

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

November 2018

REMEMBRANCE 100



The Magazine of the
United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30am every Sunday

with Holy Communion on 3rd Sunday of the month

6.30pm (1st Sunday)

with Holy Communion

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Sun 4 th Nov	10.30am	Morning Service	Majors Betty & Alan Bennett
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 11 th Nov	10.30am	Remembrance Day Service	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 18 th Nov	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mrs Joyce Berry
Sun 25 th Nov	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Wilf Tyler

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER 2018

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 4 th Nov	Jean Reeve	Doreen Churchill	Doreen Churchill
Sun 11 th Nov	Heather Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 18 th Nov	Malcolm Brown [Holy Communion]	Malcolm Brown	Jean Reeve
Sun 25 th Nov	Jean Reeve	Janet Wimbleton	Janet Wimbleton

FLOWER ROTA FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Sun 4 th Nov	
Sun 11 th Nov	Jean Reeve - in memory of her father
Sun 18 th Nov	John Rice - in memory of Barbara
Sun 25 th Nov	

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 14th Nov 6.00pm

CHURCH MEETING

Thu 22nd Nov 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: 1 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.

The Will of God

Think back to the last funeral that you attended. As you held the order of service and looked at the picture of the deceased, you noticed the dates of their birth and their death. Every one of us is guaranteed them. But did you notice the hyphen between them? This represents that individual's entire life and that short line is what God looks at as we move through life.

If we want our lives to count today and last beyond tomorrow, we want to make sure the line we're on is pleasing to the Lord. If we're at a crossroads in life He wants us to "Come back to the old godly way and walk in it. Travel its path where we will find rest for our souls." (Jer. 6:16). His goal for us is spiritual maturity. His will is for us to become more and more like Christ. It's not reached by the passing of the years, but by obedience to the will of God.

In the Bible there are plenty of passages describing our relationship with Him: "Those who delight in the law of the Lord are like trees planted along the riverbank bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do." (Ps. 1:3); whilst those who believe in His Son have the right to become children of God (Jn. 1:12). Growing spiritually, being made holy, involves an encounter with the will of God. We pray "thy will be done" and sing "let us be content to know and do your will."

The Hebrews reading shows us Jesus' approach to the will of God where He states: "Look, I have come to do your will..." (Heb. 10:7). How does this compare with our approach? Being self-centred folk we either do what we want to do, or do what we think we ought to do, rather than do what God wants us to do. The last option is the best. Adopting the first one can cause major conflict. The second may lead us to make hasty decisions. But doing God's will remedies the problems caused by the other two.

How can we, therefore, know God's will? When we're stumbling and struggling through it all how can we perceive what God wants or desires? Naturally, our knowledge of divine will is limited to what our minds can

comprehend, but His Word is always a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, so let it speak for itself, just pick it up and read it!

First there's God's SOVEREIGN WILL. This is those things that the Creator is determined to make happen that nobody can stop. The Lord Himself fulfils His own decrees. For example, the virgin birth of His Son, His death on the cross, His resurrection and His second coming are all a part of God's sovereign will. Ephesians 1:11 says: "Because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan."

Secondly there's God's PRACTICAL WILL or His MORAL WILL what He considers right and wrong for us to do and how we ought to believe and live. This is most fully revealed of course in the commandments, as well as through the life and teachings of Jesus: "Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honour anyone who serves me." (Jn.12:26).

Thirdly, there's God's PERSONAL WILL for our lives. The Bible is full of promises which show us how He guides His people. The most famous being: "The Lord's my Shepherd; I have all that I need." (Ps. 23:1). Martin Luther King said: "The purpose of life is not to be happy, nor to achieve pleasure nor avoid pain, but to do the will of God, come what may."

Basically he's saying if we're serious about our relationship with God it means that we need to seek His will in every area of our lives, including all those daily decisions - do I take this job; have this holiday; buy this house; does God want me to join the Bible study?

You know the Good Lord does speak to us. As a general rule not audibly, but through His Word - living and as sharp as a two edged sword, through the daily activity of prayer, letting ourselves be guided, through visions and dreams, through prophesy, through a third person acknowledging something to you, and through circumstances - not coincidences but God-incidences.

Rev. Tim Mullings

Tettenhall Wood & St. Columba's URC,
Wolverhampton

From the Editor

Welcome to the November edition of the Hadleigh Messenger. Owing to a hastily-arranged trip to East Yorkshire to visit my mum, this edition is being printed later than I would like.

I have not had many contributions this month but Royston Brackin has kindly written an article about Mark Pinnock's talk to the Tuesday Fellowship on 9th October. However, as you will see, this edition is effectively a commemorative edition for the 100th anniversary of the World War One Armistice. Owing to its importance, I have decided to print the names of all the men

who are listed on Hadleigh War Memorial together with some brief details. The list is based on a document prepared by Terry Barclay which is displayed in Hadleigh Library but I have edited the information to reduce the length to four pages. For example, I have removed the place of burial for most men, except for those men buried in Hadleigh. I can supply a copy of the unedited list to anyone who would like one.

I have also reprinted an article by Jean Reeve about her grandfather, who was killed in WW1, which was first published in 2009.

Malcolm Brown



We Shall Keep the Faith

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet – to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the Poppy Red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Moina Michael

Editor's note: Moina Michael is the American woman responsible for the adoption of the memorial Poppy. The idea came to her on 9th November 1918, after reading the poem "We Shall Not Sleep" (later named "In Flanders Fields") by the Canadian Army doctor, John McCrae. Reading the poem on this occasion – she had read it many times before – Moina was transfixed by the last verse: "To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields."

Moina made a personal pledge to 'keep the faith' and vowed always to wear a red poppy of Flanders fields as a sign of remembrance and as an emblem for "keeping the faith with all who died". Compelled to make a note of this pledge, she hastily scribbled down the poem entitled "We Shall Keep the Faith" on the back of a used envelope.

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.

Tuesday Fellowship Programme for Nov & Dec 2018

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 6 th Nov	2.30pm	POSTPONED - Slideshow on 'Exploring North Island New Zealand' by Margaret Butler
Tue 4 th Dec	2.30pm	Christmas Communion led by Mrs Heather Brown

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

Meeting fee £2.00 – first time free

Annual subscription – £3.00

A change of programme

Unfortunately, Margaret Butler was unable to show her slides of North Island New Zealand on 6th November. Malcolm Brown kindly stepped in at short notice and showed us more interesting photos and cuttings from the Echo Archive. Margaret's slideshow has now been rearranged for January.

Kay Watson

Perhaps

Perhaps some day the sun will shine again,
And I shall see that still the skies are blue,
And feel once more I do not live in vain,
Although bereft of You.

Perhaps the golden meadows at my feet
Will make the sunny hours of spring seem gay,
And I shall find the white May-blossoms sweet,
Though You have passed away.

Perhaps the summer woods will shimmer bright,
And crimson roses once again be fair,
And autumn harvest fields a rich delight,
Although You are not there.

Perhaps some day I shall not shrink in pain
To see the passing of the dying year,
And listen to Christmas songs again,
Although You cannot hear.

But though kind Time may many joys renew,
There is one greatest joy I shall not know
Again, because my heart for loss of You
Was broken, long ago.

Vera Brittain

Dedicated to her fiance Roland Aubrey Leighton, who was killed at the age of 20 by a sniper in 1915, four months after she had accepted his marriage proposal.

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

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- Tue 13 Nov 2018 - Coffee Morning & Book Sale at St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Cakes (70p), savouries (50p to 70p) and unlimited tea/coffee (£1.10).
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- Wed 14 Nov 2018 - Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church, Daws Heath, from 10.00am to 11.45am. £2.00 for cake & unlimited coffee.
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- Fri 16 Nov 2018 - Soup Lunch from 12 noon to 2.00pm at St Michael's Church, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath. Proceeds towards setting up a lunch club.
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- ditto - Castle Crafters Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 1.00pm to 2.30pm (every Friday). If you enjoy having a chat and crafting, come along.
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- Sat 17 Nov 2018 - Craft Market at Salvation Hadleigh Temple from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Home-made crafts, sweets and treats, home and garden, knit and sew, games & toys, Christmas decorations & refreshments. Free entry.
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- ditto - Christmas Fayre at Thundersley Methodist Church, Kennington Avenue, Thundersley from 10.00am to 12 noon. Chocolate tombola, teddy tombola, CDs and DVDs, cake stall, gifts & toiletries, pot plants, raffle.
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- ditto - Christmas Market at St Barnabas Church from 10.30am to 2.00pm. Stalls, raffle, coffee/tea, soup and roll lunches.
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- ditto - 2nd Thundersley Scout Group Jumble Sale at St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Thundersley. Starts at 1.30pm. Admission 50p.
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- ditto - Quiz Night organised by Daws Heath Residents Association at Daws Heath Social Hall. Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £6.00 at the door. BYO food/nibbles and drink. All welcome.
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- Wed 21 Nov 2018 - Kingsway Community Cinema presents 'On Chesil Beach (15)' at HOFs. Starts at 7.00pm. Tickets £5.00. Book at www.kingswaycinema.org.uk or pay at the door (if not sold out).
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- Thu 22 Nov 2018 - Poetry Reading Group Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month's subject - Poetry of the First World War.
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- Fri 23 Nov 2018 - Christmas Fayre at St Peter's Church, Church Road, Thundersley from 6.00pm to 9.00pm.
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- Sat 24 Nov 2018 - Christmas Market at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 2.00pm. With gifts, toys, games, plants, children's books, musical entertainment, raffle & refreshments. Free admission.
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- Sun 25 Nov 2018 - Café Church at Costa Coffee, 269 London Road, Hadleigh from 5.00pm to 6.30pm. Held on 4th Sunday of month except Sun 23 Dec.
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- Sat 1 Dec 2018 - Christmas Market at Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Entry 30p, children free. Stalls, Santa's grotto, fire engine.
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- ditto - Hadleigh Farm Estate Christmas Fayre at Hadleigh Farm from 11.00am to 3.00pm. With stalls, carols, crafts, games & refreshments. Free entry.
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- ditto - Hadleigh Christmas Lights Switch-On. Starts at 4.15pm with carol singing incl. Hadleigh Waits and Hadleigh Voices Switch-on at 4.30pm.
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- ditto - BASOP Christmas Concert at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Starts at 8.00pm. Adults £8.00, U16s £4.00 - to book, phone 01702 551786...
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More events listed on the HELIX website at <http://www.hadleighessex.info>

Seven Summits

At the meeting of the Tuesday Fellowship on 9th October, the group were most fortunate in having as their guest speaker Mr Mark Pinnock. Mark has the distinction of being one of only three mountaineers who have reached the summit of the highest mountain peak in each of the seven continents, all at their first attempt.



Talk in progress in the Small Hall

When he started to talk of his experiences, it became evident that apart from having a very determined nature once setting out to achieve an objective, being at the height of physical fitness was one of the most important of attributes of a mountaineer.

Until he started training for the London Marathon in 2003, Mark had never run more than 3km without stopping. By April 2006 he had completed over thirty marathons including Athens, Paris, Edinburgh and New York. He also began running ultra marathons completing ten in one year finishing with the Marathon De Sables, a 250km self-support run across the Sahara Desert.

One month later, Mark climbed Kilimanjaro in Africa, the first of his seven summits and then decided he wanted to climb the highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest in Asia, within five years.

The training for this first took him to Aconcagua, Argentina in 2008 and then to Denali, Alaska in 2009. After a further years training in the Alps he successfully summited Everest in May 2011.

Early in 2012, friends living in the same French village as Mark suggested a ski tour to include Mount Elbrus, the highest mountain in Europe. A year to the day on from Everest, Mark and 3 friends stood on the top and he realised he had now climbed five of the seven summits.

Mark decided that if he was going to complete them all it must be done straight away. Travelling to West Papua, Indonesia in November 2012 he summited Carstensz and after a two-week break he was off to the Antarctic to the final mountain, Vinson. Standing on the top of Vinson on the 5th December 2012, Mark joined a very elite group of mountaineers that have successfully climbed the seven summits.

His talk was liberally accompanied by pictures along the route, which showed clearly how arduous the climbs were. It was necessary to camp out under canvas most of the time which, as higher altitudes were reached, involved sleeping in snow-covered conditions at sub-zero temperatures.

Of particular note were several camera shots which showed the crossing of crevices in the ice-covered landscape, by the use of long ladders which they laid across the gaps with drops of hundreds of feet beneath them. The ascent and descent of Mount Everest took three months to complete which shows how necessary it was for the climbers to be at peak physical fitness.



Mark answering questions after his talk

After he had finished his talk, Mark invited the audience to view the display that he had arranged of a number of tools and items of clothing which he had used on his trips – ice pick, boot clips, various rock cable fixings, gloves, boots, and outer wear, etc. These proved to be of great interest as the majority of those present had not seen more than casual shots in films like those in the James Bond series for example.

Overall, Mark's talk was immensely interesting and greatly enjoyed by those present.

Royston Brackin

Lest We Forget

A list of those commemorated on Hadleigh's WW1 War Memorial

James Edward Allen, Cpl. 1st Essex Regt. Son of James Edward and Sarah Allen of 'Myrtle Villa', Lynton Road. Enlisted Aug 1914. Service in France and wounded three times. Died on 8 April 1919, aged 22, at Hadleigh from effect of wounds and gas. Buried in Hadleigh churchyard war grave.

Sidney Charles Allen, Royal Garrison Artillery, Acting Bombardier Anti-Aircraft Dept. (Parkhurst). Son of James Edward and Sarah Allen of 'Myrtle Villa', Lynton Road. Enlisted Oct 1915 and died, aged 24, at Parkhurst Military Hospital on 24 Apr 1918, of wounds received in Sep 1917 at Ypres. Buried in Hadleigh churchyard war grave.

John A Arnold. Also appears on St James memorial plaque. Died 1918 but name not in any military records. Possibly John Albert Arnold Clarke who died on 26 Apr 1918.

Herbert John Bush, Pte. 2nd Essex Regiment. Son of John and Esther Bush of New Road, Hadleigh. Attended Congregational Church and worked for Mr Upson, Hadleigh builder. Enlisted in Mar 1916. Shot in heart on 15th Oct by sniper at Les Boeufs during battle of Somme, dying instantly, aged 31.

Harold Henry Calverley, Pte. 12th Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Born Hadleigh, son of Henry and Emma Calverley of 2 Lyndon Villas, London Road. First served abroad on 1 Sep 1915. Reported missing in action on 28 Sep 1915, aged 19, and presumed to have been killed at Loos that day.

Frederick Carter, Rifleman Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own) 10th Battalion. Son of Edward and Annie Carter, born Southchurch. At outbreak of war, boarded out with William and Rebecca Snow of 'Ivydene', Short Road. Enlisted Southend just before 14th birthday and killed in action at Guillemont during battle of Somme, 3 Sep 1916, aged 15½. Awarded Victory medal posthumously.

Fred Choppen, Rifleman 7th King's Royal Rifle Corps. Born 1889 in Thundersley, son of blacksmith James and Maria (nee Bull) Choppen of Church Road, Thundersley. Lost his father when only 7. Nephew of Henry Choppen of 'Ashburnham', Church Road, with whom he apparently lived. Employed by M. W. Thorington, dairyman, for about 10 years. Posted to British Expeditionary Force on 30 May 1915, first serving in France on 3 Aug 1915. Killed in action on the Somme on 15 Sep 1916, aged 27.

Stephen Choppen, L/Cpl. 9th Essex Regiment. Born 1895, 3rd son of Henry and Frances (nee Harrison) Choppen of 'Ashburnham', Church Road. Employed by Mr L. S. Upson, as plasterer. Enlisted Southend and posted to British Expeditionary Force in France. Had been at the front since 30 May 1915 when accidentally killed on 25 May 1916, aged 21, by explosion of a grenade.

Harold Clifford, A/Sgt. 11th Royal Sussex Regiment. Born Battersea. Lived Hadleigh with parents for 3½ years, at 'Arnewood', Rectory Road. Employed as foreman at Salvation Army Colony nurseries. Married Florence Winifred Smith 1914. Enlisted June 1916. Killed in action on 18 Sep 1917, aged 35. A shell killed him and 5 others while doing duty as observation scout.

Charles C. Collins. Although on Hadleigh War Memorial nothing further known. May relate to VJ/44193 A.B. Charles Collins, Hong Kong Special Reserve, H. M. S. Triumph, who died 25 May 1915, and is commemorated on Panel 9 of the Plymouth Memorial. May be a connection to Samuel and Elizabeth Collins. (Samuel was headmaster at SA Colony when Hadleigh War Memorial was erected).

Reginald Collins, Sgt, 2nd/24th London Regiment. Eldest son of John and Florrie Collins, of 'Homefield', Woodfield Road. Born Chelsea, educated at City of Westminster School. Became Civil Service clerk. Enlisted Kennington, on 27 Apr 1915, aged 17. After 6 months in France, sent to Salonika, where killed in action on 7 May 1917, aged 19.

John Hugh Compton, Pte. 2nd East Surrey Regiment. Born Walthamstow, lived 2 Sydney Terrace, Meadow Road. Enlisted Sep 1914. First served on Western Front on 24 Mar 1915. Killed in action at Hill 60 on 25 Apr 1915. Buried by another Southend man but grave not found.

John Henry Coolledge, Leading Stoker Royal Fleet Reserve. Lived Leigh-on-Sea and joined the Navy in 1904. Married Harriet Alice in 1911. Died aged 30 when H.M.S. Cressy torpedoed in North Sea on 22 Sep 1914. Brother Gunner George Coolledge killed in action on 19 Sep 1918.

Richard Cowell, Pte. 231st Labour Corps. Son of John and Mary Cowell of Castle Cottage, High Road, Hadleigh. Came to Hadleigh as baby, and managed a Woolwich business. Enlisted under Derby Scheme in May 1917. Died of bronchopneumonia in France on 19 Nov 1918, aged 25.

William Cowell, Pte. 9th Essex Regiment Son of John and Mary Cowell of Castle Cottage, High Road, Hadleigh, Enlisted Aug 1914. Left for Front on 30 May 1915. Died of shock on 17 Dec 1915, aged 18, two hours after receiving severe wounds to both legs, Buried Bethune Cemetery. Last letter received about a week before read: *'I think we have earned the rest that we are now having, after six months in and out of the trenches, and I am sure the regiment has made a name for itself. I don't know whether we shall have the luck be out of the trenches for Christmas, but we hope so. I am pleased to hear that the rest of the Hadleigh lads have joined the Army, and I really think that Hadleigh has done her little bit.'*

Charles Eade, Pte. 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment. Born Weeley Heath, Essex, son of Simeon and Mary Ann Eade. Lived Hadleigh. Wounded on first day in France on 8 Jun 1915. Died 16 Jun 1915, aged 18.

Thomas Henry Farley, Pte. 1st Canadian Labour Corps. At 4, boarded out from Rochford Workhouse with Thomas and Annie Barnes, New Road. Sent to Canada through Guardians and in agricultural work for some years. Joined Canadian Contingent and home on leave in Hadleigh Christmas 1916. Died, aged 20, as result of severe abdominal wound on 19 Aug 1917, following 18 months in France.

Robert James Feakins, Pte. 7th Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Born Hadleigh, son of Samuel and Elizabeth Feakins, Lived 23, Fernbrook Ave, Southchurch, and enlisted initially Westcliff in Essex Regiment Nov 1914. Killed in action, aged 19, on 7 Oct 1916, during battle of Le Transloy, of Somme offensive. On Hadleigh War Memorial as Robert Feakin.

Albert Edward Fielding, Pte. 10th Essex Regiment. Born Thundersley, son of Hannah Fielding of Valley Cottage, Daws Heath Road and the late George Fielding. Had been in army for 3 years and gone back to France for 2nd time May 1917. Took part in "big push" 31 July 1917. Died, aged 30 years, from effects of wounds and poison gas on 2 Nov 1917. Commemorated in St Peter's Church, Thundersley.

Alfred Gilbert, Pte. 1st Essex Regiment. Born Barningham, Suffolk, son of Harry and Hortensia Gilbert, Lived 1 Fairview Villas, Lynton Road. Enlisted on 2 Dec 1914 and first served in Balkans 10 June 1915. Reported missing at Sulva Bay, Gallipoli, on 6 Aug, aged 36. Southend Roll of Honour states killed in action at Cape Helles, and buried there. Reburied Twelve Trees Copse Cemetery, Turkey. Left widow Mary Rebekah and 4 young children.

Alfred Ginn, Warrant Officer Military Mounted Police. Born St Neots, Served through Boer War in a Hussar Regiment, and lived 6 Nursery Terrace with wife Annie Mary and 3 children. Had lived on Salvation Army Colony at Hadleigh for 3 years, re-enlisting at Southend at outbreak and made sergeant. Killed in action in France on 1 Oct 1915, aged 43.

Charles William John Lince, Private Duke of Cambridge's Own, 23rd Middlesex Regiment. According to 'Soldiers Died', born Littlebury, Essex, and enlisted Purfleet with address as Northfleet, Kent. Possibly the Charles J.W. Lince on Hadleigh War Memorial, but no further information known.

Ernest Edward Mason, Pte. 2nd Essex Regiment. Born and educated in Hadleigh. Lived 1 Britannia Cottages, Leigh Road. Employed by Hadleigh dairymen, Mr Jordison, for several years. First Hadleigh man to enlist at Southend. First sent to France 30 May 1915. Wounded in leg and shoulder and sent to London for treatment. Returned to front. Killed at Ypres in Belgium on 10 Oct 1917, aged 25.

Reuben Mason, Pte. 13th Hussars. Born Chelmsford, lived Hadleigh for 27 years at 1 Britannia Cottages, Leigh Road. Unmarried. Prior to war, took discharge after 17 years in army. For 4 or more years engaged in building trade in Southend and Leigh. Called up with reserve 1914, embarking for France 7 Oct 1914, and awarded 1914 Mons Star. At defence of Antwerp. Wounded 1st battle of Ypres. Later sent to Mesopotamia, where killed at Lajj, on 5 Mar 1917, aged 35. On Basra Memorial, Iraq.

John Rowland McCormick, Pte. 3rd Royal Fusiliers. Son of Rowland and Harriet McCormick of 1 Rectory Cottages, Rectory Road and a Hadleigh native. Enlisted Southend Aug 1914, and killed in action 3 May 1915, aged 17.

Stewart Gordon Meggs, 2nd Lieut. 213th Siege Battalion, Royal Garrison Artillery. Son of Charles and Florence Meggs of 'Hazeldene', Daws Heath. Enlisted Aug 1914 and sent to France. In late Feb 1917, taken to hospital in France. Died of pneumonia on 3 Mar 1917, aged 21.

Henry Munday, Cpl. 1st East Yorkshire Regiment. Born Orsett, son of James Munday of Cambridge Cottage, St John's Road. Former regular, serving 12 years in army, 6 of them in India. Recalled with reserve at outbreak of war, earning Mons Star. Killed in action first day of Somme at Fricourt 1 July 1916, aged 33. Presumed buried Ovillers. On Thiepval Memorial as "Monday".

Sidney George Petchey, L/Cpl. 9th Essex Regiment. Born Hadleigh, son of George and Emily Petchey, The Street. Butcher. Boarded with Mrs Matilda Franklin at The Poplars, New Road. Enlisted Southend Jun 1915. Killed in action 2 Apr 1916, aged 25.

William George Piper, Pte 5th Essex Regiment. Born Downham, lived New Road, husband of Annie Eliza and father to George, William Ernest and Annie Rose. Enlisted Chelmsford June 1916. Reported wounded and missing at Rafa Redoubt, Palestine 2 Nov 1917, subsequently presumed killed on that date, aged 39. On Jerusalem Memorial in Israel and Downham War Memorial. On Hadleigh War Memorial as George C. Piper.

Arthur Stanley Raison, Pte. 32nd Royal Fusiliers. Son of Mrs Eliza Raison of the Poplars, High Street. Enlisted 17th Lincolnshire Regiment Mar 1915. Killed in action at Ypres on 19 Sept 1917, aged 31.

Joseph Rayner, Pte. 18th Northamptonshire Regiment. Son of John and Mary Ann Rayner 2, May Cottages, High St. Enlisted Royal Field Artillery Southend 6 Apr 1915. Later transferred to Northamptonshire Regiment as signaller. In France for less than 1 month when killed in action 19 Aug 1916 at battle of Bazentin, part of Somme offensive aged 23.

Douglas Muir Scougall, 2nd Lieut. 1st/15th London Regiment (Rifle Brigade). Eldest son of James and Emily Scougall, for several years lived at Canvey Marine Parade, Leigh Park Estate, and latterly Bedford House, Benfleet Road, Hadleigh. Joined London Scottish in Jan 1915 and commissioned in Nov 1916. Went to France on 16 Feb 1917. Killed in action on 4 May 1917, aged 19. Buried in Tank Cemetery Guemappe.

Frederick William Sewell, Pte. 1st South Staffordshire Regiment. Born South Benfleet, son of Frederick and Ellen Sewell of 1 St. John's Road. Enlisted Southend in Feb 1917. Killed in action in Battle of Passchendaele on 26 Oct 1917,

Harold George Smith, Acting Quartermaster, Royal Naval Reserve. 3rd son of Mr G. A. Smith, 2 Linda Villas, Leigh Road, Hadleigh. Joined Navy at 15, serving during Boer War. Later served in China during Boxer Rebellion and on destroyers. Called up as reservist in Aug 1914. H.M.S. India torpedoed on 8 Aug 1915 off Norway, and, though rescued, he subsequently died, aged 34, from effects of exposure.

Percy Louis Smith, Airman (2nd Class) Royal Flying Corps (111th Squadron). Eldest son of Mrs Mary Ann Smith of Plantation Cottage, Daws Heath. Lived with sister, Mrs Smith of The Library, Hadleigh. Worked as cycle repairer at Mr Norman for 7 years. Joined Essex Regiment 1914. Served in Royal Engineers and Bedfordshire Regiment before being posted to Royal Flying Corps. Sent to Egypt early 1915. Part of group of men repairing an aero engine when hit by bomb dropped from enemy aircraft. Died two days later on 3 Dec 1917, aged 22, at Gaza Military Hospital.

Henry Snow, Pte. 1st Essex Regiment. Son of Mrs Elizabeth Snow of New Road. Born Hadleigh and had served 7 years in army, being stationed in India at outbreak. Embarked for Dardenelles on 25 Apr 1915 and killed in action at Gallipoli on 8 May 1915, aged 30. On Helles Memorial, Turkey.

Archie Staines, Bombardier Royal Garrison Artillery. Youngest son of Charles and Louisa Staines of High St. Born Hadleigh, where attended Church School, and later worked for Mr W. T. Taylor, timber merchant. Enlisted Southend Oct 1915. After 16 months in France, killed by shell 14 Aug 1917, aged 20.

Sidney Charles Staines, Pte. 5th Coldstream Guards. Son of Charles and Louisa Staines of High St. Enlisted Southend Nov 1914. Died Hammersmith hospital, after 4 months in training, 16 April 1916 aged 22. Buried Hadleigh churchyard north-west of church. Older brother Wilfred killed in action June 1917 and younger brother Archie killed Aug 1917. Both mentioned on Sidney's grave.

Wilfred James Staines, Cpl. 9th Royal Fusiliers, (City of London Regiment). Born Hadleigh, son of Charles and Louisa Staines of High Street. Enlisted on 5 Oct 1914. Sent to front on 26 July 1915, surviving Loos unscathed. On 1 July 1916, shot through hand and treated at Mile End Military Hospital, London. Returned Oct 1916, wounded in neck by shrapnel 25 Apr 1917, Acted as bomb-thrower and killed in action Arras 23 June 1917, aged 26.

George Stiff, Pte. 10th Essex Regiment. Born Raydon, Suffolk, son of Elizabeth and Alfred Stiff. Lived at Leigh Park Farm, Leigh-on-Sea, working as shepherd and stockman. Enlisted in Nov 1914. Sent overseas 25 July 1915. While acting as servant to Lieutenant Openshaw at Delville Wood on Somme, hit by shell on 20 Jul 1916, aged 37. Left widow Mary Louisa, who lived at 'Holton', Softwater Lane.

James Stockwell, Pte. 2nd Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Born Clapham. Lived Hadleigh. Enlisted Southend and sent to Balkans on 25 Aug 1915. Killed in action at Gallipoli on 14 Nov 1915. Buried Azmak Cemetery, Sulva, Turkey.

William Stokes, Pte. 2nd Leicestershire Regiment. Born Canvey. Son of Frederick and Ellen Stokes, High Street, Hadleigh. Enlisted Leicester 1913. Sent to France 26 Jan 1915. Killed in action 15 May 1915, aged 19. Buried Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Cuinchy, France.

Cecil Tucker, Pte. 17th Royal Fusiliers. Lived 2 London Villas, London Road. Son of Mrs Elizabeth Tucker (widow of George Tucker) of 'Oakleigh', Oak Road. Enlistment in Essex Regiment in Mar 1916. Married Miss Elsie Calverley (sister of Harold Calverley, killed 1915). Sent to France following Sep where wounded in May 1917. Killed in action at Cambrai on 28 Nov 1917, aged 28.

Frederick John Tucker, Pte. 1st Border Regiment. Born Farnborough, Kent. Son of Mrs Elizabeth Tucker of 'Oakleigh', Oak Road. Former Hadleigh Salvation Army Colony. Bandsman. Enlisted 1916. After 3 weeks in France, took part in attack in front of Le Transloy on 27 Jan 1917. Reported missing and presumed to have been killed on that date, aged 32.

John William Underwood, Pte. 9th Royal Fusiliers. Born Leicester. Son of John and Mary Underwood of 5 Nursery Terrace. Employed at SA Colony in Market Gardening Department until joined army Chelmsford in Jan 1918. Killed in action 28 Aug 1918, aged 19, after ten weeks at front.

Charles Frederick Wallace, Pte. 29th Vancouver Battalion, Canadian Infantry (British Columbia Regiment). Son of Baldwin Fulford and Emily Elizabeth Wallace of 'Fairlight', Castle Lane. Born Surrey, Father was Commandant of Hadleigh and Thundersley Contingent, Essex Volunteers. Enlisted in Canada at outbreak of war, and after serving in France, visited home, where taken ill and died 22 Jul 1916, aged 23. Buried in Hadleigh churchyard.

Phillip White, Acting Sgt. 1st Essex Regiment. 2nd son of Phillip and Jane White of 'Woodlandside', Rayleigh Road, Thundersley. Born and educated Hadleigh. Later employed at Harvey's Farm, Leigh Road, Hadleigh. Enlisted Sep 1914. First served in France on 30 May 1915. Died of wounds, probably received near Chassignie, on 8 Nov 1918, aged 30. Had previously been wounded several times.

Harry John Wiffen, Cpl. 56th Field Coy. Royal Engineers. Born Northfleet. Eldest son of Mrs Edith Jane Ellison of Waggon and Horses, Hadleigh. Enlisted Nov 1900 as sapper in Royal Engineers, Shoeburyness, but bought himself out by Sep 1902. Rejoined 12 Nov 1903 at Chatham and spent time in Egypt. Promoted to corporal on 5 Aug 1914. Killed in action at Mons on 23rd Aug 1914, aged 37.

Alfred Woodford, Pte. 1st Essex Regiment. Born Acton, Middlesex. Son of John and Louisa Woodford. Lived at The Crescent. Already serving in army at outbreak of war, having enlisted at Warley. First served in France in Dec 1914. Killed in action at Gallipoli on 22 Jun 1915, aged 22.



Family News

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Remembering William Reeve



In early 2006, Jessica Benson, daughter of my friends Hazel and Mike in Weymouth, telephoned to say that she was going on a school trip to the Somme, in Belgium. I told her that my grandfather, William Reeve, had been killed at the Battle of the Somme. She asked where he had lived and I said that he came from Portsmouth.

I also told Jessica that my grandmother had given me a bronze memorial plaque inscribed with my grandfather's name (photo above) and also a card with his name and date of death on, which the Army had sent her.

My grandmother also gave me a letter – the last letter that my grandfather ever sent her – which was written in pencil but which is still very legible, although the paper is now very yellow with age.

When Jessica came home from her trip, she sent me a letter telling me that she had found out some more information, which she thought I would be interested to hear about.



Thiepval War Memorial

She wrote that my grandfather had served in the 14th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment and that his name is on the war memorial at Thiepval. The memorial mentions his address in Portsmouth and the fact that he died about 3rd September 1917 at the Battle of the Somme.

Jessica also sent me a postcard of Thiepval and with this, and the other information she provided, I was brought closer to a grandfather that I never knew.

Jessica was very moved by her trip to the Somme and wrote a poem, which, at this special time of remembrance, I thought I would share with you.

Jean Reeve

Footnote: Thiepval War Memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and unveiled by the Prince of Wales in 1932. It commemorates by name some 72,000 men who fell in the Somme sector up to 20th March 1918 and who have no known grave. It is the largest of the Commonwealth's memorials, standing on the site of one of the most heavily defended German positions to be attacked on the first day of the battle, 1st July 1916, when Commonwealth casualties – killed, wounded and missing – numbered more than 60,000.

Over the top

Blind to all,
But not so deaf,
To hear the sounds
Of gruesome death.
Thousands gone
And more to come,
Divided we fall,
Divided we run.



And waiting here
We've sunk so deep,
The screams that haunt us
In our sleep.
The cries of wounded
As the shells rain down,
Our hearts that to
The gunshots pound.

And knee deep in
The nameless dead,
The poppy red
Of blood that's shed.

All of them they lied to come,
To die before the day is done.
To fall again
The faceless pain,
The ones you never knew their name.

The whistle blasts,
The mind is blank
To climb the sodden
Earthy bank.

And every breath
That rakes your side,
Too scared to run,
Too scared to hide.

And at the top
What will you see?
The blinded soldiers
Too scared to flee.

And now we're here
Where have they gone?
Mowed right down.
None left.
Not one.

*Jessica Benson (aged 13)
May 2006*

Remembrance 100: A letter to our grandchildren



Each remembering a grandfather who fought in, and survived, the 1916 battle of the Somme on opposing sides, friends the Revd David Pickering, Moderator of the United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland, and Pfarrer Martin Henninger, Minister of the Lutherkirche in Frankenthal, travelled to the Somme together and then wrote jointly to a future generation:

Dear grandchildren,

David Pickering and I have been spending a few days at the river Somme in France. There is a story behind this visit which we would like to share with you. As grandsons of soldiers who fought on different sides during the First World War we are writing to our grandchildren once again a generation further down.

We are writing this letter in the hope that our grandfathers' experience may also encourage you, our grandchildren, to become peacemakers. You must know that our churches St Andrew's in Leeds, and the Lutherkirche in Frankenthal, have been twinned for 47 years. Five years ago, we sat in the Manse in Leeds chatting when we discovered that both our grandfathers had fought in the battle of the Somme.

David's grandfather had left him a box with name-tag, horseshoe and German war biscuits. My grandfather had left me an account of his time as soldier during the First World War in his memories and a box of letters written to his later wife. Interestingly they had the same Christian names: Frederik and Friedrich. It was then decided that we as grandsons, who had become friends, would visit the area where 102 years ago both our grandfathers had fought on different sides.

We know little about their movements during the battle of the Somme, but we stood at the grave of David's grandmother's cousin and in the valley where David's grandfather's regiment moved forward to Mametz Wood defended by German soldiers. Here, and at other places, we learnt of the fierce fighting, the mowing down of men by machine gunfire the moment they left the relative safety of their trenches.

We saw the craters caused by massive explosions. We tried to imagine what it must have been like to see 'the enemy' in 100 or 300 meters distance across no-man's-land and then marching towards you. To listen to the constant noise of the bombardment. To wait to 'go over the top'. Angst turning into aggression.



From many parts of the battlefield one can see the statue of Mary on the top of the steeple of the Basilica Notre Dame at Albert holding out Christ triumphantly to the town and the area. Significantly, in 1916 the steeple was hit by a shell almost bringing the statue down. It is

as if war cannot not endure Christ the peacemaker to be presented to those fighting as a reminder of their wrong. Mary and child were almost falling over but not totally – as you can see from a picture on a wall close to the church the statue, now in a vertical position – it was still holding on.

So, Christ was not absent from the terrible things that were going on during the battle, he was suffering, too. The real god is to be found in the brokenness. This was the experience my grandfather brought home from a terrible night of shelling at Misery, a village not far away, and it formed his life as minister.



The battlefield as it looks today

In the distance across the then no-mans-land and now fertile fields one can see the statue of the Virgin Mary once again presenting Jesus to the world. Our redeemer who died that even the evil of this most terrible slaughter might be forgiven. Can a united Europe, built on the debris of so much suffering and guilt, take on this message and become a lasting sign for reconciliation and

peace? Can Europe do it without faith? What is our task as Christians in Europe?

Certainly, the generation before us tried to learn the lesson of two wars where people had been taught to hate each other. And Christians were at the forefront. That's the reason why our churches were twinned. That's the reason why a European Union has been created. But people forget. The British decided to leave the EU. And in other countries nationalism once again has become more prominent. Will the virgin with the child fall again?

Harry Patch, who was the last surviving soldier of the First World War, is quoted at Lochnagar Crater: 'It wasn't worth it. No war is worth it. No war is worth the loss of a couple of lives let alone thousands.'

What will the world be like in 50 years' time when you, our grandchildren, will oversee political and economic affairs and take a leading role in our Churches? Will you still be aware of the lessons of two world wars? Currently, we see war in the Ukraine and in the Middle East while Western Europe is looking like a haven. Can we Europeans help other nations in conflict to learn

from our past? Or does each nation have to make their own experiences? And would the same be true for each generation, too?

After the war my grandfather saw it as his calling to help people find peace with God as he had in the middle of the battle. I would have liked to talk this point over with him, and ask: 'Should the search for inner peace not be complemented by an active commitment towards peace and reconciliation among people and nations?'

It begins when people of different nationalities and religions understand each other as neighbours. It continues when we try to understand the historic and economic reasons for today's conflicts and our share in it. And it may not end with the problem of arms exports and the question whether we live at the costs of the poor. Because peace doesn't just come.

'Blessed are the peacemakers', says Jesus, and for this, our commitment, our prayer and our action will be needed.

Your loving grandfathers,

David and Martin



From the Moderator's Blog – 'Changed by Jesus'

In the past month, I have been asked – as I discover moderators are – to comment upon Universal Credit, upon the end hunger campaign and upon the right to work for asylum seekers. Each one of these issues appealed to my conscience. Indeed, I believe profoundly in the significance of them all. I believe, too, in the importance of the church standing in solidarity with people whose lives are distorted by injustice.

I also know why these things matter to me. It is not because I grew up in poverty, or denied opportunity. I didn't. I had everything one could need, not to excess but to more than sufficiency. Nor is it because I imbibed the politics of protest in my childhood environment at home or school. I didn't. It was establishment, middle of the road and could have left me unquestioning. Less still is it because I am instinctively radical. I am not. I can see both sides of many arguments.

No, things like Universal Credit, the ending of hunger and the right of asylum seekers to work matter to me because of Jesus. You see, I think that over the past thirty-five years I've encountered socio-political truths that set us free

by exploring and experiencing Jesus' word and grappling with Jesus' way. It came into starkest relief when given the opportunity to complete my initial ministerial formation in the South Africa of high apartheid. There I was immersed in that African concept of ubuntu, which asserts that my humanity is only authentic when it is woven into a tapestry with yours. That sealed for me the Old Testament imperative to let justice flow like an everlasting stream, and the New Testament's stuff about your joys being my joys and your sorrows being my sorrows, too.

In South Africa I saw Desmond Tutu live out what the student poster used to say, that the only Bible he knew profoundly shapes our politics and changes our living. I also encountered the Jesus who claimed the commitment of my faith and worship but who also left me forever discontent with having too much until all have enough. As John Ferguson's hymn hauntingly puts it, 'as long there's injustice in any of God's lands, I am my brother's keeper, I dare not wash my hands.'

Nigel Uden - Posted 18th Oct 2018

CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2018

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 1 st	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 4 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Majors Alan & Betty Bennett Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 5 th	SESSION CANCELLED	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 6 th	9.30am - 11.00am 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Tuesday Fellowship – Mr Malcolm Brown Slideshow of 'Images from the Echo Archive'
Thursday 8 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday Service – Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant
Monday 12 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 13 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Wednesday 14 th	6.00pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 15 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Mrs Joyce Berry
Monday 19 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 20 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 22 nd	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 25 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Wilf Tyler
Monday 26 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 27 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 29 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

Ode of Remembrance

They went with songs to the battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

Editor's note: The "Ode of Remembrance" is taken from Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen", which was first published in The Times in September 1914