

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

December 2018 & January 2019



When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed...

Luke 2:17-18 (NIV)

May the light of Jesus Christ shine upon you this Christmas and throughout the New Year

The Magazine of the
United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

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* (01702 557678)

Mr Malcolm Brown* (01702 557678)

Miss Jean Reeve* (01702 554907)

Mrs Mary Milne

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 DECEMBER 2018

Sun 2 nd Dec	10.30am	Gift Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 9 th Dec	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Keith McCullough
Sun 16 th Dec	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Jack Roche MA
	6.30pm	Celebration Service	Mr Wilf Tyler
Sun 23 rd Dec	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 30 th Dec	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Machrina Ejaz

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2018


	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 2 nd Dec	Heather Brown	Doreen Churchill	Doreen Churchill
Sun 9 th Dec	Malcolm Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 16 th Dec	Jean Reeve [Holy Communion]	Malcolm Brown	Jean Reeve
Sun 23 rd Dec	Heather Brown	Volunteer	Jean Reeve
Sun 30 th Dec	Malcolm Brown	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

FLOWER ROTA

Sun 2 nd Dec	John Rice - in memory of Barbara's birthday
Sun 9 th Dec	
Sun 16 th Dec	Malcolm Brown - in memory of his father
Sun 23 rd Dec	Jean Reeve - in memory of her father's birthday
Sun 30 th Dec	

ELDERS' MEETING
Wed 12 th Dec 6.00pm

CHURCH MEETING
No meeting in Dec


 "Do all the good you can,
 By all the means you can,
 In all the ways you can,
 In all the places you can,
 At all the times you can,
 To all the people you can,
 As long as ever you can."

John Wesley (1703-1791)

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JANUARY 2019

Sun 6 th Jan	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Celia Whitman
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Heather Brown
Sun 13 th Jan	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Dave Bigmore
Sun 20 th Jan	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 27 th Jan	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Roger Brett

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2018

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 6 th Jan	Jean Reeve	Doreen Churchill	Doreen Churchill
Sun 13 th Jan	Heather Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 20 th Jan	Malcolm Brown [Holy Communion]	Malcolm Brown	Jean Reeve
Sun 27 th Jan	Jean Reeve	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

FLOWER ROTA FOR JANUARY 2018

Sun 6 th Jan	Marion Fidell - in memory of parents' birthdays (11 th & 13 th)
Sun 13 th Jan	Jean Reeve - birthday (13 th)
Sun 20 th Jan	
Sun 27 th Jan	

ELDERS' MEETING	CHURCH MEETING
Wed 9 th Jan 6.00pm	Thu 17 th Jan 12.30pm

Meetings in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019

- Sun 20th Jan 2019 - 6.00pm - UNITED SERVICE at SA Temple
- Mon 21st Jan 2019 - 7.30pm - Methodist Church
- Tue 22nd Jan 2019 - 2.30pm - St James the Less or St Barnabas
- Wed 23rd Jan 2019 - 11.00am - Salvation Army Temple
- Fri 25th Jan 2019 - 2.30pm - St Michael's Church

You are invited to attend as many of the meetings as you are able.

Refreshments will be served for fifteen minutes before the start of each weekday meeting and after the Sunday united service.

Christmas Reflection

Tragic news stories everyday remind us the world is filled with fear. Injustice lives alongside privilege, poverty next to obscene wealth and, despite being the season of peace and goodwill, violence prospers. We're powerless, as there's no way to avoid the stain of sin and evil in the world.

To avoid offending anybody with such biblical words we turn into weather forecasters at Christmas, singing enthusiastically about "Frosty the Snowman", "Walking in a Winter Wonderland" and dreaming of a "White Christmas". I wish there were more carols played on the airwaves. Don't get me wrong I love an old-fashioned Christmas as much as anyone. However, it's more than just a holiday period. It's one of Christianity's leading religious festivals and wouldn't it be something, Cliff Richard and Boney-M aside, if Charles Wesley peaked at the Christmas no.1 with:

Come, all you souls by sin oppressed,
You restless exiles after rest,
You poor, and maimed, and sick and blind,
For God has called all humankind.
Come in, this moment, at his call,
And live for him who died for all.

Today's pilgrims to Bethlehem get off their coaches and go straight to the Church of the Nativity – the venerated place where Jesus was born, built on the orders of the Emperor Constantine early in the 4th century. It once had a Gothic entrance, but ever since the desecration of the church during the Crusades, all visitors have to enter by a small door, barely five feet high.

Of course it's not the actual place where once stood a lowly cattle shed in which a faithful young girl laid her baby in an animal's feeding box. That does not matter. What is important is that at the church all worshippers stoop to get in. As they bend low they will surely remember that humility is the first lesson for all who try to comprehend earth-joining heaven, God coming into His world as a human being.

It's not complicated for exiles. Those who have set themselves against God, in the bleak midwinter, repentance and humility is all it takes for vile sinners to gather at the manger.

Christmas means that no longer is God trapped in ancient Scriptures, or speaking through His prophets. His Word has put on flesh and that Word is the Light of Life. That Word is Love, even to the point of sacrificial death.

Jesus born to exiled parents under a Roman census. Shepherds, the hillside exiles, were the first to glimpse the Messiah. Wise men ride by starlight from the east, leaving home, forsaking comfort, as exiles drawn to one mysterious baby destined from His earliest months for rejection, conflict and danger. Herod's anger would soon see the Holy Family become homeless exiles from the land promised their ancestors.

Adam and Eve had no knowledge of good and evil and subsequently no questions about life, health, finance, family, the future, or does God exist? None needed to be asked, as they lived in harmony with God. Until they failed the ideal test of obedience and let the devil tempt them.

There's a story to tell of creation, as sin entered the world's story, and we have been ashamed, guilty and exiles ever since. Yet in this wonderful season humanity is given another jolt, like a fire alarm going off. I've had 47 jolts in my lifetime, some of you have 20-30-40 times more than that, this could be our last one, the last time we hear ringing in our ears how the birth of Jesus brings hope and peace into the problems and pressures of daily living and that salvation comes today.

The true meaning of Christmas is right here waiting to be discovered by today's exiles, all people, men, women, children, rich or poor, scientists, theologians, peace-makers, farmers, soldiers, housewives, pensioners, saints and sinners, seekers, searchers. Even doubters and scoffers can look back over the last two millennia and catch a glimpse of God's love.

Gloria in excelsis! The King of the Universe wants to be your friend. He didn't come into the world so that we could enjoy a nice story about reindeer and snowmen. Neither is He an unwelcome salesman knocking at the door. He's offering salvation. If you want His true presence and gift of Christmas fling it open wide and welcome Him with open arms for your life is like the morning fog. It's here for a little while and then it's gone. The world truly needs a STABLE influence.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Rev. Tim Mullings

Tettenhall Wood & St. Columba's URC, Wolverhampton

From the Editor

Welcome to the combined December and January edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

This edition comes with the sad news of the death of Keith Gargrave who has been a devoted servant of the Lord and will be sadly missed.

Keith was well-known in URC circles having in the past represented our church at District/Area Partnership and Synod meetings and preached at numerous local churches over many years. He

was also a representative at Churches Together meetings and very well-known in the local area.

My thanks go to Pamela George for writing an article about a recent holiday. I feel guilty because Pamela wrote a lot more than appears in the magazine but I had to edit it down.

May I wish all readers of the Hadleigh Messenger a peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Malcolm Brown



May It Be Christmas Always!

May it be Christmas in your heart this day,
May the great love that beckons all mankind
Become for you the life, the truth the way,
The star that burns for ever in your mind!
When, as it must, the snow begins to melt,
When the red berries, one by one, have died,
Shall we remember how the Wise Men knelt?
Or how God's love is often crucified.

May you remember Christmas when the sun
come pouring through the leaves at Summer's height;
Or when some distant busy day is done
And the first star glows faintly in your sight!
May you remember Christmas in the rain!
Or Christmas in the labyrinth of years!
May you remember Christmas in your pain,
And Christmas in your joy and in your tears.

If, when we take a little flame to start
The steady candles on the tinsel tree,
There could be, too, a candle in the heart
To burn and burn for all the world to see!
How it would spread! That light – how it would, then,
Turn its bright beams upon the way ahead,
Searching for Christmas in the hearts of men,
Searching for life in places that were dead!

This, then, my wish for you,
Not you alone – but all whom you hold dear:
That there may be a Christmas running through
The threads of this and every other year.

Derek Neville

Submitted by Jean Hodges

Tuesday Fellowship Programme for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 5 th Dec	2.30pm	Carols & Communion led by Mrs Heather Brown
Tue 8 th Jan	2.30pm	Illustrated Talk: 'Exploring North Island New Zealand' by Margaret Butler

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

Meeting fee £2.00 – first time free

Annual subscription – £3.00

Members of the Tuesday Fellowship would like to wish readers of the Hadleigh Messenger a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Please join us in the New Year if you are able!

Christmas Celebration – Sun 16th Dec @ 5.30pm

We are again holding one main Christmas event this year – our Christmas Celebration. The event starts with a Celebration Tea at 5.30pm in the Small Hall which is followed by a service at 6.30pm. The service will be led by our friend Wilf Tyler.

Please invite family and friends to share in this special Christmas occasion. If you intend to come to the tea, please let Jean Reeve or Heather Brown know, as they are dealing with the catering arrangements.

New Year's Eve Social – Mon 31st Dec @ 6.30pm

It is planned to hold a New Year's Eve Social again this year. The social will commence at 6.30pm and finish around 9.00pm. We hope that as many as possible of our congregation and friends will join us. If anyone would like to come to the social but is concerned about transport to the church and home again, please phone Malcolm on 01702 557678.

As usual, we will be having a 'bring and share' supper. A list will be placed on the foyer noticeboard for people to enter their names and the food item(s) being brought. Help would be much appreciated on the night in preparing food items for the supper table as they arrive and also in serving refreshments. Please let Ann Purkiss know if you will be able to help in this way. Should you have any games, or ideas for games, that would be suitable for the occasion, do please let me know.

The aim of the evening is to provide a time of fellowship which all can enjoy. The programme will include a selection of games of different types, but if you would prefer not to take part in some or all of them, don't be concerned; you will be very welcome just to enjoy watching others and chatting if you would prefer. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Royston Brackin



Thoughts on Christmas

- 'Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveller back to his own fireside and quiet home!' – *Charles Dickens*
- 'Love came down at Christmas; Love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, Stars and angels gave the sign.' - *Christina Rossetti*

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

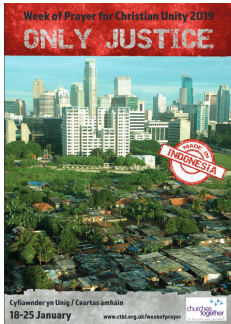
Sun 2 Dec 2018	- Light Up A Life Service at the SA Hadleigh Temple in conjunction with Little Havens Hospices. Starts at 4.00pm.
Tue 4 Dec 2018	- Free Mince Pie & Hot Drink For Senior Citizens at The Café, Morrisons store, London Road, Hadleigh from 2.30pm to 5.00pm
Thu 6 Dec 2018	- The Westwood Singers - Coffee & Carols Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, Hadleigh, SS7 2PQ. Starts at 10.00am.
Sat 8 Dec 2018	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, Hadleigh, SS7 2PQ from 10.00am to 12 noon. Coffee mornings held on the 2 nd Saturday of each month.
ditto	- Beat and Beans Café with live music by Lynda Jiggins at St James the Less Church, High Street, Hadleigh, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. With beverages and snacks in an informal café style. Free admission.
ditto	- Frozen Comes To Morrisons - meet Anna and Elsa at Morrisons store, London Road, Hadleigh.
ditto	- Elizabeth House Care Home Christmas Fete at Elizabeth House, 46-57 Benfleet Road, Hadleigh from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.
ditto	- Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir Sing For Christmas at the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple starting at 7.00pm. Tickets £8.00, Concessions £7.00, 16 & under £5.00. To book, phone 01702 547315.
Tue 11 Dec 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).
Wed 12 Dec 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.
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.
Sat 15 Dec 2018	- Coffee Morning With Mince Pies at Thundersley Methodist Church, Kennington Avenue, Thundersley, SS7 4BS. From 10.00am to 12 noon. Proceeds to Rethink Mental Illness.
ditto	- 'Gaudeamus' Chamber Choir presents 'Christmas Favourites' at St James the Less Church starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00 at the door, incl. mulled wine and mince pies. More info, phone 01268 757370.
Wed 19 Dec	- Thundersley Christmas Fayre organised by Thundersley Town Team at Thundersley town centre, Hart Road, Thundersley. Starts at 3.00pm.
ditto	- Kingsway Community Cinema presents 'Holiday Inn' (Cert U) at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets £5.00 on sale from www.kingsswaycinema.org.uk or pay at the door (if not sold out). Refreshments available. Bring a cushion (or two).
Thu 20 Dec 2018	- Poetry Reading Group Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month's subject - DH Lawrence.
Sun 23 Dec 2018	- Café Church Carol Singing at Costa Coffee, 269 London Road, Hadleigh from 5.00pm to 6.30pm.

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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019

A Prayer Octave for Christian Unity was first celebrated from 18th to 25th January 1908. In 1968, churches and parishes around the world received for the first time material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This year's theme



Our prayers for Christian unity are offered within a context of a world where corruption, greed and injustice bring about inequality and division. We ourselves are often complicit in injustice, and yet are called together to form a united witness for justice and to be a means of Christ's healing grace for a fractured world.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019 material has been prepared by Christians from Indonesia, which is the largest country in South East Asia, made up of more than 17,000 islands, 1,340 different ethnic groups and over 740 local languages. It is united in its plurality by one national language Bahasa Indonesia. With some 86% of its 260 million people estimated to be Muslim, Indonesia has the largest Islamic population of any country. About 10% of Indonesians are Christian from various traditions, as well as Buddhist and Hindu communities. The nation is founded on five principles called Pancasila, with the motto Bhineka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity). Across the diversity of ethnicity, language and religion, Indonesians have lived by the principle of gotong royong which is to live in "solidarity and by collaboration". This means sharing in all aspects of life, regarding all Indonesians as brothers and sisters.

This harmony can be fragile at times and is threatened in particular ways. Gotong royong sits ill at ease with the neo-liberal approach to economics that has led to Indonesia's economic growth - with that has come corruption that infects politics and business, often with devastating effects on the environment. Meanwhile those who are supposed to promote justice and protect the weak fail to do so. As a consequence, a country rich in resources bears the burden of many people living in poverty. This is reflected in a traditional Indonesian saying, "A mouse dies of hunger in a barn full of rice". Particular ethnic and religious groups are often

associated with wealth in ways that have fed tensions. As a result the radicalization that pits one community against another has grown and is exacerbated by the misuse of social media to demonize particular communities.

A common Christian response to such a reality whilst acknowledging our own complicity, heeds Jesus's prayer "that they all may be one", and enables us to combat injustice. Moved by these concerns the Christians of Indonesia found that the words of Deuteronomy, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue..." (see Deut. 16:18-20) spoke powerfully to their situation and needs. Before the people of God enter the Promised Land they renew their commitment to the Covenant. The passage comes in a chapter whose central theme is the festivities to be celebrated by the Covenant people. After each festival the people are instructed, "Rejoice during your festival, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, as well as the Levites, the strangers, the orphans, and the widows resident in your towns" (Deut. 16:14, see also 16:11). Indonesian Christians look to recover this same spirit of inclusive festivities across communities, which they previously enjoyed. This is rooted in justice, which is why we have a verse about appointing judges.

Jesus reaffirms this when he says that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who hunger and thirst and are persecuted for justice (cf. Matt. 5:6, 10), and the Church is called to be a foretaste of this kingdom. However, in this disunity Christians fall short and fail to be a sign of God's love for his people. Just as injustice has widened the divisions that have riven Indonesian society, so injustice has also fed the divisions of the Church. Indonesian Christians speak of the need to repent of the injustice that causes division, but also believe in the power of Christ to forgive and heal. They speak of finding themselves united under the cross of Christ, calling both for his grace to end injustice and for his mercy for the sin which has caused division.

Local observance and resources

The Week of Prayer meetings in Hadleigh will fall within the official Octave dates but there is not a meeting on every day of the Octave. For details of the meetings, please see the page for the January preaching arrangements. Resources for the Week of Prayer are downloadable from the CTBI website at <http://www.ctbi.org.uk>.

News from Churches Together in Hadleigh

The latest meeting of Churches Together in Hadleigh was held on at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th October at Hadleigh Baptist Church. This report covers news from the meeting.

Opening – The meeting was chaired by the Leader, Roger Kingston (Methodist Church). Sheena Slater (St James the Less Church) introduced Rev. Jackie Turner, the curate for St James and St Barnabas. Major Marion Fripp (SA) then opened the meeting with a devotion based on 1 Peter 1:13.

Treasurer's Report – Maureen Maley thanked all churches for paying their 2018 subscriptions. She was able to pay these into the bank account via the Post Office.

The current bank balance is £153.36. Marian Fripp asked if the £100 donation towards the defibrillator had been sent. Paul Short said that he had sent a cheque from funds and that the defibrillator is now in position on the Methodist church wall. Paul is continuing to sign cheques until Maureen's signature is accepted.

News from around the churches

St James the Less Church – Sheena Slater reported that the churchyard project is in progress. There are new paths, new lights, new gates and the hedges have been cut.

Baptist Church – Jane Brown reported that the son of their Pastor in Training is being assessed for heart surgery. Messy Church is held once a month and is going well...

Salvation Army – Hadleigh SA has been working closely with Canvey SA since Canvey's leader left. Messy Church, the Food Bank, Employment Plus and Computer Skills continue to take place.

St Michael's Church – Rev. Sue Croucher reported that the cream tea held in aid of Christian Aid raised £475. On Friday 16th November a soup lunch is being held from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm to raise funds to help set up a lunch club.

St Peter's Church – Rev. Andy Hudson reported that their first Woodland Church had successfully taken place with a Teddy Bears' picnic on 30th September. The service will be held on the 5th Sunday of every month with the next one on 30th December at 3.00pm. If the weather is bad then some events will be held indoors. A Taize style service started in September. This is held on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Café Church at Costa Coffee – The first session was held on 30th September with members of all

the churches socialising together. Rev. Andy Hudson offered to structure the next session on 28th October with a video, Bible readings, prayers and tricks. The session would be very informal but with a message. Church people need to give a personal invitation to attend. A poster will be put on Costa's notice board. Roger Kingston offered to arrange for posters to be placed on Council noticeboards. It is hoped that others will be placed in Doctors surgeries, the library, Morrisons and the SA charity shop. It was suggested that there should be small flyers to hand out. It was pointed out that Rayleigh Café Church took 5-6 months to take off.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th January) – It was agreed to hold a united Songs of Praise service at the SA Temple on Sunday 20th January to mark the start the Week of Prayer in Hadleigh. Four other meetings will be held: Mon 21st Jan at the Methodist Church at 7.30pm; Tue 22nd Jan at either St James the Less or St Barnabas at 2.30pm; Wed 23rd Jan at the SA Temple at 11.00am and Fri 25 Jan at St Michael's Church at 2.30pm.

Lent Course – Jane Brown mentioned that the Baptist Church will be running their own Lent Course but it was decided to hold a Church Together course for other churches. The dates are to be decided at the next meeting.

Prayer Meeting – It was agreed that prayer meetings should be held twice a year.

Forthcoming events (December onwards):

Sat 1st Dec – Switch-on of Hadleigh Christmas lights at 4.15pm.

Sat 1st Dec – BASOP Christmas concert at Methodist Church at 8.00pm.

Sun 9th Dec – Civic Carol Service at SA Temple at 6.00pm.

Sat 15th Dec – Gaudeamus concert at St James at 7.30pm.

Tue 25th Dec – Christmas lunch for people living alone at SA Temple.

Dates of next meeting – Tuesday 8th January 2019 at our church.

Closing – The meeting closed at 9.26pm with a prayer by Marion Fripp.

Malcolm Brown

Remembering the light of the world this Advent



As the beginning of Advent approaches on Sunday, Derek Estill, Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, reflects on its original meaning in contrast to today's modern-day commercial focus.

Advent provides us with an opportunity to withdraw ourselves from the deafening noise of today's world and the incessant drum beat to spend, spend, spend. In an ever-increasing frenzy, we 'shop till we drop' to get more and more 'stuff' so we can overindulge ourselves on the Christmas Day and into the New Year. But we can find real delight and relief when we step off the merry-go-round of modern day living, to spend time quietly reflecting on the true and amazing meaning of Jesus' birth.

As we know, Advent is a time of waiting. It includes themes of hope, preparation, joy and love so we will be ready for the gift that is Christmas. Jesus is the light of our world which the darkness cannot put out, particularly when we read Philippians 4:4-9:

'Always be filled with joy in the Lord. I will say it again. Be filled with joy. Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. And because you belong to Christ Jesus, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds. Brothers and sisters, continue to think about what is good and worthy of praise. Think about what is true and honourable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. And do what you learned and received from me – what I told you and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you.'

Time spent meditating during Advent can help us ground our lives in God's love, reminding us what is really important. It can also help us reconnect to the significance of what we are about to celebrate and its momentous significance for all humanity. The birth of Christ is a gift for us all to unwrap and enjoy, and I hope and pray you will be able to take time to quietly reflect on these things as you journey through Advent. In the words of the seasonal carol, 'O come O come Emmanuel' and rejoice!

I wish you all happy and reflective time this Advent.'

Derek Estill



Church planting duo makes more disciples in south-east London

'Our strategy for making more disciples in West Thamesmead is the three Bs,' says Rev. Sally Willett: 'To bless people, to help them know that they belong, and in turn, hopefully, they will come to believe.'

Mrs Willett ministers at West Thamesmead Community Church, in south-east London, along with her husband, Andrew, who is also a URC Minister. She makes the comments in *The Holy Habit of Making Disciples* – the fourth film in a short series produced by the URC which explores one of the ten themes featured in Andrew Roberts' book *Holy Habits*.

Mr Willett explains that two years ago, he and his wife were called to the pastorate to plant a church with the 'expressed intention of making more disciples'.

'Holy Habits talks about the adventure of discipleship,' he said. '[Since the church was planted,] ten believers and four children have been baptised. There were lots of people there, lots of people witnessing.' Mrs Willett continued: 'We pray that through the Holy Spirit they will be equipped to reach out and in turn bless others and to serve God in whatever ways he calls them to.'

In his introduction to the film, Mr Roberts says this habit is about creating healthy communities where people can 'come to know the Jesus who loves them and gave his life for them'. He added: 'When exploring the holy habit of making disciples, it's important to remember how Luke ends Acts 2:42-47. He says: "The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Maybe in these days we should not be surprised if, in revisiting these timeless godly ways of being Christian, we find more being added to our numbers as we follow Jesus in this way.'

Visiting Ancient History – Pompeii, Paestum, Herculaneum and more

The story of the massive eruption of Vesuvius in AD79 has always fascinated me so when I had the opportunity to visit the area, I felt I had to go.

Sat 13 Oct – We left my friends' house in Buckinghamshire very early at 2.00am to drive to Gatwick Airport. We had time for a cooked breakfast before our 6.45am flight to Naples. We landed in beautiful sunshine about 10.30am local time and travelled to our hotel in Vico Equense near Sorrento – a beautiful spot but with no parking facility! Our rooms had a view over the water to Vesuvius.

Sun 14 Oct (Pozzuoli and Cumae) – We started out at 9.00am for a visit to Pozzuoli to see the



Roman amphitheatre where up to 20,000 people would watch gladiators fighting, sometimes to the death. This was the height of

entertainment, apparently!

Underneath, we explored the amazingly well-preserved areas where the gladiators resided and later where they kept the wild animals, mainly lions, and the Christian prisoners who were sacrificed to them. I would like to think we have become more civilised since then but sometimes, after listening to the news, I am not so sure.

We then went on to Cumae to visit The Temple of Jupiter and The Cave of Sibyl, the Occult. Then there was the option of a very steep climb up where we saw the ruins of the Greek and later Roman Temples. The architecture of both civilizations was amazing. We then returned to our hotel for a wash and change, a social drink and dinner.

Mon 15 Oct (Pompeii) – We caught the 9.17am train into Pompeii. The site is enormous and there is only time and energy to explore a very small part of it, including what is probably what most people know about – bodies of people and animals consumed by the ash and pumice that rained down on them.

At the time it all happened there had been warnings of what was to come with an earlier earthquake and other signs but the population obviously had no idea of what it all meant until it was too late. We saw temples, statues, wonderful

wall paintings and mosaics, and bath houses similar to what we now call saunas with a hot room, moderate room and, for the men, a cold water plunge. (It was deemed unsafe for the women to experience the cold as it could affect their child bearing!) This, of course, was for the rich, not the slaves.



We ended the visit seeing the enormous amphitheatre, the oldest known in the world dating back to 80-70 BC with space for 20,000

spectators where plays were performed. I just sat at the top not willing to make the steep descent but even that high up the view was magnificent.

So, very tired, we left by the main gate and decided to have a much needed break with a pizza and coffee before taking the train back and returning to our hotel to enjoy another evening meal with our fellow travellers.

Tue 16 Oct (Amalfi Coast and Paestum) – We picked up our coach at 7.45am at the local station and drove along the Amalfi Coast Road, famous for its scenery and many twists and turns. We stopped at one of the many little villages for coffee and a chance to purchase souvenirs. After arriving in Amalfi itself, we were able to do more



shopping and a little exploring. There is a wonderful cathedral with much to see inside but with so many steps I satisfied myself with a photo!

We then returned to the coach and on to Paestum. This was quite a long ride and the scenery changed

completely – very flat and quite marshy in places. We saw some water buffalo (known for producing the milk to make the famous mozzarella cheese). When we arrived at our destination we had lunch – no mozzarella for me though as I'm not a fan. Our guide then took us on a tour of the very ancient temple sites dating back to over 500 years before Christ. After a lot of walking, we were quite glad to get back to our coach for the return trip home, which was via the motorway so the journey was not quite so long.

Wed 17 Oct (Herculaneum and Opolontis) –

We left the hotel at 8.00am to pick up our coach for the day. Herculaneum is very interesting as it is a much smaller area to visit and better preserved. Here, it was not the ash from the volcano that killed people but the flow of lava that followed. There is evidence that the residents



tried to flee to the water where they were trapped taking refuge in the seafront warehouses, now grimly full of hundreds of skeletons. We also

saw a boat that has been recovered that they may have tried to escape in.

We viewed many houses with some of the original wood (coal black) in beams and doorways and parts of sliding doors which they used to open to show their wealth to passers-by in the form of food and furnishings. We also saw a lavatory that was in an obviously wealthy abode and it was amazing to see the plumbing with running fresh water to clean themselves and take away the waste material. Hard to believe that this was over two thousand years ago. The “public” toilet not far away was pretty primitive in comparison, but at least there was one!

On leaving Herculaneum we made our way to Opolontis as we could not do the visit to the slopes of Vesuvius as this too was deemed unsafe due to land slips following torrential rain the previous week. I was not confident I could have made the climb up to the crater anyway and decided it was better to view it from afar.

This area is famous for its manufacture of pasta. It is also the site of the Villa Oplontis an ancient Roman house where the Empress Poppaea, wife of Nero, lived. There are many well conserved wall paintings, landscapes, portraits, flowers and fountains. It was great to see the fruit trees such as quinces, pomegranates, lemons, etc. On leaving we made our way to the local pasta shop and had the chance to buy some pasta, sample the famous limoncella and other liqueurs and have a coffee before making our weary way back to the coach for a welcome return to the hotel.

Thu 18 Oct (Capri) – Two Emperors lived here, Augustus and Tiberius. Tiberius lived the last ten years of his life from AD27 to AD37 ruling his far flung empire from his villa. It is also, of course, famous to us as the home of Gracie Fields

We left the hotel at 7.20am to catch the 7.40am train into Sorrento. After a coach transfer to the harbour, we met our Capri tour guide and made the short trip over the water. Some of the party went on a boat trip around the coast whilst the



rest of us went on the funicular up the steep cliff into the square and then walked around all the local, very expensive shops – a pair of shoes only

600 euros!

I then had the opportunity to do an additional walking tour to see more of the coastline and a closer view of the twin rocks that act as a sort of warning to boats when navigating these waters. There were lots and lots of steps and my knees certainly suffered, but it was worth it.

We then met back in the town square for lunch before returning down the funicular to explore the slightly more affordable shops and then relax with a drink and “people watch” until meeting up with the rest of the party for our trip back to Sorrento and then the hotel. I was glad I went.

Fri 19 Oct (Napoli) – Instead of the scheduled visit to Naples Museum and a coach trip around the city, we decided instead on a restful day. After a leisurely breakfast, I took myself off to look round the local shops, bought some more postcards, and then went with my friends for a light lunch nearby. The evening was a celebratory farewell dinner, a thank you to our guide and all the hotel staff for looking after us so well. It ended with the waiters dimming the lights and bringing in an enormous pudding in the shape of Vesuvius complete with flames issuing from its summit. Quite a spectacle!

Sat 20 Oct (return home) - We had to leave at 7.00am for the 11.15am departure from Naples Airport. Our flight was delayed by an hour but we eventually arrived back safely. I stayed with my friends overnight before leaving after lunch the next day to visit my daughter and family in St. Albans. It was then on to Berkhamsted for an overnight stay with another friend before driving home on the Monday.

Where to next? I’m not sure, but I am renewing my passport just in case.

Pamela George

Family News

Keith Gargrave

As mentioned last month, Keith was admitted to the Royal London Hospital after falling down several stairs at home on 6th November. Owing to a weak heart, doctors decided not to carry out an operation on Keith's pelvis and he gradually got weaker, partly as a result of difficulty in swallowing, which prevented him from eating. Sadly, Keith passed away on 27th November at 2.30am. A post-mortem is awaited.

We send our love and deepest sympathy to June on the loss of Keith and pray that God's peace will surround her at this sad time.

Holy Habits – Making More Disciples

Captain Gordon Banks, from the Rural Evangelism Network says “Britain's post-Christendom context means that mission and evangelism are no longer the sole preserve of those who ‘like that sort of thing’; instead they are integral to what it means to ‘be church’.”

So why the emphasis from church leaders today that we all need to adopt this habit of making more disciples? In rural parishes where much of my work is focussed single church pastorates are few and far between. The reality is today that the minister is no longer likely to be a regular presence in the community or even in the church. So how do we do it?

On a personal level, it just means that we need to adopt a habit of talking to others about the Christian journey. It's as simple as that. We just talk to people about this thing which is so important in our lives, and one which is fundamental to who we are. We share with people some of the love we have received from God and we invite them to join us on that journey.

But as a church we should also consider the way we do things, and ask whether those things are creating space for this disciple making to develop.

This is a simple model of faith development which I have adapted from the Making Disciples in Messy Church, by Paul Moore.

The start of the journey of faith for many might be a point of **Blessing**. This is an activity of the church that simply reaches out to people in order to bless them. After time, a person who has been blessed through an activity may find they are regularly

attending such events or activities and starts to develop a sense of **Belonging**.

As that sense of belonging increases, the ethos, the behaviour, the values and the teaching of that group, all start to have an impact on that person. As they see this teaching being worked out within the group they may start to find themselves **Believing** in those values and teaching.

As that person comes to believe, and adapt their behaviour and lifestyle in line with those beliefs, they find themselves **Becoming** a representative member of that group. At this stage they might be ready to make an act of commitment.

Although it is not a comprehensive model, it illustrates that this is a journey that begins with a very simple steps. We don't need to convert people on the spot and then start to disciple them, but it is an ongoing process. You might as church consider what you offer in each of these four areas – Blessing, Belonging, Believing and Becoming – and how you encourage people to move on and grow in their faith and commitment.

But it's not just about starting something new, a new programme, a new course, a new event – it's about each of us, every member being intentional about making more disciples so that in each of these stages we can share with and encourage others to join us on the journey.

Rev. Julian Sanders, Diss URC



The
United
Reformed
Church

The Moderators' Blog



'Pastoral and Prophetic'

It was in 1987 that I first moved from one pastorate to another. I recall thanking the people of those Stockport churches for enabling me to cut my ministerial teeth. And every time I have moved since then, I have found myself thanking people for precisely the same thing, because each context has offered and asked significantly new things.

It is no different this autumn, as I am embraced by the privileges and responsibilities of being one of the General Assembly Moderators; I am cutting my moderatorial teeth. The development of which I am particularly aware now is a renewed sense of how inescapable it is in what I say – sermons, addresses, articles, blogs, conversation – to hold in tension the pastoral and the prophetic.

The vocation of the church is to be the embodiment of something of the God we see in Jesus Christ. There are times when that is shaped by a radical love that is motivated Christ's. W. H. Vanstone used to speak of it as 'Love that gives, gives ever more, gives with zeal, with eager hands, spares not, keeps not, all outpours, ventures all its all expends.' (Love's endeavour, Love's expense 1977 DLT page 119). Are we not most authentically and credibly The Church when our worship rejoices in that and our service echoes it? I am more than ever persuaded this is what our aspiration to be pastoral is all about.

But that is not – cannot – be all we bring to today's world. In our era of confident atheism and self-sufficiency, which means that by definition God is off many agendas, our pastoral hallmark must surely be complemented by a commitment to speak a prophetic word. In Romans 10, Paul asks how people will believe in one of whom they have not heard, and how they will hear of one who is not proclaimed to them. So it is for our generation: on countless topics our vocation is to speak into the world's condition a prophetic word inspired by Scripture

and our faith. How will it be heard if we do not do so?

Of course, Remembrance Sunday was one of this month's opportunities for a prophetic word. I found myself musing in a village newsletter, 'Might it not be that in the weirdest of ironies, the trenches don't disprove God but define God? Could it be that the trench-bound Tommy reveals the nature of the God we see in Jesus Christ – 'love that all outpours'. Both suffer to the uttermost in order to express that commitment to one another that is at the heart of life at its best.'

As we continue to navigate our way through a re-defined relationship with the European Union, might we not bring something prophetic to the discourse as we add a theological perspective – less that we cannot walk God's way unless we are part of the EU, but more that, in or out, we cannot walk God's way unless our commitment is the Kingdom of God first.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is another topic where a prophetic word is required. How easy it is to belittle as political correctness. We will not get the point of it if that is how we see safeguarding. Serious theological perspective is required, so we understand it as an essential element of the on-going journey of God's people towards a wholesome humanity – a wholesome humanity that recognises how 'inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these, ye did it unto me.'

So we could go on, but time does not allow. Suffice it to say, as Advent beckons, that we have a prophetic opportunity without peer to ensure that the world is given the Christmas truth, which Mr Wesley so exquisitely expressed as 'best of all is God is with us.' And that, surely, is up there with the ultimate words that hold together the prophetic and the pastoral.

Nigel Uden

Posted on 20th November 2018

Computer Corner

Check if a vehicle is taxed and has a current MOT certificate

Interesting website

I came across the free online facilities to make the above checks whilst browsing the Thundersley Facebook page. There were quite a few posts about men in white vans driving around suspiciously and someone pointed out that it is possible to check whether a vehicle has been taxed and whether it has a current MOT certificate. The MOT search also reveals the history of MOT tests on a vehicle, including the mileage recorded at each test, which might be useful if you are buying a second-hand car.

Check if a vehicle is taxed: <https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax>

Check is a vehicle has a valid MOT certificate: <https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-status>

2018 Community Project Awards 2018

Interesting video

In a first for the URC's community project awards, four projects were declared joint winners. The winning projects were announced at the General Assembly in July and each project will receive a grant of £2,500 courtesy of Congregational insurance. This video showcases the four projects.

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoBN4kxbMiY>

7-Zip

Useful free software

7-Zip is a free and open-source file archiver, a utility used to place groups of files within compressed containers known as "archives". 7-Zip uses its own 7z archive format, but can read and write several other archive formats. It achieves a higher compression ratio than the well-known zip format.

Download from: <https://www.7-zip.org>

Word Search – Beatles songs

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

ALL MY LOVING
ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE
COME TOGETHER
DAY TRIPPER
ELEANOR RIGBY
GET BACK
HELLO GOODBYE
HEY JUDE
I FEEL FINE
IN MY LIFE
LADY MADONNA
LET IT BE
LOVE ME DO
PAPERBACK WRITER
PENNY LANE
SHE LOVES YOU
SOMETHING
TICKET TO RIDE
YELLOW SUBMARINE
YESTERDAY

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

NB: There are no spaces between words in the solution

CHURCH DIARY FOR JANUARY 2019

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday 1 st	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 3 rd	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 6 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Rev. Celia Whitman Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Wilf Tyler
Monday 7 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 8 th	No session - cancelled 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Tuesday Fellowship – Mrs Margaret Butler Illustrated Talk: ‘Exploring North Island New Zealand’
Wednesday 9 th	6.00pm	ELDERS’ MEETING
Thursday 10 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 13 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Dave Bigmore
Monday 14 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 15 th	No session - cancelled	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 17 th	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 20 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant
Monday 21 st	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 22 nd	No session - cancelled	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 24 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 27 rd	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Roger Brett
Monday 28 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 29 th	No session - cancelled	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 31 st	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

The Year

“What can be said in New Year rhymes,
 That’s not been said a thousand times
 The new years come, the old years go,
 We know we dream, we dream we know.
 We rise up laughing with the light,
 We lie down weeping with the night.
 We hug the world until it stings,
 We curse it then and sigh for wings.
 We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
 We wreath our prides, we sheet our dead.
 We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
 And that’s the burden of a year.”

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919) was a prolific poet who preferred to write happy, upbeat poetry. The familiar saying, "Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep, and you weep alone..." comes from her best-known poem, "Solitude". A morally strong and spiritual person, Ella believed that her purpose on earth was to practice kindness and service.

CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2018

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 1 st	8.30am - 10.00am	Men's Breakfast Meeting
Sunday 2 nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service - Mr Adrian Tinning Evening Service with Holy Communion - Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 3 rd	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 4 th	9.30am - 11.00am 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Tuesday Fellowship - Carols & Communion led by Mrs Heather Brown
Thursday 6 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 9 th	10.30am	Morning Service - Mr Keith McCullough
Monday 10 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 11 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Wednesday 12 th	6.00pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 13 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 16 th	10.30am 5.30pm 6.30pm	Morning Service with Holy Communion - Rev. Jack Roche MA Christmas Celebration Tea Christmas Celebration Service - Mr Wilf Tyler
Monday 17 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 18 th	No session - holiday	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 20 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 23 rd	10.30am	Morning Service - Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Monday 24 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 25 th	No session - BH	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 27 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 30 th	10.30am	Morning Service - Mrs Machrina Ejaz
Monday 31 st	6.30pm	New Year's Eve Social

Christmas Crackers

What do you call a man with a seagull on his head? - Cliff.

Two parrots on a perch. One turns to the other and says, "Can you smell fish?"

What is an Ig? - An Eskimo home without a loo!

A man goes into a dentist's and says "Doctor, Doctor, I think I'm a moth!" The dentist asks, "Why did you come in here? This is the dentist, not a doctor's. "Well, your light was on."

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? - A stick.

I paid £35 for eight haunches of venison. Was that too dear?

What do you call a woman who stands between two goal posts? - Annette.

Why do bees hum? - Because they don't know the words.