You are always with us, no matter how awful our circumstances might be. Help us to trust that You will bring good out of evil, and use us for Your glory. *Amen*

A reflection on suffering

The season of trinity keeps us in a steady furrow for a long time in the church's year. But the world continues to have its own ups and downs and sometimes we need to upset our well-trodden routine if we are to address these matters.

At a recent funeral for the tragic death of a young man, his mother asked me: 'What has my son done to deserve this?' 'Nothing,' I replied, 'absolutely nothing.' We live in a material world which makes a lottery of our lives. There is a very powerful temptation for both religious and non-religious to over-determine that material world, the former taking it that sickness and tragedy are the weapons of God, and the latter thinking that it shows there is no God.

The disciples of Jesus were supporters of the idea that those who were sick and those who passed away in some tragedy or other were paying the price for their wrong-doing. When the tower of Siloam fell and killed passers-by the disciples considered them to be deserving of death as particularly sinful individuals but our lord firmly rejected this notion. Jesus made a similar denial in the case of the man born blind from birth in John's gospel where the disciples thought that either he or his parents must have sinned and his blindness was the punishment.

This monstrous idea that sickness and tragedy are the punishment for sin is hard to eradicate and is still with us today. What always puzzles me about this is that a moment's thought will show that Jesus spent much of his ministry healing the sick. If therefore people were ill as a punishment for wrong-doing our lord would have been working in denial of his father's will.

We must take it from the work of Christ that far from meeting out sickness and tragic death as divine punishment God is in fact on the side of the sufferer. This makes it a sad state of affairs when many people dismiss the idea of the Christian religion because they see so much suffering in the world.

In fact, our lord spent his time working to remedy that suffering which simply occurs because we live in a material world and matter is not perfect, containing within it the seeds of its own destruction, whether sooner or later.

The other point, of course, is that not only did Jesus work against the suffering of the world but to those who were so unfortunate as to be its victims in death he promised a better world to which they would go.

To the thief dying beside him on the cross he promised to be with him in paradise that same day. To Martha, the grieving sister of Lazarus, he promised that he was indeed the resurrection and the life. He even took his three favourite disciples: Peter James and John, to the top of the mountain producing before them Moses and Elijah to prove to them that death was not the end.

There was therefore no question of desert in the case of the grieving mother who had lost her son at the funeral to which I made reference at the beginning of this talk. Instead, there was the assurance from Christ, who worked against tragedy during his earthly ministry, that her son lived and that death was not the end.

Rev. Jim Tarrant



From the Bible

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. – *Romans 8:31-39 (NIV)*

From the Editor

Welcome to the combined July and August edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

This edition contains a reflection by Jim Tarrant, an article about a recent holiday to Wiltshire by Vera Knapton and an article by Diane Pinnock about Laurel and Hardy in Southend. I am grateful to all three contributors. I have written short reports on Christian Aid Week and our anniversary celebrations.

In last month's Computer Corner I mentioned the URC's Daily Devotions. These were also mentioned on Songs of Praise on Sunday 24th

June when the theme was 'The Power of Prayer'. The item included interviews with Andy Braunston, the Co-ordinator, and Rev, Dr Susan Durber, one of the writers. The programme is still available on iPlayer. I have included an example of one of the devotions at the bottom of pages for preaching arrangements and rotas for July and August.

Finally, as promised in last month's magazine, I have included the first of several forthcoming articles about Holy Habits.

Malcolm Brown

In the April edition of the magazine June Gargrave mentioned that her husband Keith and Mike Barker (whose obituary appeared in that edition) would perform together at Thundersley Congregational Church, I have since discovered a cutting in the Echo archive dated 14th April 1966 about a performance of Handel's Messiah in which they both sang.



Bible Incomplete: Fill in the missing letters to complete the passage

Keep _hy fo_t whe_ thou _oest _o the _ouse _f God, _nd be _ore r_ady
t_ hear, _han t_ give _he sa_rifi_e of f_ols: f_r the_ cons_der n_t
tha_ they _o evi_. Be no_ rash _ith t_y mou_h, and _et no_ thin_ hear_
be ha_ty to _tter _ny th_ng be_ore G_d: for _od is _n hea_en, an_ thou
_pon e_rth: t_eref_re le_ thy w_rds b_ few. (KJV)

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 July 2018

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 10 th Jul	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Afternoon Tea Party

A message from Kay, Leader of the Wives' Fellowship

The autumn session will commence on Tuesday 11th September with 'An Afternoon with Vera and Mel'. This will be held at the home of Vera Knapton at 31 St John's Road, Hadleigh, SS7 2PZ and will start at the usual time of 2.30pm. Vera's niece, Mel, will be visiting from Australia and it will no doubt be an entertaining experience. The words 'once met, never forgotten' spring to mind!

Many thanks to members for your support over the first part of 2018. I hope that you will enjoy the summer break and that the lovely weather continues.

Kay Watson

Church 114th Anniversary

We celebrated the 114th Anniversary of the founding of our church on Sunday 10th June. The morning service was led by Rev. John Ambrose and our evening service by Rev. Jim Tarrant. We thank John and Jim for their support. The evening service was preceded at 5.00pm by the Anniversary Tea, held in the Small Hall. There were a number of guests at the tea, including our former minister, Rev. Jack Roche, Rev. Ruth Lawrence and Rev. Christine Robinson from St James and St Barnabas, plus lay representatives from other churches and other friends. It was especially nice to have a sizeable congregation for the evening service to which a few other people came, including Rev. Derek Kingston and his wife, Leng. During the evening service we were treated to a lovely rendition of 'All in the April evening' by Sue Bialy, who attended with Brenda Balls.

Some photos from the Anniversary Tea



Jim & Sue, Jack, Ann, Jim, Sue & Eddie, Paul, Mark



Christine, John & Valerie, Christine, Ruth, Diane & Mark



Brenda, Jill & Fred, Roger, Royston, Sue



Brenda, Vera, Mary, Norma



About 35 people enjoyed the tea but not all were seated for this photo!



Emily & Derek, Esther

Grateful thanks are owed to all those who helped with the tea but particularly to Jean Reeve, Kay Watson and Heather Brown who prepared the food and laid the tables and to Doreen Churchill who helped afterwards.

Malcolm Brown

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Wed 11 Jul 2018	- Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church Community Room, Daws Heath from 10.00am to 11.45am.
Sat 14 Jul 2018	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12 noon.
	ditto - Hadleigh & Daws Heath Councillors' Surgery in Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 10.00am to 12 noon.
	ditto - Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon. Bring along old photos and documents for scanning or chat about your memories of the area.
	ditto - Beat and Beans Café at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. With music from U3A Ukulele Group. Beverages and snacks.
	ditto - Daws Heath Village Fayre at St Michael's Church Field from 12.30pm to 4.00pm. Entrance by donation.
	ditto - The Orpheus Singers Summer Concert at the SA Hadleigh Temple. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00 (conc. £9.00) - phone 07518 382390.
Tue 17 Jul 2018	- International cricket - Lashings World XI versus Hadleigh & Thundersley CC XI at John H. Burrows Recreation Ground.
Thu 19 Jul 2018	- Poetry Reading Group at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month - Christina Rossetti. Meetings on 3 rd Thu of the month.
Fri 20 Jul 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.
Sun 22 Jul 2018	- Castle Point Show at Waterside Farm Showground, Canvey Island, from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Admission £1.00, under 16s free.
Sat 28 Jul 2018	- St Barnabas Church Summer Market from 10.30am to 12.30pm. With stalls, raffle, refreshments and live music from The Yardarm Folk Orchestra and the St Barnabas Community Singers.
	ditto - Chess at St James the Less from 2.00pm to 4.30pm in St James the Less Church Vestry. Beginners welcome. Phone Colin on 01702 555291.
Sat 11 Aug 2018	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12 noon.
	ditto - Hadleigh & Daws Heath Councillors' Surgery in Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 10.00am to 12 noon.
	ditto - Beat and Beans Café at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Live music with beverages and snacks.
Thu 16 Aug 2018	- Poetry Reading Group at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month - Edward Thomas. Meetings on 3 rd Thu of the month.
Sat 18 Aug 2018	- Hadleigh Heritage Coffee Morning & Talk at St James the Less Church. Talk - 'The History of Stibbards, Family Undertakers' by Martin Stibbards. Coffee served from 10.30am. Talk starts at 11.00am. Free.
Sat 25 Aug to Mon 27 Aug 2018	- Hadleigh Old Fire Station Open Studios Weekend from 10.00am to 5.00pm each day. With film night, artists' workshops/demos, music etc.
Sun 2 Sep 2018	- Hadleigh Community Summer Fayre at John H. Burrows Recreation Ground from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

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

The Holy Habit of Worship

If a 'Holy Habit' is a way of living out and developing our discipleship, then the 'Holy Habit' of worship should be the one that comes most easily to us – we all go to church on a Sunday! Well, most weeks, maybe! But is turning up at church most Sundays really having a 'Holy Habit' of worship?

If we define what we do on a Sunday in church as worship and take Acts 2 verse 4 – “*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*” – as our definition, then gathering together to hear a sermon, prayer, have a natter over coffee, and on occasions share in communion is worship. But as we go through the 'Holy Habits' we will see that there are a number of 'Holy Habits' included in this definition. We could, therefore, say that by going to church every Sunday for worship covers all the bases. But when it comes to living daily as disciples of Jesus – the challenge of 'Walking the Way' – then just doing Sundays does not fully embrace this. So, we have to think differently about the things we have ingrained working definitions for within the church. And worship is one such term.

So what if we framed our definition of worship more in line with the words of Moses to the Israelites as reported Deuteronomy 6:4-5 – “*Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might*”¹? Worship becomes something subtly different, but not quite as easy to interpret as the list of activities we are encouraged to do by the book of Acts when we gather together.

So how should we understand worship through the lens of these words accredited to Moses? Well let's go back to one of the documents that was formative to our tradition: the Westminster Shorter Catechism. We might wonder how a document written between 1646 and 1647 can help us reshape our understanding of worship and make it a 'Holy Habit', but it begins with a statement that echoes those words of Moses: The chief end of man (or humanity) is to glorify God.

To glorify means to offer praise and thanksgiving, to revere and to extol all things that we would probably consider to be part of what we do when we gather for worship. But to what end are these our main consideration when we approach that Sunday act of worship? Do we ever ask ourselves

where was our praise of God today? And what about our thanksgiving? Have you ever left church considering what collectively brought us before God reverently in that act of worship?

Much of what we do on a Sunday in worship does not immediately stand out as us spending time glorifying God, because actually that hour is often much more about ourselves than God. It is often an hour dedication more to us learning about and listening for God. However, to live out a life that glorifies God, we need that time when we are educated in what that means and gives us the space with others to reflect on how we extol God in a world which misses that God is present within it.

Therefore, our gathering together on a Sunday for 'worship' is only one step in making worship a 'Holy Habit'. For the glorification of God be our chief aim, we have to keep doing this as part of our whole lives. This means taking what we learn and glimpse on a Sunday and applying it to everything else we do in our daily lives. As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians (in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18): “*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*” And this means remembering to offer words of praise and thanksgiving in our daily prayers. It means remembering to look at the world around us not as something to be down-hearted about but as something to be in awe of. It means remembering that in all that we do, all that we say, we should be seeking to revere God. The opening and closing verses of John Monsell's epiphany hymn sum this up nicely:

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim:
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness
bring and adore him, the Lord is his name.*

To conclude: to make worship a 'Holy Habit' we do need to go to church regularly and be a part of a corporate act of worship. However, what we do on a Sunday is only the start of it, praise and thanksgiving to God need to be part of everything we do, for all that we do should actively seek to glorify God. And that can be as difficult as 'rejoicing always' and as simple as remembering the words of a hymn of praise and making them your own in that moment.

Elaine S Colechin

That's Another Fine Mess You've Gotten Me Into

Readers may remember the title catchphrase from TV screenings of old Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy films. The two men remain one of cinema's greatest comedy duos but did you know that they visited, stayed and performed in Southend for one week in August 1952?

The duo made their first appearance together in a 1920 silent film called Lucky Dog. Their comedy team was formed during the silent movie era and when the talkies arrived in the late 1920s, they made a successful transition to sound comedy. Their initial success was in the 'short' films that lasted 20 minutes but they progressed into feature length films, making 106 films together.

In 1947, Bernard Delfont wanted to book an American act to tour the UK, initially for 12 weeks. He invited Laurel and Hardy to perform as part of a variety tour. They received a tremendous reception wherever they went and the tour lasted 15 months during which time they even appeared in the Royal Variety Show.

Stan and Ollie were both delighted to return to the UK for extensive tours in 1952 and 1953-4. It was to be the Indian summer of their careers. Advance publicity in the local papers, announced the forthcoming appearance of Laurel and Hardy at the Odeon Southend for their week's performance.

During their stay at the Palace Hotel, they were asked to attend a buffet lunch and present lapel badges to managers and usherettes of local cinemas. Today there is a plaque in the reception of the Palace Hotel commemorating their visit.



Plaque in Palace Hotel (Photo: Trevor Bell)

More recently, "Laurel and Hardy" have been back visiting the pier to open a new pop-up shop within a beach hut at the end of Southend Pier. I have a license to sell various Laurel and Hardy merchandise and decided to offer it through the pop-up shop, which is open every day until Sunday 2nd September. The shop holds a range of gifts and souvenirs including t-shirts, mugs, caps, postcards, novelty items, prints poster, aprons and tea towels and there are more items online at www.laurelandhardygifts.com.

SOUTHEND STANDARD, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1952. 3

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, for 1 Day Only (Doors Open 4.30): June Allyson, Glenn Ford, Van Johnson, Tom Drake, TWO GIRLS AND A SAILOR (1) And FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAMME

AUGUST 4th ONE WEEK ONLY	HERE IN PERSON	TWICE NIGHTLY 8.30 & 6.40 Matinee Mon. and Sat. at 5.26
BERNARD DELFONT presents Hollywood's Greatest Comedy Couple		
STAN LAUREL	 The Famous Comedians in an Uproarious Sketch	OLIVER HARDY
LORRAINE Singing "Carrousel"	THE GREAT GINGALEE The Silent Man of Mystery in Wonders of the East	JIMMIE ELLIOTT B.B.C. ANIMAL MIMICRY ARCHIE ELRAY and Company in a Ventriloquial Scopa
LORRAINE Singing "Carrousel"	MARGARITA REID & DOROTHY AND ANTHONY CRADOCK THE RENEGATIONAL AERIAL KENWAYS	

CIRCLE and STALLS 5/-, 3/6 and 2/- (incl. tax). All Seats Bookable
Booking Office New Open (Tel. 44433), 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily (closed Sunday)

1952 Southend Standard advert

Stan and Ollie performed a 30-minute act called 'A Spot of Trouble' in which they find themselves stranded on a railway station having missed the last train. It was well-received to packed houses.



The opening of my new pop-up shop

The shop was officially opened on Saturday 9th June by The Worshipful the Mayor of Southend-on-Sea, Derek Jarvis, and Madam Mayoress Valerie Jarvis.

Stan Laurel died on 23rd February 1965 and Oliver Hardy on 7th of August 1957. However, the appeal of Laurel and Hardy is still thriving. Their movies are shown in cinemas throughout the UK and are currently being screened on Talking Pictures, Virgin 445, Freeview 81, Sky 343, Freesat 306 and Youview 81.

A new movie is due to be released in January 2019 which tells the story of their final tour in 1953. Steve Coogan will play Stan Laurel and John C. Reilly will play alongside him as Oliver Hardy. The film is produced by Fable Pictures, written by Jeff Pope and directed by Jon Baird.

Celebrity fans of Laurel and Hardy include Mark Hamill, Stephen Fry, Matt Lucas, Lee Mack, Rob Bryden and Philip Schofield to name just a few.

Diane Pinnock

Editor's note: Readers may be interested to know that there is a very active Laurel and Hardy fan club in Southend, called Saps at Sea. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Naval and Military Club, 20 Royal Terrace. For more information, visit www.saps-at-sea.co.uk or phone Roger Robinson on 01702 526187.

Names and likenesses of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy used under license from Larry Harmon Pictures Corporation, Agoura Hills, CA 91301, U.S.A. L&H Seal © 1997 LHPC © CCA, All Rights Reserved.

Christian Aid Week 2018



Christian Aid Week 2018 ran from Sunday 13th May to Saturday 19th May. There was no house-to-house

collection this year so I was expecting the total to be down on 2017. This was indeed the case but only by £65, with the grand total being £1,267 compared to £1,332 last year.

The Good Friday United Service offertory was a healthy £240, up from £206 last year, and there was a small surplus from donations for refreshments after the Walk of Witness.

Friends at St Michael's surpassed themselves again when their Strawberry Tea on 2nd June produced another record amount – an amazing £475 compared to last year's record of £288! I am grateful to Ken Jones and his helpers at St Michael's for running the event and for friends from St Michael's, St Peter's and elsewhere for

supporting it. I think the sunny weather played a big part but also, for the second year running, there was a craft sale in aid of church funds running at the same time, effectively providing two attractions for the price of one journey. Although St Michael's is a member of Churches Together in Hadleigh, it is not within the Hadleigh Christian Aid Group area so their contribution is much appreciated.

Four Hadleigh churches undertook church collections this year, including St James the Less Church (the first time since 2007). As a result, the total raised through church collections was up on last year by about £60.

Monthly bric-a-brac sales at our church coffee morning increased to £88 compared to last year's figure of £46. I am grateful to everyone who donated items to sell and to all who bought items. I would also like to thank our Wives' Fellowship who kindly donated £30.

The table below shows totals for each of the sources of income in Christian Aid Week 2018.

Source	£	Gift Aided
Church collections: URC (£163.30), St Barnabas (£159.00), Methodist (£60.00), St James the Less (37.00)	419.30	170.00
Churches Together Good Friday service offertory	240.50	
Good Friday Walk of Witness refreshments surplus	14.46	
St. Michael's Church Strawberry Tea	475.00	
Hadleigh URC coffee morning bric-a-brac sales	88.50	
Hadleigh URC Wives' Fellowship donation	30.00	
Total	£ 1,267.76	170.00

On behalf of Christian Aid, I would like to thank everyone who supported this year's fundraising.

Malcolm Brown

A Few Days 'Down Memory Lane' in Lacock

At the beginning of June, my niece Claire drove my sister Ruth and I to Wiltshire, where the two of us had spent our formative years. After being bombed out of our home in London, we lived with our paternal grandmother in Lacock, a picturesque mediaeval village consisting of many lime-washed, half-timbered cottages that were donated to the National Trust by Miss Matilda Talbot in 1944. She owned the entire village and also the Abbey, where she lived.

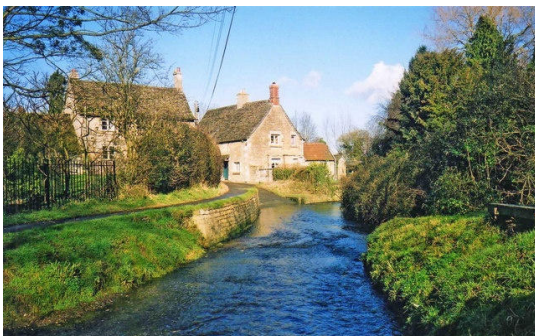
Lacock consists of four streets forming a square. High Street and Church Street are linked by East Street and West Street. We - the Jones family - lived at one end of High Street. At the other end stands an old coaching inn, The Red Lion.



High Street

During the war years, very little traffic passed through the village so the High Street was our playground. We chalked hopscotch lines on the tarmac, played 'Kerb and Wall' from one side of the road to the other. Marbles were played in the gulleys at the edge of the road... and so on.

The only interruptions to our games were farmer Newman's horsedrawn carts or an American tank or armoured car heading for the brook near St Ciriac's Church.



The brook and ford

It was always a source of great entertainment to watch the vehicles being washed in the ford and to live in hope that a kindly GI would throw us a pack of chewing gum to share amongst ourselves.

The High Street, the brook and the surrounding woods and fields were our playgrounds; the River Avon, our swimming pool in summer; the iron railings alongside the brook, our agility apparatus. We were free to wander at will - with one proviso. Granny Jones always warned us in her broad moonraker accent, "Do nee play anywhere near The Red Lion" (considered to be a house of ill-repute).

Imagine my surprise when a few months ago, Claire phoned to tell me that she would take Ruth and me to Lacock in June and that she had booked us in at The Red Lion. What would Granny Jones make of that, I mused. At one time, we had several relatives and friends living in Lacock but, sadly, no longer (or so we thought).



The Red Lion pub

On arrival, in June, we received a warm welcome, with excellent accommodation, service and cuisine. At breakfast on the first morning of our stay, a chatty waitress named Eileen served us and in conversation we discovered that, not only did Eileen live locally, but that she is married to a second cousin whom we knew existed but had never met.

To add to the excitement, Eileen told us that she had researched our Jones family tree back to the sixteenth century and she promised to send Ruth a copy. Much mirth and merriment ensued because Ruth has attempted to do just that but has received no help from any her four children, who, like me, are not interested in the subject!

By the time that our breakfast came to an end, Eileen had 'rallied the troops'. Her husband and daughter responded to telephone calls and joined us in the Red Lion's dining room. There was much laughter and many reminiscences with which to start our day.

The Red Lion was an old coaching inn on the Bath to London route. Now, it seems, it is a

coaching inn of the modern variety. On one of the evenings during our stay, a coachload of Japanese tourists arrived. We enquired about their itinerary and were told that they had left London that morning to travel to Windsor. From there they travelled to Stonehenge and then on to Bath, before arriving in Lacock for a conducted tour of the village and abbey.



Lacock Abbey

The tour included the numerous venues used for TV and filming purposes over the years. Ruth and I recall the film 'Goodbye Mr Chips' starring Alec Guinness being filmed in Lacock in 1941! In recent years, 'Pride and Prejudice', 'Cranford',

'Emma' and 'Harry Potter', are just a few of productions that have been filmed in the village.

The tourists had an evening meal in The Red Lion before boarding their coach for their return journey to London. A whistle-stop tour if ever there was one. Thankfully, our return journey in Claire's car was a much more leisurely one via the Cotswolds, with time to enjoy the magnificent scenery, pretty villages and colourful gardens.

Incidentally, Eileen's family tree reveals that, a couple of centuries ago, a female member of the family gave birth to four illegitimate children by four different village lads. The vicar, having recorded the names of the fourth baby, added '*The mother is rude and dishonourable*'.

With this information added to the fact that our grandfather left his wife and three small sons to move away and set up home with another man's wife, Ruth and I began to ponder at which end of the High Street did the 'house of ill-repute' really stand!

Vera Knapton

Ecumenical leader appointed President of Rotary International in GB and NI

On July 1st every year the leadership teams of Rotary International change, at local, national and international level. In the UK and Ireland some 48,000 Rotarians welcome in their new club president, in each geographical region a new District Governor takes the helm and in the territory that is known as Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland the new President is installed. This year I have the privilege of taking up that post.

Rotarians see a world where people come together to take action and make lasting change across the globe, in their communities and in themselves. Through projects and community initiatives Rotary makes a difference in the lives of many people: through their support of Memory Cafes they support those with dementia and their carers; in local schools Rotarians are often School governors, but will also be found supporting reading schemes and helping with outdoor activities. The Rotary Peace Scholars are impacting on both the global and local challenge of building peace, with community programmes that bring people together and by working with the UN and other such organisations to bring in

policies that bring peace. From sand dams in Africa, Eye Hospitals in India, to Blood Pressure Awareness days in the local high street of the UK and Ireland Rotary is indeed taking action and making lasting change.

A lasting legacy that has taken over 30 years to build will be the eradication of Polio across the globe. The eradication project began when one Rotarian decided that the newly developing vaccines created an opportunity to immunise his village. Out of that has grown the largest global humanitarian project that brings together Rotary, WHO, UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Office for Communicable Diseases, who are working to ensure that polio is eliminated. This year there have been just 11 cases worldwide – but it needs to drop to zero, and Rotary is committed to making that happen!

Debbie Hodge

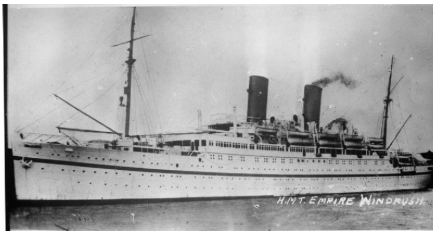
Editor's note: Debbie Hodge is a URC Minister, Secretary for Health Care Chaplaincy for the Free Churches Group, Chief Officer of the Healthcare Chaplaincy Faith and Belief Group and has a leadership role for Healthcare Chaplaincy with the NHS.

Family News



Spirit of Windrush service - Westminster Abbey 22nd June

A glorious June, not a cloud in the sky. London at its entrancing best. Westminster Abbey packed with the families, friends and church communities of the Windrush generation and their children and spiritual descendants. This service of thanksgiving for their contribution to multicultural Britain, like all ecumenical celebrations, has been a long time in the planning. Unlike most, it got overshadowed in recent weeks by political storms about migration and the dreadful treatment of some members of the Windrush generation by the State which gave it a whole new meaning and significance.



The Empire Windrush

That hurt was not ignored, but it was placed in the broader story of the mix of racism, caution, fear and, yes, some genuine kindness, that the first settlers experienced, and in the longer sweep of the history of a people who grew their culture from the adversity of African slavery and a passionate belief in a God who sets his people free and never forsakes them. A fine group of teenage actors wove those themes through the worship.

The God who loves and liberates, the God who has sustained and empowered the Windrushers, was felt and set free in their music. In a gloriously infectious anthem, 'As I travel through this pilgrim land', Karen Gibson's choir had the whole Abbey swaying and clapping! And the specially commissioned 'Psalm to Windrush', finely interpreted by four soloists, reminded us all

of the dreams and hopes of the migrants and the compassion of God.

Joel Edwards, one of the gifts of the Windrush generation to the English churches, probed the relationship between the experience of the Israel's captivity in Babylon and that of migrant communities. He underscored Jeremiah's advice (Jer 29:4-11) – settle down, marry, have children, pray for the city's welfare, for in its welfare lies your own. The final prayers, led again by the teenage actors, combined a litany which gave thanks for the contributions of so many men and women of Caribbean descent to our life in politics, sport, culture, the arts, spirituality and church life with prayers for openness to God's future, and a willingness to take the pain of the past and use it to help build a future where we learn to put hatred behind us and value each and every child of God.

The presence of the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and the Mayor of London was in itself a tribute to the contribution of the Windrushers to our life, but also a reminder that the gospel speaks into the very heart of policy making. This was a service about the future as much as the past. The second lesson, read beautifully by young schoolboy Jayden Hamilton, reminded us that God places the treasure of the gospel into earthen vessels. The stories of the Windrush generation remind us of that reality.

All of us should take heart from the ways in which, through their lives and churches, the children of the Windrush generation have borne witness to the power of God who helped them triumph over so many adversities.

David Cornick

General Secretary of Churches Together in England



From the Moderator's Blog

'Au Revoir'

It is with very mixed feelings that we publish our final blog as Moderators of General Assembly. It has been a very rich and rewarding time for us both, and we hope we have managed to share that with you. The two years since we announced our theme of 'The People of God' seem to have flown past. We chose the theme as a preparation for the denomination embarking upon Walking the Way. Before starting to Walk the Way, did that mean the United Reformed Church was standing still, or had it not even got out of bed in the morning?



Kevin and Alan (centre) at the start of their journey in 2016 with chaplains Mark Robinson and Gwen Collins

Far from it! In our travels around our three countries we have been continually impressed by how our churches are showing God's love through their outreach and community service. We may not be a big denomination but we are certainly big in spirit and service. Our travels have also brought us face-to-face with some of the difficulties caused by the double whammy of shrinking congregations and growing legislation, and the challenges of how to witness faithfully to the Gospel in a fast-changing world.

It is easy to hide behind church walls, or leave the church in frustration or just be overwhelmed by all the negativity that is around – but we would say this is both the challenge and opportunity we have witnessed throughout the United Reformed Church and throughout our nations – so many good, encouraging and uplifting stories, so many people finding new ways to be church, new expressions of worship together, new engagement with community, new use of God's resources for the sake of mission.

When we were elected as GA Moderators we had a sense that our time in office would be coloured (or swamped) by same-sex marriage issues and fall-out. We are really pleased that that was not the case. Through the deliberate and gracious acts from all in our church we have maintained a strong sense of unity. Indeed, for many there is a greater sense of "United" in URC than ever before, for the focus has shifted to what we are all called to – discipleship, following Jesus.

What have our blogs sounded like to you? Paul wondered that when he wrote his letters as can be seen in 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 (The Message):

"Does it sound like we're patting ourselves on the back, insisting on our credentials, asserting our authority? Well, we're not. Neither do we need letters of endorsement, either to you or from you. You yourselves are all the endorsement we need. Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it – not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chiselled into stone, but carved into human lives – and we publish it.

We couldn't be more sure of ourselves in this – that you, written by Christ himself for God, are our letter of recommendation. We wouldn't think of writing this kind of letter about ourselves. Only God can write such a letter. His letter authorizes us to help carry out this new plan of action. The plan wasn't written out with ink on paper, with pages and pages of legal footnotes, killing your spirit. It's written with Spirit on spirit, his life on our lives!"

Keep going in the Spirit of Christ!

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you.

Blessings,

Kevin Watson & Alan Yates

Posted on 4th Jul 2018

Editor's note: On Friday 6th July, at the General Assembly in Nottingham, Mr Derek Estill and the Rev. Nigel Uden will be inducted as Moderators of General Assembly, serving from 2018 to 2020.

"God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Computer Corner

"As if every particle was alive": The Charged Canvas of Constable's Hadleigh Castle

**Interesting
article**

This is a recently-published, in-depth article by Damian Taylor about John Constable's painting of Hadleigh Castle known as 'Hadleigh Castle, The Mouth of the Thames – Morning after a Stormy Night'. Constable visited Hadleigh in 1814 when he made a sketch of the castle. The painting was completed in 1829 and exhibited at the Royal Academy in the same year. It now hangs in the Yale Center for British Art at New Haven in the United States. The original sketch is displayed at the Tate Gallery, London.

URL: <http://www.britishartstudies.ac.uk/issues/issue-index/issue-8/hadleigh-castle>

Paul McCartney Carpool Karaoke

**Interesting
video**

Comedian James Corden hosts the Late Late Show on American CBS TV and regularly features car journeys with music celebrities during which they sing together. In June, the programme featured a journey with Paul McCartney during which they visit some of the places in Liverpool where Paul grew up.

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjvzCTqkBDQ>

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**Useful
free
software**

4K Video Downloader allows downloading of videos, playlists, channels and subtitles from YouTube, Facebook, Vimeo and other video sites in high quality. This is my preferred program for downloading videos that I want to watch offline or keep a copy of for posterity. (Some videos disappear from YouTube etc. over time.)

Download from: <https://www.4kdownload.com/products/product-videodownloader>

Word Search – Famous tennis players

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MCENROE
MURRAY
NADAL
NAVRATILOVA
NEWCOMBE
ROSEWALL
SAMPRAS

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY 2018

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Sunday 1 st	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Major Geoff Ashdown Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mrs Heather Brown
Monday 2 nd	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 3 rd	9.30am - 11.00am	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 – Mr Keith McCullough
Monday 9 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 10 th	9.30am - 11.00am 3.00pm - 5.00pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives' Fellowship – Afternoon Tea Party
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
Wednesday 18 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 19 th	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 22 nd	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Adrian Tinning
Monday 23 rd	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 26 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Midweek Service – Mrs Heather Brown
Sunday 29 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Major Alan Bennett
Monday 30 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group

CHURCH DIARY FOR AUGUST 2018

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 2 nd	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 5 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Rev. Jim Tarrant Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Dave Bigmore
Monday 6 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 9 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 12 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Adrian Tinning
Monday 13 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 16 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 19 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Mr Wilf Tyler
Monday 20 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 23 rd	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning (Midweek Service cancelled)
Sunday 26 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mrs Machrina Ejaz
Thursday 30 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

Note: Only events taking place are shown. The Elders' Meeting and Midweek Service are cancelled in August.