

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

March 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 MARCH 2019

Sun 3 rd Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. John Ambrose PGCE (Ox)
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mr Wilf Tyler
Sun 10 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Celia Whitman
Sun 17 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mr Adrian Tinning
Sun 24 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 31 st Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Machrina Ejaz

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR MARCH 2019

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 3 rd Mar	Jean Reeve	Doreen Churchill	Kay Watson
Sun 10 th Mar	Heather Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 17 th Mar	Malcolm Brown [Holy Communion]	June Gargrave	Jean Reeve
Sun 24 th Mar	Jean Reeve	Malcolm Brown	Doreen Churchill
Sun 31 st Mar	Heather Brown	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

FLOWER ROTA

Sun 3 rd Mar	
Sun 10 th Mar	Marion Fidell - in memory of husband Jeff
Sun 17 th Mar	
Sun 24 th Mar	
Sun 31 st Mar	Vera Knapton - wedding anniversary

ELDERS' MEETING	CHURCH AGM
Wed 13 th Mar 6.00pm	Thu 21 st Mar 12.30pm

HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS

Minister:

Vacancy

Hon. Secretary:

Mr Royston Brackin (01702 558862)

Acting Hon. Treasurer:

Mr Royston Brackin

Serving Elders:

Mr Royston Brackin

Mrs Heather Brown (01702 557678)

Mr Malcolm Brown (01702 557678)

Miss Jean Reeve (01702 554907)

Useful information

Address: Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, SS7 2DQ
Website: www.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 one of our church officers know. All such requests are treated in the strictest confidence.

Crisis? What crisis?

The Rev. Nigel Uden, Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, reflects on what to do before, during and after a crisis.

The idea of crisis has been lingering in my mind for various reasons.

The entirely unanticipated illness of a dear friend, has found him in intensive care. He is in a crisis, because things are difficult and worrying. It's a sudden crisis.

The progress of the negotiations about the United Kingdom's relationship with the European Union is often termed a crisis. The arrangements for after the UK leaving the EU on 29th March seem to be less than finalised. It's a crisis that some saw coming, whatever their views on whether we should leave or remain.

The ecological recklessness with which many believe the planet has been treated over a sustained period is increasingly summed up as a crisis. The consequences, including things like climate change, might mean some of us complain about summers hotter than we prefer, but for Polynesians they are destructive of their home, even of their island, as sea levels rise, extreme weather events increase and marine ecosystems are irreparably damaged. It's a crisis long in the making.

And it is not difficult to find people for whom the state of the church in Western Europe is best described as a crisis. Decline of The Church's influence, profile and size, and of the place of organised religion in many people's lives, combine to suggest that we face a future that is unrecognisable from the past. That is certainly the trend over the thirty-four years of my ordained ministry.

The word crisis doesn't have to imply disaster. It probably comes from the Greek word for decision, and perhaps that is a useful way for us to understand what a crisis is about, and what it asks of us. So, in ICU, the doctors respond to a patient's crisis by deciding on the treatment to be offered. The UK/EU crisis requires decisions to be made, timeously. And the world's return to ecological stability is about decisions that governments, businesses and each of us as individuals make, urgently.

So, what is the relevance of 'decision' to the Church's crisis? For me, the vital point is not to deny it.

In January 1979, the then Prime Minister, James Callaghan, earned some media derision when he returned from a summit in Guadeloupe, during which he'd enjoyed a swim. He suggested the press was over-reacting to the industrial unrest that was severely affecting the UK's economy and productivity – the so-called Winter of Discontent.

The next day The Sun's headline characterised the PM's comments as 'Crisis? What Crisis?' – borrowing the title of Supertramp's 1975 album. Trying not to over-state the reality of the Church's current situation runs the risk of it overwhelming us. We will not respond well to the mission imperatives and opportunities of our current era if we think The Church can go on as it is. We face some decisions.

They need not be decisions that suggest panic, nor lack of trust in God's providence and grace. Rather, as I appreciate the privilege of visiting United Reformed Churches around these islands, I realise that the decisions we make need to be shaped by a careful listening.

First, I find real value in listening to those whom we as a church ask to lead us – in the General Secretariat and all the departments we commission and equip at Church House. People of experience, knowledge and passion are constantly striving to resource us in the local churches. They know things I don't and are worth listening to as we face up to today's realities and try to decide what's next.

Then, secondly, I find it vital to listen to the people in the churches I am visiting – and, indeed the three I am serving – in order to understand how it is for them, and what we can learn from the realities of being the church in their context. A crisis maybe a decisive point, but the decisions it inspires must be well informed.

Essentially, is this not a question of faith: Christianity urges us to respond to our crises with trust in God.

Perhaps it's what Bryn Rees is hinting at in his hymn: 'God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross, our crisis of judgement, for gain or for loss.'

For me, that's the decision which ultimately makes our decision-making worthwhile – and it's why a crisis is so often pregnant with opportunity.

Nigel Uden

From the Editor

Welcome to the March edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

Paper copies of this edition will hopefully reach recipients sooner after publication than last month's edition, which owing to malfunctioning printers at church and at home, was printed very late. The church printer is still not working but my home printer is now working and has been used to print this edition.

I have had to search hard for material this month because I received only one contribution from readers. June Gargrave has kindly written about

three buildings named Riffhams, which, for those who are unaware, includes the wooden hut adjacent to the church. I have also raided the archives and re-printed a couple of items from 2004.

Thank you to those who have given me a donation towards the cost of producing this year's magazines after last month's mention in this column. If you would like to make a donation then the suggested amount is £5.00 plus extra for any postage costs.

Malcolm Brown



A father's speech to the groom

I was recently sent a link to a video on YouTube that was filmed at a wedding in the United States. The video shows an amusing but touching speech given by the father of the bride addressed to the groom (named Philip). Instead of just including the link in Computer Corner, as I originally intended, I've now transcribed the speech for the benefit of all readers.

“Philip, I want to tell you a story, and like all good stories, it starts like this... Once upon a time there was a father and in case you can't figure that out, that's me. This father had a wonderful little boy. He was very happy.

Then one day he found out that his wife was going to have another baby. So I prayed, ‘Lord, if it's Your Will, make her a little girl.’ And He did.

I was the first person to hold her in my arms. And I looked at her and said, ‘Lord, make her like her mother.’ And He did. She was loving and giving and so good and so kind.

But then I realised I was getting left out. So I said, ‘Lord, make her like me.’ And He did. She could drive a truck and a tractor. She could load hay and chew tobacco. Do you realise what you're getting?

But at the same time, she was opinionated, emotional and hard-headed. So I said, Lord, that's enough of that! Make her like YOU. He gave her the desire to serve people. She loves people. She gave her life to being a nurse. She's brought people back from the dead. And she's held the hand of people who have breathed their last breath. He gave her a heart for mission and she's trekked all over the world – pushing canoes up swollen rivers, laying on the floor as bullets whizzed outside – so she could tell people about Jesus.

But still something was missing. So I said, ‘Lord, make her happy.’ And she met you. You see that look on her face? I never saw that, until she met you. And I'm grateful for that.

Today, I'm giving you the best thing I have to give. And I just wanted you to know before I do, how hard God and me have worked to get her ready. So, Philip, as I give her to you, I don't think you'll mind if I give you one more word of advice. Me and God worked hard. Don't mess it up.”

For those who'd like to watch the video, the URL is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqEkPjUbmIA>. Alternatively, visit YouTube and search for “The Most Touching Speech Made by Bride's Father to the Groom”. Thanks to Jenny Willson for sending me the link.

Malcolm Brown

Riddle answer – The answer to the riddle on the back page of the February edition is ‘Snow’.

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 Mar & Apr 2019

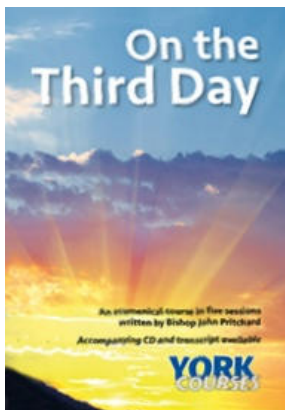
Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 5 th Mar	2.30pm	Talk: 'Different Hats of a Doctor' by Dr Geoffrey Kittle
Tue 2 nd Apr	2.30pm	Talk: 'Being a Magistrate' by Mrs Peggy Findlay

Note: There is a change to the advertised programme on 5th March.
Meetings are held in the Small Hall with refreshments served at the end.

Meeting fee £2.00 – first time free

Annual subscription – £3.00

Churches Together Lent Course



At the January meeting of Churches Together in Hadleigh It was agreed that there should be a joint Lent Course in 2019, unlike 2018 when no course was held. It was decided to again use one of the courses from York Courses and the choice was left to me, as I usually order the course materials. I selected the course entitled 'On the Third Day' written by Bishop John Pritchard.

The course rationale is that resurrection is the Big Story that turned a little Jewish protest movement into a world-transforming religion. And yet by Easter Monday we've almost forgotten about it and are planning our summer holidays. How can we re-capture the explosive power of the resurrection that ricocheted around the world? How can we live in the glow of resurrection and be an Easter people? How can 'there and then' become 'here and now'?

Canon Simon Stanley puts questions to the participants on the course audio: Rev. Prof. Tom Wright (NT scholar and former Bishop of Durham); Paul Vallely (journalist and broadcaster); Rev. Ruth Gee (former President of Methodist Conference) and Bishop Libby Lane.

All five sessions will be hosted at St James the Less Church on Wednesday evenings from 13th March to 10th April. The dates, leaders, titles and bible references for the five sessions are as follows:

Wed 13th Mar – Rev. Ruth Cartwright - Have I got news for you! – John 20:19-28

Wed 20th Mar – Rev. Sue Croucher – The implications of the Resurrection – 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Wed 27th Mar – Rev. Pete Moorhouse – 'Let him easter in us' – Colossians 3:1-4 & 12-17

Wed 3rd Apr – Sheena Slater – Celebrating and praying Easter – Romans 8:31-39

Wed 10th Apr – Rev. Andy Hudson – A risen Church – 1 Peter 2:9-12 & 23-25

The sessions start at 7.30pm with refreshments served from 7.15pm. All are welcome to attend.

Malcolm Brown

From the Bible

But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen – that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.

Acts 26:22-23 (NIV)

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Sat 9 Mar 2019	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12 noon.
ditto	- Hadleigh Councillors' Surgery at Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 10.00am to 12 noon.
ditto	- 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.
ditto	- Beat And Beans Café at St James the Less Church with live music from the Yardarm Folk Orchestra. Coffee, tea and snacks in an informal café style. From 10.30am to 12.30pm. Free admission.
ditto	- Last Night of the Proms at the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple with the Hadleigh Temple Band. This is a charity concert for Castle Point Mayor's Charity Fund. Doors open 5.30pm for 6.00pm start. Tickets £5.00 - from the SA Hadleigh Temple or Council Offices. Kiln Road. For more information, phone 01268 882474.
Tue 12 Mar 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 Mar 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 'Leave No Trace' (Cert 12) at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. 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 Mar 2019	- Community Coffee Morning with cakes on sale at Thundersley Methodist Church, Kennington Avenue, Thundersley. From 10.00am to 12 noon. In aid of church funds.
ditto	- Astronomy Open Night at Hadleigh Park, Chapel Lane, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. The Members of the Castle Point Astronomy Club will make available their telescopes and other equipment to give you stunning views of objects in the night sky. Free admission. Subject to weather.
Thu 21 Mar 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. This month's subject - Elizabeth Barrett Browning. From 2.30pm to 3.30pm.
Fri 22 Mar 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 Mar 2019	- Hadleigh Heritage Coffee Morning & Talk - 'Policing in Victorian Times' by Gordon Sinclair - at St James the Less Church. Coffee from 10.30am - the talk starts at 11.00am. Free admission (donations welcome).
Sat 6 Apr 2019	- Parish Jumble Sale at St Michael's Church, Daws Heath. Starts 1.30pm.

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

Buildings named 'Riffhams'

Now that the weather is improving, I like to go to Smart Minds in our Small Hall on a Monday lunchtime, where Karen James is running such a happy and growing club for people with dementia. They come from areas all around to meet and try their hands at various forms of art work. There is currently no charge for this club.

This last week (25th February) there was a carer making the model of a horse's head, while her mother was doing 'fill-in' painting in a book of butterflies. Next to me was a lady helping her mother to paint an enlarged egg cup in lots of different colours and they were enjoying themselves. As the mother had been to Russia a long time ago but still had a few memories of it, I gave her one of Keith's 'Kizhi' greetings cards which she much enjoyed. All around me were people who have dementia and their carers (usually the spouse or daughter) greatly enjoying themselves whilst painting or doing a jigsaw puzzle, drinking tea and eating many biscuits.

Whilst at the club, I looked at a copy of *Essex Life* magazine dated January 2019, which had many interesting articles but what interested me most were the pages of very, very expensive houses for sale in Essex. One in particular caught my eye: 'Old Riffhams, of Riffhams Chase, Little Baddow' was being offered for sale at £2,750,000.



Old Riffhams, Little Baddow

The sales particulars gave the following details: *"The property is listed Grade II* being of architectural and historic importance. Old Riffhams is referred to in the Domesday Book as the "fief of Richeham" and probably owned by Earl Godwin, the father of King Harold. In 1422 "Reefhames" was owned by Thomas Coggeshall, who in turn sold it to Sir Thomas Charleton. The owners can clearly be traced from this period onwards.*

The listing described Old Riffhams as "a mid-16th Century building possibly with an earlier core", and many alterations have been made over the years although the features of the 16th, 17th and 18th century have all been maintained. There are

18 acres of gardens and grounds. Whilst the house will benefit from some modernisation, it is a very fine example of its kind."

Later, I discovered on the Internet that there is another old house named Riffhams. The Historic England website revealed the following:

"The estate of which Old Riffhams was a capital messuage was owned by the Clerke family up until 1801. In the late 18th Century, Martha, daughter and heiress of Robert Clerke, married Charles Phillips, who left the estate to his great-nephew John Robert Spencer. On inheriting in 1809, John took the additional name of Phillips. Instead of altering the old manor house, he chose to build a new mansion circa 600m to the south-west of the old one... Riffhams (listed grade II) is a two-storey country house of white brick..."



Riffhams, Danbury

For those who are not aware, there is another building named Riffhams in Essex – that is the wooden hut next to our church, currently used by the Art Ministry.



Riffhams hut, Hadleigh (in 2005)

I believe this was put up by Rover Scouts at the church and named after the Scout Park at Little Baddow (near Danbury), which is officially known as 'The Edward VIII Scout Park' but also known as Riffhams. It is a 4-hectare (10-acre) wooded site with kitchen facilities and a wet weather shelter and is also used as a base for Duke of Edinburgh Award training.

So, to my knowledge, there are three buildings named Riffhams in Essex, and ours is definitely the smallest!

June Gargrave

When Jesus divided the Church – from Reform Feb 2019

Three hundred years ago, the English Presbyterian Church was split by the Salters' Hall debates.

At the heart of Christianity stands the figure of Jesus – not only what he said and did but also the question of who he was and is. Quite how Jesus should be understood has, over the centuries, provoked debate and disagreement. Three hundred years ago, in the early months of 1719, Protestant Dissenters in England found themselves embroiled in passionate theological controversy. Though the specific issues, as well as the religious and social context, are far removed from those of our day, the effect of this controversy was far-reaching and we continue to live with its consequences.

Lying behind the debates was the emergence of unorthodox views about the Trinity. In 1710, James Peirce, an able and determined Presbyterian, claimed that while the Established Church contained people who rejected Christ's divinity (known as Socinians) there were none among the Dissenters. And yet by September 1718, Peirce, ministering in Exeter, found himself under suspicion.

Some Presbyterian leaders feared their church was succumbing to Arianism, a denial of the Trinity. (Arians, condemned as heretics at the Council of Nicaea in 325, believed that the Son though divine, is subordinate to the Father.) So the Exeter Assembly required ministers in Devon and Cornwall to make a Trinitarian declaration. Peirce confessed instead 'the Son and the Holy Ghost to be divine persons, but subordinate to the Father'. The self-appointed 'Committee of Thirteen' at Exeter then appealed to the General Body of the Three Denominations in London for advice as to how to deal with Peirce and other erring ministers.

The General Body's committee was offered a 'Paper of advices for promoting peace' by the



prominent Presbyterian MP for Berwick, John Shute Barrington. He insisted that great care be exercised when making accusations of heresy and that Scripture, as the perfect rule of faith,

not the creeds or confessions formulated by human beings, should be the test of orthodoxy.

The committee approved the 'advices' but sought the wider approval of the whole body of London ministers, which gave rise to a series of debates at the Salters' Hall. The first Salters' Hall meeting, on 19th February, agreed to consider Barrington's paper clause by clause.

A lengthy and fractious meeting on 24th February saw the ministers discussing whether or not an additional clause should be inserted into the 'advices' confessing faith in the Doctrine of the Trinity. A show of hands was inconclusive and so a division was called. Those who opposed the motion were to go up to the gallery. Feelings ran high and, when the votes were counted, the motion to include the clause was lost by the familiar figures of 52% to 48% (57 votes to 53).



Salters' Hall 1828

During a third meeting on 3rd March, those who had lost that vote sought to set it aside. When their request was declared out of order, they signed their names to a declaration of faith which included statements from the 39 Articles of the Church of England (affirming the unity of the Godhead in three persons) and from the Westminster Catechism (asserting that there is but one God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead). Those who signed, known as the 'Subscribers', rather dramatically withdrew from the meeting. Those who remained worked their way through Barrington's paper, completing the task during a fourth meeting on 10th March.

When the 'advices' were sent, on 17th March, they were accompanied, somewhat paradoxically, by a letter confirming that those who had endorsed them also sincerely believed in the doctrine of the Trinity. However, the Exeter overseers had already acted and their Meeting Houses were closed to those suspected of Arianism.

The Presbyterians of 1719 were grappling with questions which still face us today. How can believers with serious differences share a Church? Are there essentials you have to believe in order to be a Christian, and if so, what? If the Bible is the only rule of faith, how do we decide which interpretations of the Bible are out of order?



Print showing Salters' Hall debate

For some commentators at the time, the Salters' Hall Debates were hailed as a victory for the notion that the Bible alone, and not church doctrine, was authoritative in matters of faith. Sir Joseph Jeckyl, Master of the Rolls, claimed: 'The Bible carried it by four.' For others, the vote was a victory for rationalism against the supposed irrational nature of the doctrine of the Trinity. In fact, neither view is entirely correct. Most of the Non-Subscribers took their stance not because they disbelieved the Trinity but because they objected to the notion that anyone should be required to subscribe to doctrines formulated by

human beings. It was, after all, an objection to compulsion in matters of religion which contributed to the emergence of Nonconformity in 1662.

To confess what the world's Churches have believed through the centuries is part of what it means to be Christian, not in the sense of giving absolute intellectual assent to a set of propositions, but in the sense of standing alongside those of all times and places who have confessed Christ and followed him. Confession is a matter of acknowledging that we share the one and same 'faith once delivered to the saints'. But neither the Church nor its teachings are God, and to give either an undue authority is nothing more than to create an idol.

As R Tudur Jones noted, the Salters' Hall debates were plagued by an 'exaggerated zeal for formal orthodoxy' on the one hand, and a 'cultivated vagueness about essential Christian doctrine on the other'. At a time when Dissenters needed to be united in their efforts to repeal legislation that had rendered them second class citizens, the debates resulted in division between those who would later adopt a Unitarian position and those who retained Trinitarian orthodoxy.

However, the debates brought to the fore important questions about the free practice of religion, what constitutes authority in matters of faith, and the relationship between credal orthodoxy and critical reason. Those debates continue to this day.

Robert Pope

Director of Studies in Church History and Doctrine
Westminster College, Cambridge

Gate repair

Many readers will be unaware that the pedestrian gate used to enter the church grounds from Church



Road was vandalised recently. A group of youths decided to attempt to break it by kicking it. Fortunately, they were caught in the act and advised to move on but not before the top crossbar was broken and several of the upright slats had been broken off.

The church is grateful to John Rice who kindly took the gate home and not only repaired it but gave it a coat of preservative so it now looks like new. John also gave the church lawn its first cut of the year in the last week of February.

Thank you, John, for all you do at the church.

Malcolm Brown

Garston's shoe shop

On 12th February 2019, the Echo newspaper carried an article about the 50th anniversary of the opening of Garston's shoe shop in London Road, Hadleigh. This was of particular interest to me as the Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive have embarked on a project to document the shops in Hadleigh.

The Echo reported that Garston's shoe shop was opened on 1st February 1969 after David Garston bought the premises, at the age of 24, with help from his parents, Esme and Mic. He was later joined in the business by his son, Jonathon.



Jonathon Garston in the shop (Echo)

Jonathon told the Echo that although his father was faced with many challenges and competition in the area, he built up the business attracting customers from a large catchment area. Focusing on quality shoes for all the family, he took pride in offering a specialist shoe fitting service. Fifty years on, the business is still in the family, run by

Jonathon but David still works in the shop part-time.

Jonathon said that that one of the business's biggest achievements is the large number of customers that praise the service offered in the shop. The shop is lucky to have the agency for top brands such as Clarks, Startrite, Loake and Hotter. Jonathon explained that the business offering is quite similar to when the shop first opened – offering a good stock holding, trained shoe fitters and excellent customer service. He added that online shopping does affect the business to a certain extent but in most cases the shop's prices are the same as online and the shop can offer personal service and fitting.

Malcolm Brown

Editor's note: For those interested in Hadleigh's history, a new series of Hadleigh Heritage talks starts at St James the Less Church on Saturday 23rd March – see the What's On page for details.

Under the umbrella of Hadleigh Heritage, the Community Archive group will be organising an exhibition and drop in about Hadleigh shops in the period from the 1930s to the 1960s. This period was chosen in order to glean information from older residents. The event will take place at St James the Less Church on Saturday 21st September. If you have any memories of shops in the period mentioned then I would be pleased to hear from you. If you have any cuttings, adverts or photos of shops please dig them out so the Archive group can scan them and make use of them in the shops project.

Creative ways to re-imagine church

How can the Gospels of Matthew the teacher, Mark the action man, Luke the outsider, and John the reflector remind us that we are connected with eternity, rooted in the past, expressed in the present and revealed in the future? The answer to this question was explored at Sanctuary First's Re-imagining Church Conference held at Tulliallan Police College, Scotland, from 11-13 January.

Simon Peters, project manager for the URC's Walking the Way initiative, attended with Rev. Richard Church, the URC's Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship). Both Richard and Simon feel that Sanctuary First, a pioneering online ministry developed by the Church of Scotland echoes the heart of Walking the Way, which focuses on lifelong missional discipleship. See <http://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk>.

Simon encouraged congregations to explore the story of 'Fullerton Connexions' – a Church of Scotland congregation in North Ayrshire which turned its focus completely to the community around it, ditching the name 'Church', but holding firmly to being the presence of Jesus in the town. See <http://fullartonconnexions.co.uk>

The Church of Scotland's 'Path of Renewal' movement, which works with congregations that want to discover where God is already at work in their communities, also has a blog with some great examples of missional discipleship. See <http://pathofrenewal.blogspot.com>.

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave his Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

Oh love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall for evermore endure – the saints' and angels' song.

When hoary time shall pass away, and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race – the saints' and angels' song.

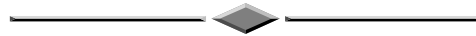
Oh love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall for evermore endure – the saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made;
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill, and evr'y man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Oh love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall for evermore endure – the saints' and angels' song.

Words by F.M. Lehman

Editor's note: 'The Love of God' was sung by John Porcher at our 100th Anniversary Evening Service in 2004.



Out of the mouths of babes...

Jesus had a cow and a donkey but I think he would rather have had a hamster - Brent aged 6.

Old people read to you until they fall asleep - Craig aged 6.

My sister says she eats men alive but she's only pretending - Mandy aged 6

Women do the washing up and cleaning and tidying and men go on the train and get tired -
Penny aged 7

My uncle is a riligious Maniac but I think he has another job as well - Stephen aged 6.

If a traffic warden sees you kissing in a car you get cramped - Alice aged 6.

Once you've had a baby you can't put it back - Andrea aged 9

My mummy cried on my first day at school so I had to take her home - Penny aged 5.

You should never love someone you don't like much - Katy aged 7

Our vicar tells you off on Sundays but he's nice when he's out shopping - Marsha aged 6.

From the books *Lots of Love* and *The Best of Love* compiled by Nanette Newman

Family News

A Prayer for Lent

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
and a generosity of service that gives without counting cost.
A life overflowing with Grace
poured out from the One who gave everything,
that we might show the power of love to a broken world,
and share the truth from a living Word.
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,
and a yearning to share it.

Amen

From www.faithandworship.com



URC Youth Moderator reflects on her #10YearChallenge

This month, the #10YearChallenge has taken over social media. The premise is simple: post two pictures of yourself, one from 2009 next to a very recent one, to see how you've changed.

Hannah Jones, Immediate-past Moderator of the United Reformed Church (URC) Youth Assembly, gives the challenge a twist, as her term in office comes to



an end, and reflects on her ten years of Youth Assembly experience using this year's theme 'One Body: We're all in this together'. The assembly took place on 18-20 January.

When I started attending Youth Assembly ten years ago, I sat in the audience and never left my seat. It wasn't until my sixth Assembly – in 2016 – that I finally stood up and spoke.

I felt compelled to speak at that Assembly because of the steps the Church took towards progression and inclusion by becoming the first UK Christian denomination to allow same-sex marriages. This led me to think more about where URC Youth could focus on inclusiveness and diversity, and following conversations with my colleagues, we created the 'equality and diversity representative' role.

I've grown from being a quiet, often confused, member of Assembly, to someone who jumps up at the chance to speak, to becoming the Moderator of Youth Assembly. I have witnessed change and helped create change. Has it all been worth it? Most definitely!

The opportunities that came my way as moderator and being part of the URC Youth have

varied vastly but enabled me to grow in my faith and as a person.

Ten assemblies ago I was a student in Year 10 with many life goals. I dreamt of becoming a doctor, of having a family and sharing my form of 'church' with them. Ten years later, I am in medical school, have moved in with my partner, and have seen and shared milestone after milestone with my Church family, all of whom I met through URC Youth.

I learned three key points as moderator:

- We all have a part to play in the Church. We each have so much to give, and so much to offer.
- Don't just use your voice to speak but use it to encourage action. Young people are not too 'young' to use their voices; Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for female education who, aged 17, became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and Mahri Black, who became an Scottish National Party MP aged 21, are great examples.
- It's ok to get it wrong. The best lessons are learnt through trying something and seeing what happens.

The key aims of Youth Assembly are: making friends, developing in faith, letting your voice be heard, empowering young people and independence, developing yourself as a person and having fun.

So, if you're a member of the URC and aged from Year 10 to 25 years, then get involved with URC Youth and the Youth Assembly. I cannot recommend it enough.

Hannah Jones

Quotes about youth

"You can only be young once. But you can always be immature." – *Dave Barry*

"Youth cannot know how age thinks and feels. But old men are guilty if they forget what it was to be young." – *J.K. Rowling*

"Blessed are the young for they shall inherit the national debt." – *Herbert Hoover*

"Youthfulness is about how you live not when you were born." – *Karl Lagerfeld*

"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." – *Ecclesiastes 11:9*



‘A new joyful experience’

An extract from Derek Estill’s blog post of 31st January 2019. Derek is one of the Moderators of the United Reformed Church General Assembly.

The URC Youth Assembly from 18th to 20th January was a joyful a new experience for me. There were more than 100 young people present, from all parts of our national. Those three days were packed with fun and business, all surrounded and inspired by worship. Music was provided by a group of very accomplished musicians and singers, which uplifted everyone.

The theme of the Youth Assembly programme and work this year is ‘One Body: We are all in this together’ – a reference to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. I agree that we all must work together, playing our parts in pursuit of God’s commandments to love God and one another. The Youth Assembly’s theme is particularly appropriate at this time as our nation seeks to redefine its place in the world. We all rely on each other, and it’s great that URC Youth are reminding us of this through its 2019 theme.

Youth Assembly was extremely well organised, allowing me to reflect on how truly blessed the URC is to have such a wonderful group of staff and young people. Towards the end of the conference, I was privileged to induct new young people to serve on the URC youth executive – a group of 17 young people, each with a specific role.

The process of electing the new youth executive team involved hustings, where all who were

being considered gave a short account of themselves. The hustings allowed candidates to explain what experience and capabilities they could bring to the role being considered, ahead of a vote. I was particularly interested in this process as it is a process that has now been adopted for General Assembly elections next year (2020).

Newly-inducted Youth Executive members conducted business very professionally using the URC’s consensus decision making process as well as the majority voting method. Hannah Jones, Immediate-past Moderator of the Youth Assembly, gave a rousing speech describing her time in the role. She was sincerely and enthusiastically thanked by the new Youth Assembly Moderators, Natalie Gibbs and Katie Henderson – who are job sharing the role.



Youth Assembly Moderators Natalie Gibbs and Katie Henderson with Derek Estill

Derek Estill

Posted 31st January 2019

Unity and diversity in the body

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. And so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 & 26-27 (NIV)

Computer Corner

How do we know the Earth goes around the Sun?

**Interesting
video**

In this video, Dr Andrew Harrison, from Essex University's School of Mathematical Sciences asks the question 'How do we know the Earth goes around the Sun?' This lecture comes from the module 'The Laws of Physics', which aims to provide a broad overview of modern physics.

URL: <https://vimeo.com/79321442>

Ian's Regal Zonophone website

**Interesting
website**

The old Salvation Army blue Regal Zonophone 78 records were produced over a 30-year period from 1927 to 1957. These old 78s and other later produced EP and LP records are an encapsulated history of the Salvation Army and its musical heritage. Modern technology has seen most of these old records discarded, so they are seldom played or heard anymore. Ian Barton's website attempts to bring them alive once again.

URL: <https://www.regalzonophone.com>

SyncBackFree

**Useful
free
software**

It's more than twelve years since I first recommended SyncBackFree. At the time I had suffered several hard drive failures in a short period of time, which made me acutely aware of the need for backups. Ever since then I have used SyncbackFree to automate backing up of all my files, the most important of which I backup to three separate hard drives. It may look a bit daunting but there is a very good built-in help facility.

Download from: <https://www.2brightsparks.com/freeware/index.html>

Word Search – European Capitals

Continuing the European theme with European capitals, some of which may not be familiar.

F	L	M	I	N	S	K	Q	R	B	N	L	E	H	B	W	N	A	S	A		
K	A	O	K	M	R	Y	H	J	U	Y	B	O	W	Y	A	M	D	B	D		AMSTERDAM
B	N	F	N	A	A	S	K	R	I	W	Y	R	C	E	S	G	R	Y	R		ATHENS
M	I	L	I	N	C	B	K	A	A	W	C	T	F	T	B	D	X	Q	U		BAKU
Z	T	E	S	A	Z	O	X	S	U	M	C	R	E	F	X	U	K	K	K		BUCHAREST
F	S	K	L	J	L	B	R	O	A	X	B	R	N	W	H	B	O	T	A		DUBLIN
E	I	D	E	L	U	A	I	D	P	E	D	W	N	E	G	L	W	M	B		HELSINKI
K	R	M	H	B	W	G	R	W	V	A	D	Z	I	T	S	I	K	R	E		KIEV
W	P	W	I	U	E	I	P	I	M	I	Z	V	L	S	O	N	P	J	J		LJUBLJANA
S	A	A	Y	J	D	D	E	S	H	D	E	M	L	E	G	A	K	N	C		MADRID
U	U	D	C	L	J	C	R	A	C	I	R	Y	A	R	S	B	I	B	I		MINSK
I	M	I	P	I	E	M	M	K	K	C	D	L	T	A	U	O	E	S	T		OSLO
J	N	G	N	K	R	T	R	N	F	A	G	I	A	H	X	V	F	C	W		PODGORICA
V	E	X	F	L	F	O	B	X	Y	V	A	S	H	C	Q	Z	A	I	W		PRISTINA
H	G	O	O	P	I	Z	G	Z	E	T	W	B	S	U	S	H	P	L	A		RIGA
A	S	S	Y	F	A	V	X	D	H	B	C	O	O	B	E	F	K	P	G		SOFIA
N	T	L	A	G	D	O	C	E	O	V	C	N	L	G	C	R	G	H	S		TALLINN
Y	S	O	R	W	B	R	N	W	Y	P	E	M	Q	G	A	G	X	U	K		VILNIUS
F	E	E	K	Z	T	S	M	Q	D	Z	Q	I	W	N	Y	K	A	L	E		WARSAW
N	B	F	W	Y	O	N	S	Q	O	O	R	I	G	A	H	M	N	E	P		ZAGREB

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH 2019

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 2 nd	08.30am	Men's Breakfast Meeting
Sunday 3 rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Rev. John Ambrose PGCE (Ox) 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 – Dr Geoffrey Kittle Talk: 'Different Hats of a Doctor'
Thursday 7 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 10 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Rev. Celia Whitman
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 – Mr Adrian Tinning
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 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 24 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
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
Sunday 31 st	10.30am	Morning Service – Mrs Machrina Ejaz

To do list

Read God's Word – Psalm 119:12

Have faith – 2 Corinthians 5:7

Think of others – Philippians 2:4

Trust in the Lord – Proverbs 3:5

Pray – Philippians 4:6

Wait patiently – Psalm 27:14