

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

February 2019



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 on 1st Sunday only
with Holy Communion

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2019

Sun 3 rd Feb	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Wilf Tyler
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mr Wilf Tyler
Sun 10 th Feb	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
Sun 17 th Feb	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Celia Whitman
Sun 24 th Feb	10.30am	Morning Service	Major Alan Bennett

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY 2019

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 3 rd Feb	Malcolm Brown	Doreen Churchill	Jean Reeve
Sun 10 th Feb	Malcolm Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 17 th Feb	Jean Reeve [Holy Communion]	Malcolm Brown	Doreen Churchill
Sun 24 th Feb	Malcolm Brown	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

FLOWER ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2019

Sun 3 rd Feb	
Sun 10 th Feb	Vera Knapton - in memory of her father
Sun 17 th Feb	
Sun 24 th Feb	

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 13th Feb 6.00pm

CHURCH MEETING

No meeting in Feb

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.

Widening Horizons for the New Year

Colossians 3:12-17 could have been written for New Year, it contains a string of instructions that might prepare us for a new start on New Year's Day. What will 2019 hold for us? Fortunately we can't know. Nostradamus predicts that 2019 will be a year of Justice. Well, I am hoping not. I have escaped justice so far and hope to pass through another year without facing it.

Occasionally, I get a contact from the past, someone whom I knew at school, someone from early days of work, and I cringe, worrying what embarrassing or hurtful incident they remember about me. I think of all the people in the world who produce my food, make my clothing, mine the minerals for my phone, and process the oil that runs my car, but who don't enjoy my standard of living. I think of all the species that have become extinct because I keep buying palm oil products in supermarkets. No, I don't look forward to justice.

Paul urges us to "Dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline... to forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you... to wear love... your basic, all-purpose garment... Oh, and cultivate thankfulness". So, let's do all that. But what about the bigger picture?

Paul could not be expected to see that. As an itinerant preacher he must have been amongst the poorest of people; inequalities did not bother him, he even accepted slavery as a commonplace. As an inhabitant of a pre-industrial society, he could not be expected to anticipate how we have wrecked the planet and eliminated species that he could never have known to exist.

His exhortations were all about interpersonal behaviour. If he were preaching now, what would he be saying? We can't believe that God's revelation to humankind finished with the death of St Paul.

I don't think that St Paul's message was a big hit with the powers that were then. If he were preaching today, I don't expect that either religious or political leaders would welcome him with open arms. So, we must expect that when we try to find God's guidance for us now, we will not be popular for it. I noted that when Sir David Attenborough, National Treasure and surely more expert on the environment than anyone reading (or writing) this blog, spoke to the UN Climate Summit, he was greeted with only half-hearted applause. Prophets are not popular; ask any prophet who met a violent end.

What does 2019 hold for our species, and for all the other species that quake in fear as our growing prosperity squeezes them into more and more hostile environments? We need more, even, than St Paul's demanding expectations of us. We need to apply our God-given intelligence to our purchasing and voting habits; we need to review our quest for comfort against the cost to the Planet. If this does not sound like a religious or Christian reflection, I am sure that neither Jesus nor Paul received a rapturous reception with the religious establishment either.

How will you change in 2019? How will I?

Mervyn Flecknoe

Lay Pastor, Baildon Methodist Church

Blog post from 30th December 2018



From the Bible

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)

From the Editor

Welcome to the February edition of the Hadleigh Messenger and apologies for the late publication, which is not a good start to the New Year!

As many readers will know, Christmas in the Brown household was not the expected joyous and peaceful time because of Heather's fractured pelvis, which resulted her being in hospital for eight days over Christmas. She has written a few lines for the Family News section.

On a happier note, at the morning communion service on 23rd January, we were delighted to welcome Doreen Churchill as a church member. Doreen has kindly penned a few words about her faith journey.

We said goodbye to Keith Gargrave before Christmas and this edition contains an obituary, which hopefully does him justice. Keith was a good friend to my family over many years and I shall certainly miss him.

Without prompting, a few people have kindly given me a donation towards the cost of producing this year's magazines. If you would like to make a donation then the suggested amount is £5.00 plus extra for any postage costs.

Finally, I do hope that there will be a few more readers out there willing to contribute to the magazine in 2019. Not only will this lighten my load but it will hopefully make the magazine more interesting.

Malcolm Brown



Café Church @ Costa Coffee

The Café Church at Costa Coffee in Hadleigh continues to meet on the last Sunday of the month. The next meeting is on Sunday 23rd February at the usual start time of 5.00pm. I have not been able to attend all the meetings but, from those that I have attended, I know that Rev. Ruth Lawrence has been very actively involved.

There is still a real need to invite friends who might be interested in receiving the good news about Jesus in this informal atmosphere. Bringing someone along might encourage them to come when they would be hesitant about turning up on their own.

Malcolm Brown



Thoughts on love for Valentine's Day

"If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day so I never have to live without you." – *Winnie the Pooh (A. A. Milne)*

"Pleasure of love lasts but a moment. Pain of love lasts a lifetime." – *Bette Davis*

"Love is like war: easy to begin but very hard to stop." – *H. L. Mencken*

"I wish I could turn back the clock. I'd find you sooner and love you longer." – *Unknown*

"I have decided to stick to love; hate is too great a burden to bear." – *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"The heart has its reasons which reason knows not." – *Blaise Pascal*

"In the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make." – *Paul McCartney*

"Love, n. A temporary insanity curable by marriage." – *Ambrose Bierce*

"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none." – *William Shakespeare, All's Well That Ends Well*

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." – *1 Corinthians*

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 Feb & Mar 2019

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 5 th Feb	2.30pm	Annual General Meeting followed by a Members' Afternoon.
Tue 5 th Mar	2.30pm	Slideshow on 'WW2 Propaganda' by Keith Crowhurst (plus memorabilia)

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

Meeting fee £2.00 – first time free

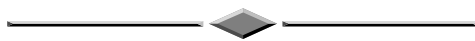
Annual subscription – £3.00

Tuesday Fellowship – Margaret Butler



At the January meeting of the Tuesday Fellowship, we again had the pleasure of a slideshow by Margaret Butler. This was part two of a slideshow about a trip to New Zealand that Margaret made a few years ago. It was originally scheduled for last November's meeting but Margaret was coming back from another holiday and was worried that she might not make it back in time so it was postponed until January. (Part one of the slideshow was shown at last April's meeting.) Margaret, who lives in Hadleigh, has been a regular speaker at our church over the years, talking about the many countries that she has visited but I don't recall ever having taken her photo to include in the magazine. When I mentioned this to Margaret, she kindly agreed to have her photo taken and so this is the photo that you see here.

Malcolm Brown



Welcome to Doreen

On Sunday 19th January, those present at the morning Communion service led by Rev. Jim Tarrant were delighted to witness Doreen Churchill becoming a church member. Doreen is our first new member for quite some time and she has been kind enough to write a few words about her faith and how she came to Hadleigh URC.



As a child and young girl, growing up in Southchurch, I went to church every week at Holy Trinity Church, where my great granddad was a Verger. So I had quite a religious upbringing but with marriage and bringing up a family, I took a step back from church. Years later, with my two boys having grown up and after becoming a widow, I thought about the Lord a lot.

One day, I was talking to a friend about how I felt. The friend was the late Margaret Irribarren and she offered to come with me to an Alpha Course being run at Thundersley Congregational Church. At the end of the course I started coming regularly to Hadleigh URC with Margaret. Now I feel very privileged and happy to have become a member of the church.

I thank Jesus that He came and took the punishment for my sins and showed me the light. I know that with His help and the help of all my new friends at Hadleigh URC, I will live only for Him from now on.

Doreen Churchill

Editor's note: I had the pleasure of having Sunday lunch with Doreen at Benfleet Methodist Church on the day that she became a church member. She has become an integral part of our church in a short time, doing bible readings, acting as a steward, serving refreshments and being a member of the Tuesday Fellowship. She is always willing to help at church events in any way she can and her help is much appreciated. We pray that the Lord will bless Doreen and guide her in the years ahead as she seeks to do His will. – *Malcolm Brown*

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Tue 12 Feb 2019 - Coffee Morning & Book Sale at St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Thundersley, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Unlimited tea/coffee £1.10, cakes and pastries from 70p. Cards and present accessories also on sale.

Wed 13 Feb 2019 - Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church Community Room, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath, from 10.00am to 11.45am. £2.00 for as much coffee as you wish and a piece of cake.

ditto - Kingsway Community Cinema presents 'King of Thieves' (Cert 15) at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. A true crime film about a crew of retired crooks who pull off a major heist in London's jewellery district. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets £5.00 from Eventbrite. If not sold out in advance, remaining tickets may be purchased at the door from 5.00pm on the evening. Refreshments available. Bring a cushion.

Sat 16 Feb 2019 - Community Coffee Morning with cakes on sale at Thundersley Methodist Church, Kennington Avenue, Thundersley. From 10.00am to 12 noon. All proceeds to Macmillan Nurses.

Thu 21 Feb 2019 - Coffee Morning with Bric-a-Brac Table for Christian Aid at the church. From 10.30am to 12 noon.

ditto - Poetry Reading Group Meeting at Hadleigh Library, 180 London Road, Hadleigh. This month's subject - John Keats. From 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Fri 22 Feb 2019 - 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 23 Feb 2019 - Funeral Fair at St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Thundersley, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. With stalls and discussion sessions offering advice from local funeral directors, florists and caterers. Refreshments available. For more information, phone Jan on 07478 251738.

Ditto - The Orpheus Singers 'Spring Chorus' Concert with special guests Icení at the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00, concessions £9.00 - to book, phone 07518 382390.

Thu 28 Feb 2019 - Hadleigh Community Group Curry Night at the Tandoori Parlour, 61-63 Hart Road, Thundersley. Raising funds for Hadleigh's flower baskets and Christmas lights. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £14.00 from Amos Estates, 319 London Road, Hadleigh or by phoning 07976 775050.

Sat 2 Mar 2019 - Southend Symphony Orchestra 'Concert for Lorraine' at the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple to celebrate the life of Lorraine Kelly, our much-loved leader, who passed away in 2018. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00, conc. £9.00 - from www.wegotickets.com/event/461030 and from Benfleet Music, 2 Roseberry Walk, Church Road, Benfleet. If not sold out there will be tickets at the door.

Sat 9 Mar 2019 - Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-In at Hadleigh Library. Bring along old photos and documents for scanning, chat about your memories of the area. Books for sale. From 10.30am to 12 noon.

Sat 23 Mar 2019 - Hadleigh Heritage Talk 'Policing in Victorian Times' by Gordon Sinclair at St James the Less Church. Coffee from 10.30am - talk at 11.00am.

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

News from Churches Together in Hadleigh

The latest meeting of Churches Together in Hadleigh took place on 8th January 2019 and was held at our church.

Opening – The meeting was chaired by the Leader, Roger Kingston (Methodist Church). Roger opened the meeting with a prayer.

Treasurer's Report – Maureen Maley (SA) reported that after paying out £50 for the Churches Together Christmas cards, the bank balance is £103.36. Maureen now has the ability to sign cheques and use the banking facilities. She thanked the previous Treasurer, Paul Short, for his help in facilitating the handover.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th Jan) – The previous arrangements for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were confirmed.

World Day of Prayer (Fri 1st March) – The World Day of Prayer service in Hadleigh will be held at St Thomas More Church starting at 2.00pm, with refreshments served afterwards.

Lent Course – It was agreed to hold the Churches Together Lent Course at one venue over five Wednesday evenings with leaders drawn from different churches. The venue will be St James the Less Church and the dates will be 13th March, 20th March, 27th March, 3rd April and 10th April. It was agreed to use a York Course and Malcolm offered to choose a suitable one and purchase two sets of course material.

Maundy Thursday (18th April) – On Maundy Thursday, there will be a Communion service at St Barnabas including foot or hand washing. All are invited.

Good Friday (19th April) – The traditional Good Friday service will be held at the Methodist Church on Friday 19th April, starting at the usual time of 10.15am. The service will be led by one of the Salvation Army leaders. The Walk of Witness to our church will start around 11.00am.

Easter Day (Sun 21st April) – The Easter Day Sunrise Service at Hadleigh Castle will start at 6.00am and will be led by one of the Salvation Army leaders. It was mentioned that anyone desiring breakfast after the service could visit Macdonald's, as they are open from 6.00am.

Pentecost event (Sat 8th June) – It was reported that Jane Brown is awaiting a reply from the Gospel Rock Community Choir about a possible concert on Saturday 8th June at the Methodist Church. If this does not take place, Roger offered a Coffee and Praise evening similar to last year.

Praying together – The global prayer initiative entitled *Thy Kingdom Come* is to be repeated in 2019 from 20th May to 9th June. There is a website from which resources can be downloaded. Jane Brown is to be asked if she will organise the next local prayer meeting, possibly in connection with *Thy Kingdom Come*.

Christian Aid Week 2018 – I reported that the total raised for Christian Aid Week in 2018 was £1267.76. (This news was not covered in the October 2018 meeting.) Despite there being no house-to-house-collection in 2018, this total was not far short of the 2017 total thanks mainly due to the magnificent sum of £475 being raised at St Michael's Strawberry Tea in June. A Handicraft Sale for church funds was held at the same time as the Strawberry Tea which helped boost numbers attending.

Christian Aid Week 2019 – St Michael's Church will hold their Strawberry Tea for Christian Aid on 8th June, together with another Handicraft Sale. The Beat and Beans (music and coffee) event at St James the Less Church on 11th May will be in support of Christian Aid.

Outreach at Costa Coffee – A discussion took place on the way forward. It was thought that the meetings need more structure and more publicity (for which funding is required). The possibility of raising the annual subscription from each church to support this outreach will be discussed at the AGM. Rev. Andy Hudson, Rev. Ruth Lawrence and Roger will meet to discuss ideas.

News from around the churches

Methodist Church – The Beat and Beans events at St James the Less Church clash with the Methodist Church monthly coffee mornings. Maureen Lennard-Brown (Methodist Church) said she would ask if their coffee mornings could be moved to a different Saturday in the month.

Dates of future meetings – The AGM will be held on Tuesday 7th May at the Methodist Church, starting at 7.30pm. Further meetings will be held on Tuesday 8th October at St James the Less Church and on Tuesday 7th January 2020 at the URC.

Closing – The meeting closed at 9.30pm with a prayer by Rev. Ruth Lawrence.

Malcolm Brown

World Day of Prayer 2019



World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. At a church near you on Friday March 1st 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia.

Introduction to Slovenia

Modern Slovenia became independent on 27 June 1991. It lies at the heart of Europe, bordered by Italy, Austria, Croatia and Hungary. It is a land of immense natural beauty, great variety of scenery and varied climate. One of the smallest countries in Europe (it is 20.73 km², roughly the same size as Wales), it has a population of just under two million people (about twice the population of Birmingham). Almost half of the people live in cities, and over a quarter live in the capital, Ljubljana.

The majority (82%) are Slovenes, but there are also Croats, Serbs, Bosnians, Macedonians and Montenegrins, and a small number of Roma, who have their own language and customs. The official language is Slovene, but Hungarian and Italian are co-official languages for those minority communities.

The Flag – The Slovenian national flag, adopted in 1991, has three equal red, white and blue



horizontal stripes. In the top left corner is the national coat of arms: the triple-peaked Mount Triglav, two blue wavy lines (representing the Adriatic Sea and many rivers) and the golden stars from the coat-of-arms of the Counts of Celje, a Slovenian dynastic house from the 14th century.

History – Slovenia may be a new country, but the region has a long history, with the earliest Bronze Age settlements dating back to 2,500 BC. In the first and second centuries AD the area belonged to the Roman province of Pannonia. After the fall of the Roman Empire, it was invaded and settled

by a series of Germanic tribes in the 5th century AD; the ancestors of the Slovenes arrived around the 6th century AD. Two hundred years later, the Holy Roman emperor Charlemagne annexed part of the region and much of the area became Christian.

Then for 600 years, from the 13th century to 1918, the Slovene territories were part of the huge Austro-Hungarian Empire. They were attacked by the Turks, invaded by the French and ruled by the Austrians. In 1848, the regions settled by Slovenes became a single country, but at the end of the First World War, with the collapse of the Hapsburg Empire, a united kingdom of Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia was created, and in 1929, was named Yugoslavia.

Between the world wars many Slovenes found themselves in territory controlled by Hungary, Germany and Italy, and during World War II there was much inter-ethnic fighting. After the liberation in 1945, Soviet suppression led to the massacre of many civil and military personnel and around 600 mass burial sites have been identified.

After World War II, Slovenia was one of six federal states making up the new Yugoslavia (which now included Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro), a socialist non-aligned state under Josip Borz Tito. Following Tito's death in 1980 there was increasing economic and ethnic tensions and, in 1991, Slovenia declared its independence from Yugoslavia.

Religion – The Roman soldiers introduced the cult of Mithras to the region, but Christianity was introduced in the first century AD, and there was an increased Christian presence in the 3rd and 4th centuries. With the invasion of the Germanic tribes, the area became largely pagan again. However, in the 8th century, under Charlemagne there was a new wave of Christian conversion. In the mid-16th century the Reformation was responsible for a burgeoning of Slovene-language literature and by 1584 there was a Slovenian translation of the Bible. In the 17th Century the monarch and the Catholic Church opposed Protestantism. In recent years, the Lutheran cultural contribution has been recognised by making Reformation Day (October 31st) a national holiday.

During the communist years, religious conviction was persecuted with imprisonment and restricted access to jobs. In 1991, when Slovenia became independent, the religious institutions regained their social role. However, certain cultural prejudices remain. According to the 2002 Population Census of those who identified themselves as having a religious affiliation were Roman Catholic (almost 60%), Orthodox and Islam (approximately 2.5%), and Lutheran (about 1%). Members of Islam and the Serbian and Macedonian Orthodox Churches come mainly from the former Yugoslavia, whereas Lutherans are found mainly in the communities to the north-east.

Climate and Geology – Slovenia has a range of different climates depending on the region. In the mountainous areas, Dinarides, the winter temperatures fall well below zero. In the south west, along the coast, there is a sub-Mediterranean climate with temperatures usually remaining above freezing throughout the year. Most of the country has a temperate climate, like Britain, though summers are considerably hotter, except on the high plains.

Central Slovenia contains a limestone area called the Karst region with fantastic underground caves. There are more than 10,000 caves in Slovenia but only 21 are open to tourists.

A third of the country belongs to the European Nature Protection Scheme, Natura 2000. The greatest single protected area is the Triglav National Park (83,807 hectares/approx.323 sq. miles).

Women – Women make up just over half of the population of Slovenia, due to their slightly

longer life-span. Those born after 2000 have an average life expectancy of 82 years.

Women have the same access to education as men, as is seen in the very similar numbers of students, graduates and doctoral students in universities. 65% of women work, and of those 92% work full time. The majority of women work in health and social services, the public sector and teaching. On average women earn 7% less than men, one exception being in the construction and transport industries where, despite being only 10% of the working population, many have higher paid jobs than men.

In families where both parents work, housework and childcare is shared with the grandparents. Work-life balance is an issue for working mothers with the burden of domestic tasks such as buying food, cooking, cleaning, laundry and helping children with their homework falling to women.

Slovenia held their first World Day of Prayer in 2000, organised by Ljudmila Schmidt Šemerl from Switzerland. Corinna Harbig took over the following year encouraging women from across Slovenia to work ecumenically, preparing and centrally translating the worship service and resources. Today around 500 people from Catholic, Lutheran, Pentecostal and evangelical churches attend the World Day of Prayer in six locations around Slovenia.

World Day of Prayer 2019 in Hadleigh

This year's service will take place on Friday 1st March at St Thomas More Roman Catholic Church in the High Street, starting at 2.00pm. All are welcome and refreshments will be served after the service.

Ladies Recreation Group Christmas Lunch

The ladies who play table tennis on Monday evenings in the Small Hall enjoyed a Christmas lunch at Affinity restaurant in Leigh-on-Sea on Saturday 15th December.



Thank you to Pamela George who sent these photos of the occasion.

Family News

Vertical line separator

News from Churches Together in England

Wellspring on Wellesley

The old Cambridge Military Hospital Tower in Aldershot rises over the rooftops of the new housing development. Wellesley, named after the Duke of Wellington, will be home to 3,800 households over the next 15 years or so, a tasteful mix of private, affordable and social housing.

When the plan to develop the old MOD sites in Aldershot was first announced over ten years ago, the local churches were quick to establish relationships with the local planners and developers. Over the next ten years Aldershot Churches Together would meet to pray and seek God's blessing for the new housing development and provision for a church plant. Today with nearly 400 homes occupied and a new phase of building nearly completed, The Wellspring Aldershot, a missional community has been established on Wellesley with the continued support of Aldershot Churches Together and funded by the Church of England and the Methodist Church. Drawn from the local churches a small team of ten would be pioneers are exploring how a Jesus centred community might emerge out of this new neighbourhood.

Led by the Rev Jackie Maw, the team has been active on the development for two years. With no café or pub on site at present where people might ordinarily gather, there was a need to bring the community together so that the important work of listening could take place. So, the 'ministry of fun' was launched. This has included a royal street party, quiz nights, bike rides and the now traditional Street Nativity with real donkeys on Christmas Eve.



They plan to build community craft café and establish it as a social enterprise that will provide the finances necessary to take them beyond their initial funding.

As yet, that building is not available, but the new primary school is proving to be a rewarding community partner who are happy to offer hospitality and the new Ceramics Painting Course, the next step in their community engagement, is being held in their premises.

"Two years in" says Jackie, "we are being regarded as people to be trusted, people who care and real and genuine friendships are being made along the way. In the past few months we've had

our first wedding enquiry and those conversations about God, life and belief are becoming more frequent and open. We are grateful for the prayer support of the churches in Aldershot and together as we see God's Kingdom come in our neighbourhood, we discover that Jesus is already here, building his church, we're just joining in!"

Find out more at <https://wellspringaldershot.uk>

'Supporting the Farming Community'

The weather made 2018 a challenging year for many farmers. For sheep farmers the problems began in the autumn of 2017 when prolonged cold and damp affected ewe fertility. The snow and cold temperatures of the 'Beast from the East' arrived at lambing time and there were losses of new lambs and ewes as well as cattle. This resulted in cash flow problems with fewer lambs to sell in the autumn and higher prices for replacement ewes.

The prolonged drought in some areas meant that farmers began feeding their livestock in the summer with forage made for the winter months since there wasn't enough nutritious grass. Many will not have been able to produce as much silage as normal and this coupled with early feeding may have led to shortages and higher prices.

Concerns about price and availability will add to the stress some farmers are experiencing. In the arable sector, the cold spring meant that some crops were sown late and established crops had their growth affected. Many crops were harvested early, but lack of water meant that some yields were low. Add to this the fact that for some there have been significant delays with payment of subsidy amounts and payments for environmental schemes, finances that often contribute to over half of the farm budget. Uncertainty of when these payments would come through has led to severe cash flow problems and significant stress for the farmers involved. This has added to the anxiety many have over how things will be post BREXIT especially since the deal is still unclear.

You may not have farmers in your congregations, but they may well be in your communities. Are there things your church can do to reach out to them? For example; Can you pray regularly for local farmers? Could you send letters or cards to say you are thinking of them? Are there places where farmers meet in your area? if so, can the church be present?



‘The place for renewal and reconciliation’

The Rev. Nigel Uden, one of the Moderators of the United Reformed Church (URC) General Assembly, says that in this time of continued division, the Church must continue to be a place for renewal and reconciliation.

As the United Kingdom continues to negotiate its way out of the European Union, I cannot help but feel a growing concern about the impact of the process upon our equilibrium – as individuals and as a community.

In recent sermons I have referenced Ann Morisy’s book, *Bothered and Bewildered* (2011), in which she uses the phrase ‘irritable and fragmenting’. That’s what it often feels like. It seems that politicians might feel that way, too. The Prime Minister recently said that, when all the decisions have been made, our priorities will need to include what she called ‘renewal and reconciliation’.

Interestingly, though perhaps unsurprising for a person immersed in Christianity, Theresa May borrows profoundly theological language. After all, if Jesus is God’s offer of anything, is it not those two things? Reconciliation to God and to each other, and renewal of life until it is abundant for all.

And if that is what God offers to us, through Christ and the Holy Spirit, I am led irresistibly to the conclusion that renewal and reconciliation are also what best defines the Church’s gift to the world. Neither of them is easy. Both take effort, determination and some very particular charisms [spiritual gifts].

In the public square we are hearing society’s plea for the very things that defines what God calls the Church to be and do. As the world pursues them surely the Church is being prodded to give its voice and endeavour free expression.

Ten days ago, my travelling around Great Britain took me to Zion United Reformed Church in Northallerton, North Yorkshire. It was the 250th anniversary of the church occupying its current premises and I was impressed by so much that I saw of that congregation and its witness. It’s this church that was given one of the Congregational and General’s community awards at last year’s General Assembly.

As I was being shown The Secret Garden – the community space that it has created out of reclaimed wasteland – the sky darkened and the sun shone. A vast rainbow appeared and pitched directly into the church roof. It was as if, on its anniversary, God was pouring renewal and reconciliation into Zion, and reminding it to go into the town and share them.



Zion United Reformed Church, Northallerton, viewed from its award-winning project The Secret Garden.

While all the stuff that surrounds Brexit continues to bother and bewilder us, I sense that the rainbow of God’s grace and truth is both encouraging the United Reformed Church into being renewed and reconciled itself, and thrusting us into the public square, to take our place as instruments of our nation’s restoration and healing.

It’s a big ask, but so is the rainbow.

Nigel Uden

Posted on 23rd January 2019

“Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.”

Revelation 10:1 (NIV)

Computer Corner

This is Your Life – Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy

**Interesting
video**

With the recent release of the film 'Stan and Ollie' creating renewed interest in Laurel and Hardy, some readers may like to see the two comedians on the American version of *This is Your Life* in 1954. The video quality is not great but it's a fascinating programme and, allegedly, this was the only time that the couple appeared together on live TV.

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

USAP Photo Library

**Interesting
website**

Since our daughter Jennifer's trip to Signy Island to investigate penguin poo as part of her PhD studies, I have taken a particular interest in Antarctica and its wildlife, especially the penguins. The United States Antarctic Program's Photo Library contains many stunning photos of the area, some of which would make lovely computer desktop wallpapers.

URL: <https://photolibary.usap.gov/#1-1>

VeraCrypt

**Useful
free
software**

I appear never to have featured a program called TrueCrypt in Computer Corner, a free program for encrypting files on hard drives and flash drives (memory sticks). I have used TrueCrypt for many years but it is no longer developed – there is a story behind this if you care to Google it. I have now started to use VeraCrypt, which is based on TrueCrypt but is actively developed. It offers the same facilities to either encrypt a whole device or create an encrypted container on part of a device (which is what I usually do) inside which files can be created, copied etc.

Download from: <https://www.veracrypt.fr/en/Home.html>

Word Search – Brexit-related (I couldn't resist!)

K	A	S	N	Y	K	M	R	E	T	E	N	K	U	X	I	V	J	V	L	ARTICLE
N	J	R	G	N	Q	J	Y	P	T	N	S	M	O	T	S	U	C	V	Q	BACKSTOP
P	O	F	G	I	W	U	B	U	F	P	H	F	Q	Z	Q	T	J	G	K	BORDER
N	J	H	X	A	H	N	J	P	O	K	K	D	N	C	E	V	S	Z	W	BREXIT
H	I	U	Z	M	D	C	O	X	S	F	J	F	V	J	D	B	B	J	O	CUSTOMS
T	H	O	P	E	W	K	G	I	B	Y	J	C	P	A	H	K	M	D	B	DEAL
F	S	H	B	R	Q	E	H	E	L	C	I	T	R	A	B	Q	O	P	S	DECLARATION
C	I	Z	M	A	T	R	A	N	S	I	T	I	O	N	U	A	Y	A	X	FREEDOM
T	N	P	A	S	C	V	M	Q	C	C	Y	U	N	I	O	N	D	Q	S	HARD
L	G	Q	R	Y	L	K	R	Q	D	E	C	L	A	R	A	T	I	O	N	JUNCKER
W	L	V	K	D	K	L	S	F	D	V	H	E	I	S	H	M	M	G	V	MARKET
V	E	E	E	I	C	J	I	T	F	K	E	G	Z	K	Y	O	D	H	R	MOVEMENT
T	S	D	T	B	L	B	M	Y	O	I	N	B	V	K	D	U	E	D	A	NORWAY
V	R	A	M	Y	D	O	A	D	G	P	R	D	O	E	Q	Q	A	O	E	REMAIN
Q	J	X	O	Q	V	W	Y	T	U	L	R	A	E	R	H	D	L	Y	F	SINGLE
X	Q	C	H	E	R	O	I	K	I	A	N	R	T	L	D	E	R	M	N	SOFT
A	U	A	M	O	E	S	L	I	H	X	F	U	E	X	O	E	B	D	N	TARIFF
B	F	E	N	A	L	B	P	O	Y	W	E	W	R	J	M	M	R	Q	C	TRANSITION
H	N	P	K	H	U	E	C	L	A	W	A	R	D	H	T	I	W	H	Q	UNION
T	R	X	U	F	H	Y	L	G	E	D	I	Y	B	G	W	R	L	R	S	WITHDRAWAL

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2019

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Sunday 3 rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Mr Wilf Tyler Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 4 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 5 th	No session - cancelled 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Tuesday Fellowship – Annual General Meeting & Member's Afternoon
Thursday 7 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 10 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Adrian Tinning
Monday 11 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 12 th	No session - cancelled	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Wednesday 13 th	6.00pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 14 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 17 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Celia Whitman
Monday 18 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 19 th	No session - Half term	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 21 st	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 24 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Major Alan Bennett
Monday 25 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 26 th	No session - cancelled	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 28 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

A Riddle

From Heaven I fall, though from earth I begin.
 No lady alive can show such a skin.
 I'm bright as an angel, and light as a feather,
 But heavy and dark, when you squeeze me together.

Though candour and truth in my aspect I bear,
 Yet many poor creatures I help to ensnare.
 Though so much of Heaven appears in my make,
 The foulest impressions I easily take.

My parent and I produce one another,
 The mother the daughter, the daughter the mother.

James Parton

Answer in next month's magazine.