

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

May 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 MAY 2019

Sun 5 th May	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 12 th May	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. John Ambrose PGCE (Ox)
Sun 19 th May	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 26 th May	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Wilf Tyler

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR MAY 2019

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 5 th May	Jean Reeve	Doreen Churchill	Malcolm Brown
Sun 12 th May	Heather Brown	Malcolm Brown	Kay Watson
Sun 19 th May	Malcolm Brown [Holy Communion]	Janet Wimbleton	Janet Wimbleton
Sun 26 th May	Jean Reeve	June Gargrave	Doreen Churchill

FLOWER ROTA FOR MAY 2019

Sun 5 th May	
Sun 12 th May	
Sun 19 th May	
Sun 26 th May	June Gargrave - birthday

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 8th May 7.30pm

CHURCH MEETING

Thu 23rd May 12.30pm

HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS

Minster::

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.

From the Bible – John 21:15-19 (NIV)

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

From a sermon by Rev. Roy Jenkins

Jesus’ response to Peter’s assertion of his love was to give him a job - ‘Feed my lambs, take care of my sheep.’ His love is offered freely to any who are willing to accept it. It’s never earned, never deserved, always a gift of grace. But at some point it will always result in a commission, something to be done.

For some, that involves massive responsibilities of leadership - setting an example, offering inspiration, making hard choices which can affect the lives of millions. From a very different world, I think Peter would have understood the terrifying dilemmas confronting many politicians in recent months.

But influence is exercised at many levels. Each of us is in a unique set of relationships: we might literally be the only person who can supply a particular piece of help - offer an insight, provide support - and if we don’t do it, no one will.

And sometimes that can be extremely costly. Jesus told Peter: ‘When you were young you used to get ready and go anywhere you wanted to; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands and someone else will bind you and take you where you don’t want to go.’

We all know that age can bring increasing dependency: it can be a tough truth to come to terms with, and it’s also, of course, one of the great social pressures of our day. But the apostle is being told more than that – rather, that at some point he will follow his Lord to crucifixion, and he

will have lived the rest of his days aware of that stark warning. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

As the recent bombings in Sri Lanka demonstrated, the danger for followers of Jesus remains a daily reality in many countries - and for people of other faiths, too... anyone regarded as a threat. The intolerance that feeds terror groups or governments can prevent communities meeting for worship, drive families from their homes, put unknown numbers behind bars - and it produces many contemporary martyrs. Their witness is one to be pondered in humility by those of us who live in relative security: how robust is our love? How are we using our evident freedom? How ready for the much more mundane sacrifices which might be necessary to remain faithful?

Faced by the witness of the martyrs, any of us might feel tempted to give up in despair. Do you love me? The question can haunt us. We know our failures all too well; know how faint and fickle our love can be.

But Jesus knows it too, and also recognises what we try to be, reads the desires of our best moments when we really do want to pursue his way. And knowing us better than we know ourselves, still says to us as he said to the forgiven Peter, ‘Follow me.’ He also promises that he’ll be with us every step of the way

Preached at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cardiff, and broadcast on BBC Radio 4’s *Sunday Worship*.

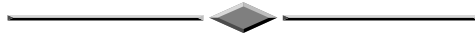
From the Editor

Welcome to the May edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

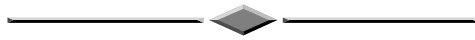
The layout is slightly different this month with the Family News section not in its usual position. I am grateful to Wilf Tyler for writing an article about his visit to Jordan at the end of last year during which something different occurred. I have written a report with photos of the Good Friday Walk of Witness and Easter Day Sunrise Service.

Please note that on some literature handed out before the magazine was printed, I indicated that the May Church Meeting would be held on 16th May when in fact the meeting is scheduled to take place on 23rd May. I'm not sure why this date was chosen at the March meeting but it actually suits me as I'm taking part in another test pit dig with the AGES archaeological group in Lynton Road on the 15th and 16th May.

Malcolm Brown



A letter is an unannounced visit, the postman the agent of rude surprises. One ought to reserve an hour a week for receiving letters and afterwards take a bath. – *Friedrich Nietzsche*



Letter to a friend

Editor's note: I found the letter below whilst browsing the Internet. It is said to have been written by an 83-year-old lady to her best friend. Whilst I cannot be certain of the veracity of that statement, readers may take the letter at face value and hopefully enjoy the content.

Dear Pearl,

I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the garden and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time working.

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savour, not to endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good China and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound in weight, getting the sink unblocked, or the first Amaryllis blossom.

I wear my best coat when I go shopping. My theory is that if I look prosperous, I can shell out £20.00 for a small bag of groceries.

I'm not saving my good perfume for special events, but wearing it for the check-out staff in the supermarket and the cashiers in the bank.

'Someday' and 'one of these days' are no longer in my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now.

I'm not sure what others would have done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologise for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese meal or whatever their favourite food was. I'm guessing; I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband, parents or children often enough how much I truly love them.

I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and lustre to life. And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God. Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.

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 May & June 2019

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 7 th May	2.30pm	Illustrated Talk: 'The Work of Mission Aviation Fellowship' by Mr Richard Cecil
Tue 11 th Jun	2.30pm	Film Show: An old-fashioned trip to the pictures viewing real 16mm film trailers, adverts, newsreels and the film 'The Supreme Secret' by Major David Groves

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

Meeting fee £2.00 – first time free

Annual subscription – £3.00

"Pray, and let God worry." - Martin Luther

Family News

Vertical line separator

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

-
- Wed 8 May 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 'Nae Pasaran' at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets £3.00 from Eventbrite. Refreshments available. Bring a cushion.
-
- Sat 11 May 2019 - Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church - 10.00am to 12 noon.
-
- ditto - Local Councillors' Surgery at Old Fire Station - 10.00am to 12 noon.
-
- ditto - Beat & Beans Café with Mike Davis (pianist) at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Live music with coffee, tea and snacks. Relax and enjoy the music in historic surroundings. Free admission.
-
- ditto - Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon.
-
- ditto - Jumble Sale in aid of 2nd Thundersley Scouts at St Peter's Church Hall. Starts at 1.30pm.
-
- ditto - Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir with The Two Elizabeths at Leigh Road Baptist Church in aid of Southend CAP. Starts at 7.30pm.
-
- Tue 14 May 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.
-
- Thu 16 May 2019 - Poetry Reading Group Meeting at Hadleigh Library. This month's subject - Roger McGough. From 2.30pm to 3.30pm.
-
- Sat 18 May 2019 - Country Music Evening with Supper at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Starts at 6.00pm. Choice of fish and chips or chicken and chips.
-
- Sat 1 Jun 2019 - Local History Day at Hadleigh Library from 10.00am to 4.00pm.
-
- Sat 8 Jun 2019 - Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church - 10.00am to 12 noon.
-
- ditto - Local Councillors' Surgery at Old Fire Station - 10.00am to 12 noon.
-
- ditto - Beat & Beans Café at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Live music with coffee, tea and snacks. Free admission.
-
- ditto - Strawberry Tea For Christian Aid at St Michael's Church Hall, Daws Heath, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.
-
- ditto - Handicraft Sale at St Michael's Church, Daws Heath, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. A variety of craft items, knitting wool and haberdashery items for sale. For Parish funds.
-
- ditto - Southend Symphony Orchestra Summer Concert at SA Hadleigh Temple. Starts at 7.30pm.
-
- Sat 15 Jun 2019 - Hadleigh Heritage Coffee Morning & Talk - 'Hadleigh and Crime in the Early 20th Century' by Andrew Summers - at St James the Less Church. Coffee from 10.30am. The talk starts at 11.00am. Free event.
-
- ditto - Hadleigh Gardening Association Summer Show at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.
-

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

Good Friday United Service & Walk of Witness

The traditional Good Friday United Service on 19th April was held, as usual, at Hadleigh Methodist Church starting at 10.15am. It was led for the first time by Major Marian Fripp, joint leader at the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple. Marian's husband, Major Steve, along with other clergy and lay members from other churches also took part by doing readings and prayers. A retiring offertory for Christian Aid raised £235.90.

At 11.00am, the Walk of Witness to our church took place. The walkers crossed the London Road at the crossing by the traffic lights and congregated by the statue outside Morrisons car park. There was a slight delay before the walk got under way with Fred Lawrence from St Thomas More Church carrying the Cross. There was a good turnout this year, helped no doubt by the lovely weather. Approximately ninety people made it to the church for refreshments, though not all of them were able to take part in the walk.



Walk of Witness arriving at our church



Refreshments and fellowship

Our thanks go to Jean Reeve for arranging the purchase of the hot cross buns and being present for their delivery early on Good Friday morning. A willing group of volunteers appeared a bit later to help cut and butter them. They were served with tea or coffee after a welcome by our Church Secretary, Royston Brackin, and a prayer by Major Marian. A retiring collection towards expenses produced a small surplus to be added to the total to be sent to Christian Aid.

Easter Day Sunrise Service

The Easter Day Sunrise Service on 21st April took place at Hadleigh Castle starting at 6.00am. The weather could not have been better and the sunrise, which took place just before the service started, was a sight to behold. Lots of people, including myself, availed themselves of the opportunity to take some nice photos.



Sunrise service



Sunrise

The service was attended by around sixty people – which was a very good attendance – and was kindly led by Major Marian Fripp. Marion had a busy time this Easter! Several members and friends of the Temple Band kindly provided music for the stirring Easter hymns. This was a memorable occasion for all who were there.

Malcolm Brown

Reflections on Living Lent (or ‘The joys of a naked cucumber’)

A post dated 20th April 2019 from the Joint Public Issues Team. Naomi Oates and her husband Luke took up the challenge to go ‘plastic-free’ during Lent. Here, Naomi reflects on what might happen next...

Since Lent began, nothing in our kitchen has been quite what it seems. Cake tins are stuffed with fusilli, jam jars are filled to the brim with raisins and nuts, and anyone prying open a tube of Pringles might be surprised to find themselves confronted with spaghetti.



Our much-reduced weekly shop at Tesco. Still a work in progress – who knew that teabags contain plastic?!

Lent has, for us, been full of surprises and new discoveries. We soon discovered the challenge of trying to buy plastic-free cheese, yoghurt, cucumbers, chocolate, cleaning products, cereal and shampoo. But we also discovered how easy it is to go plastic-free at our local greengrocer, the joy of solid bars of shampoo and conditioner – and how to clean the toilet with bicarbonate of soda and lemon juice!

Early on, I began to worry about how ‘spiritual’ my chosen Lenten discipline really was. Traditionally, of course, Lent has been a time when Christians prepare to remember Jesus’ death and resurrection through a season of penitence and self-denial. In the past, when I’ve given up something for Lent, I’ve tried to give the money I’ve saved to charity and the time or mental energy I’ve saved to God, through Bible study or prayer.

But giving up single-use plastics took up more of my time, as I found myself cycling round a wider range of shops in search of plastic-free rice and conditioner. Plus, there was the vexed question of Sundays – a day when Christians traditionally set aside their Lenten discipline, in celebration of the fact that Christ is risen (alleluia!). But it seemed perverse to celebrate God’s good works by, say, wrapping myself in clingfilm every Sunday.

So, what lessons have I learned? How might I live differently from Easter Day onwards?

First, I found a perverse enjoyment in not always being able to have what I wanted, when I wanted it. We switched to having milk delivered in glass bottles on certain days, rather than buying it in plastic cartons when we were running low. This meant that we occasionally ran out of milk and had to wait for the next delivery. Buying snacks on the go (other than fruit) was also near-impossible, and sugar cravings often went unsatisfied until we had time to bake a batch of cookies or flapjacks.

I was reminded of the time I spent Shabbat with a Jewish family and saw the ways they observed the commandment to rest and to keep the day holy. What seemed at first, to me, to be frustratingly restrictive rules (not being able to cook, for instance, or retrieve something from a locked car) were experienced by the family as a source of liberation. They found it healthy to be reminded that we are not entirely in control and that the world is not entirely dependent on us; that God is sovereign, and will one day renew heaven and earth, whether or not we’ve ordered the right number of bottles of milk.

Being reminded of my own limitations was a healthy reality check – and waiting that little bit longer made my next milky cup of tea, or sugary snack, all the more delicious. Many of us care deeply about the environment, but might feel uncomfortable (for whatever reason) taking part in the current ‘Extinction Rebellion’ protests. But we can all rebel, in small ways, against a culture of instant gratification. Waiting, or going without, can be an act of holy protest.



Our (rather wonky) homemade attempt to replace our usual plastic-wrapped frozen pizzas

During Lent, I have been struck by our calling to love the Lord our God with all our mind, as well as our heart and soul (Matthew 22:37).

I have been tempted, on many occasions, to accept what feels like the right answer without interrogating it in any depth. But making environmentally-friendly decisions can be complex. Plastic has many disadvantages, but it also prevents a huge amount of food waste. Glass bottles and tin cans also take energy to produce. Which is better overall – plant-based yoghurt bought from a shop in a recyclable plastic container, or dairy yoghurt delivered to my doorstep in a reusable glass jar?

Such decisions also have financial implications which, for an increasing number of families in the UK, make ethical decision-making all the more fraught. (Interestingly, we found that although some items – like soap – became more expensive, the cost of our shopping decreased overall, as our options became more limited and we cooked more recipes from scratch, majoring on items that were readily available without plastic, such as vegetables and grains.)

Loving God with our minds means wrestling with decisions in all their complexity and taking the time (where our resources allow it) to weigh up the pros and cons of each option, and not simply to take the easiest (or most attractive!) path. But as well as thinking critically, Lent has also served as a reminder to me that there isn't (or shouldn't be) a gap between faith and the physical 'stuff' of life.

What we do, how we travel, what we eat, and where we shop doesn't just reflect what we think about God and God's creation – it shapes it. In the words of Richard Rohr: 'we do not think

ourselves into new ways of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking.' As I've found myself shopping in new places, meeting new people, cooking more from scratch, and thinking more intentionally about what containers I should carry with me – I've felt these ways of living shaping my mind-set. In God, we live and move and have our being (not just our thinking).

Finally, I have been reminded that the personal is political – that our actions as individuals, however small, have an impact, especially when businesses begin to respond to consumer trends and politicians to what matters to voters. By changing our patterns as individuals, we can be salt and yeast in our communities.

We're still in the process of working out what changes will continue after Easter Day. Some – like our milk deliveries – have already become a part of our weekly routine, while others – like the absence of halloumi! – we're more eager to leave behind. But I hope that the mindset of living more slowly, intentionally, and with greater appreciation of the gifts of God's creation, will continue.

Naomi Oates

Naomi is a Methodist minister in training and a member of the Living Lent community. She worships in the Teddington and Richmond & Hounslow Circuits, trains at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, and works for the Connexional Team. From September she will be stationed to the North Kent Circuit as a probationer. She enjoys baking, swimming and hiking (but not all at the same time).



The Joint Public Issues Team

Christians are called to act justly and to work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. What does this mean today, and how can we make a difference? The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is made up of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, working together for peace and justice. We work to:

- equip Christians to act and pray on issues of injustice,
- resource churches to reflect and campaign effectively,
- help our Churches to speak out with a distinctively Christian voice on injustice.

The Joint Public Issues Team is governed by a Strategy and Policy Group made up of senior staff members from each of our four denominations' structures. This group meets regularly to oversee the work of the team and to structure its priorities and future work.

The JPIT website at <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk> has a number of resources covering faith (reflections, bible studies and prayers), issues (briefings and useful resources) and actions (campaigns and events). There is a monthly e-mailed newsletter and a monthly Faith in Politics podcast.

A Holiday to Jordan with a Difference

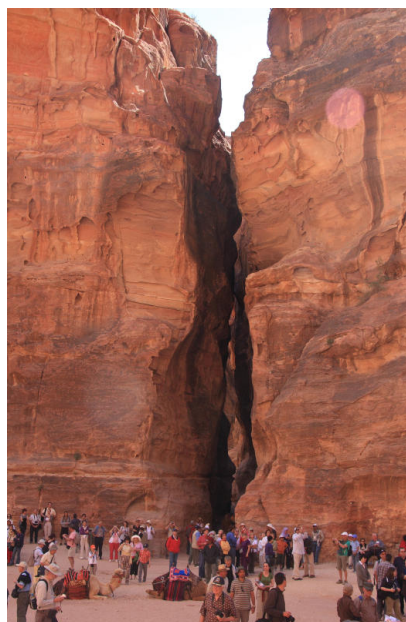
In November 2018, my regular holiday in Jordan went off its usual beaten course when I was asked to appear on the national television channel. Tourism is of vital economic importance to this Middle Eastern country and a plug for tourism could be of great help. And here was a British man who was back in Petra for his 62nd holiday. The connection was obvious.

I was collected from my hotel at 9.00am and taken to the headquarters of the Petra Development Tourism Region Authority where I was introduced to various big-wigs and quizzed on why I kept going back to Jordan. The questions included: What in particular did I find interesting - was it the scenery or the history? Do I usually use a trained guide? Did I mix well with the local people? Had I met any knowledgeable archaeologists? Do I feel safe?

My replies mentioned that I enjoy both the scenery and the history. I do use trained guides and several of the guides that I have used are now close friends. I have met a Professor of Archaeology (who is now the Dean of Ma'an University) and both he and a college lecturer stayed with me whilst attending a conference at the British Museum. And yes, I do feel safe – safer than in many parts of London. This may be partly because Jordan doesn't have oil fields to attract the sticky fingers of America and Russia. As for getting on well with the local people, I am an adopted member of the local tribe – the Nawafleh – being known and signing everywhere as John Nawafleh.

The interview quizzing took some thirty minutes and the whole event was recorded by a TV cameraman. The Chairman of the tourism authority then presented me with a magnificent piece of pottery that was an exact replica of an ancient Nabatean pot.

I was then taken by car through Wadi Musa (the modern town) to the entrance of the ancient city of Petra, which the poet described as 'the rose-red city half as old as time'. Here we transferred to an electric buggy containing a driver, interviewer, cameraman, my friend Naiym and myself. We drove down the Siq, a 1200-yard long narrow cleft through the rocks, which goes down to the famous Treasury and the beginning of Petra.

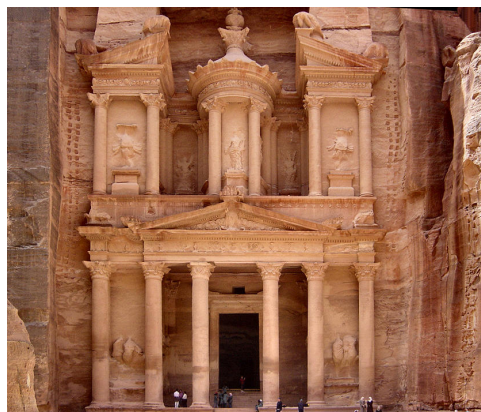


Al-Siq

The narrow Siq was full of tourists closely following their coach leaders holding up coach placards. Imagine me feeling somewhat like the Queen Mother, sitting up in style as our driver kept sounding his horn and forcing the crowds to make way for our buggy. Occasional shouts of 'Hallo, John Nawafleh, are you back again?' rang out as we passed guides that I knew.

We stopped on about five occasions as we went down the Siq. Each time the camera was set up and I then had to walk towards it pointing to various carvings on the canyon wall and saying inanities like 'Oh, look at that', 'Isn't it wonderful' etc. meanwhile the tourists had to wait patiently until we could let them through.

When we reached the end of the Siq and stood in front of the magnificent building 'The Treasury', I was finally able to speak properly for five or six minutes about why I keep going back to Jordan and what it was I so enjoyed seeing at Petra and which other places I went to in Jordan.



The Treasury

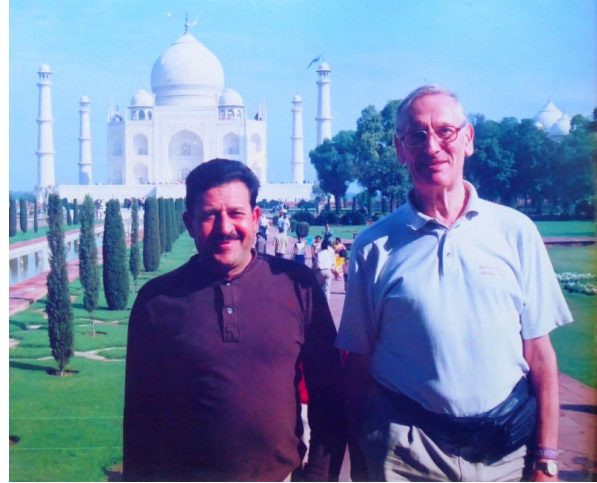
I had no script – I didn't need one – it came straight from the heart. When I had finished, my friend Naiym then translated my words into Arabic for the TV audience.

It was then time to be taken back up the Siq and into the town, where Naiym and I were dropped off. It had been three and a half of the most enjoyable hours of my life. Unfortunately, flash floods hit the headlines the following day so 'my' programme was not shown until I was back home. However, I was told that, all over the town, members of the Nawafleh tribe were watching 'Al Nawafleh Inglesi' appearing on television. When I was eventually sent a DVD of the programme, I found that the three and a half hours of excitement had been edited down to three and a half minutes! But I had enjoyed it!

A week after I got home, I had a telephone call from Jordan. It was the Editor of the Jordan Times, the national English language newspaper. He wanted an article about the television news story so chatted to me for about twenty minutes. The result is the article below

from the Jordan Times of 30th November 2018. A similar article appeared in the Arab Press with a photo of me with Naiym.

As you will now be aware, I have been visiting Jordan for many years and have been on holiday in other countries with Naiym. No prizes for guessing where the photo below was taken, in 2005.



Naiym & John (Wilf)

John (Wilf) Tyler

Jordan Times Friday 30th November 2018

'Pilgrim of Petra' visits site for 62nd time in 25 years

By Ahmed Bani Mustafa

AMMAN — "If you call me John Tyler in Petra, locals will not know me, while, if you say John Nawafleh [a local tribe's name], everyone will know me," John Tyler told The Jordan Times in a phone interview on Thursday.

John Tyler a UK national in his 80s, has visited the ancient city of Petra 62 times since 1993.

As people are usually hesitant to visit the Middle East because regional events, Tyler has never been reluctant to pay visits to the rose-red city, 230km south of Amman.

"I wish people in the UK believed it was perfectly safe in Jordan. You are safer in Jordan than you would be in London," said the traveller.

He did not stop coming to Jordan even dur-

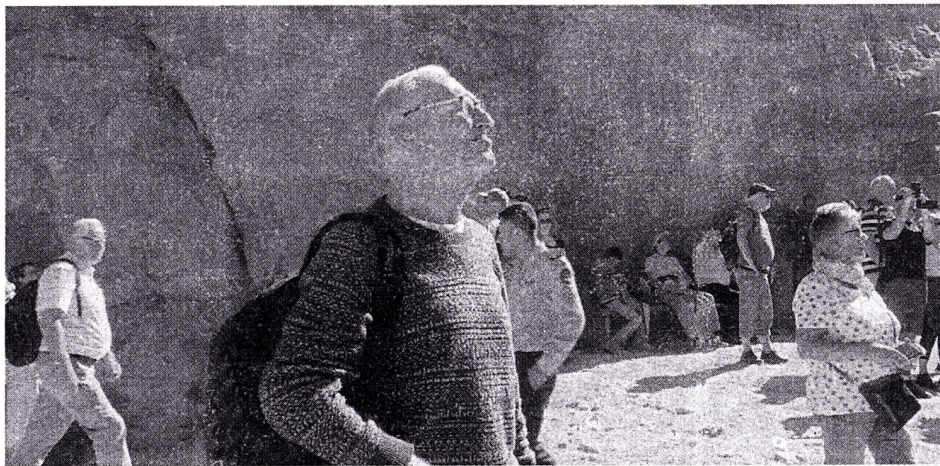


Photo courtesy of Jordan TV

In this undated photo, John Nawafleh surveys the ancient city of Petra. He has made more than 60 visits to the site since 1993

ing the peak of the Syrian crisis.

Tyler read about Petra for the first time when he was 12 years old, but he waited 50 years to come as he had to look after his mother.

When asked why he had visited so many times, his answer was "I do not know, I have never been interested in visiting other famous sites and wonders of the world."

He said his favorite part of Petra is the Mughar Al Nasara (Christian Caves), for the unique colours of the rocks, adding that "where else in the world could you see that".

The "pilgrim of Petra" has been all over Petra including the Treasury, the Monastery, the walls and Jabal Haroun.

Naeem Nawafleh, Tyler's guide, said that had has been visited

Petra up to three times a year and would enter the site two times a day. Tyler has even built up a relationship with the locals.

The Petra Development Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA) recently hosted Tyler and honoured him with a present in appreciation of his frequent visits.

PDTRA's acting chairman of the board of commissioners Sulaiman Al Farajat said that the authority does not consider him as an ordinary tourist and provides him with all the facilities when he visits the city.

Frajat said he appreciated the members of the local community who had built friendly relationships with tourists, pointing out that community is an important part of tourism and the images visitors carry with them when they leave Petra.

Editor's note: Petra, the fabled "rose red city, half as old as time", is an ancient Nabataean city in the south of Jordan. Due to its fabulous ruins, it was recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985. Petra was the capital of the Nabataean kingdom from around the 6th century BC. The kingdom was absorbed into the Roman Empire in AD 106 and the Romans continued to expand the city. An important centre for trade and commerce, Petra continued to flourish until a catastrophic earthquake destroyed buildings and crippled vital water management systems around AD 663. After Saladin's conquest of the Middle East in 1189, Petra was abandoned and the memory of it was lost to the West until the early nineteenth century.

'Bonkers but Beautiful'

An article about Saltaire URC from the May 2019 edition of Reform (with additional photos)

The building of Saltaire United Reformed Church is like a folly – bonkers but beautiful. Saltaire is a Unesco World Heritage site, an industrial village built by the mill owner Titus Salt for himself and his textile workers in the 19th century and kept intact ever since.



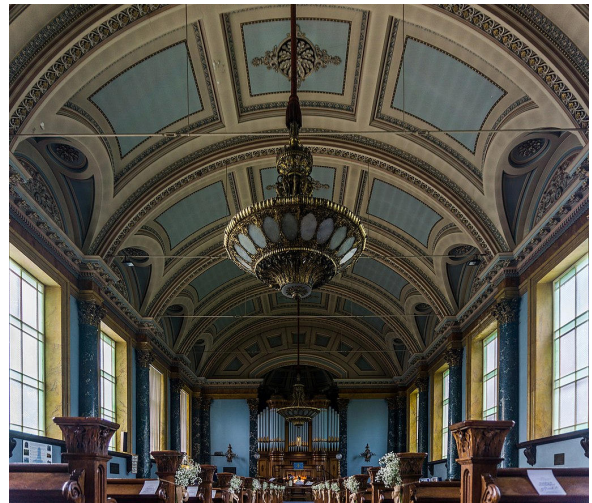
Grade 1 listed Saltaire URC, built in 1859 from local stone with an ashlar finish. The main part of the church is roofed with Welsh slate and has large plain windows.

The church is a copy of one in Bologna. Apparently, Titus and Dame Caroline went on a second honeymoon, stumbled upon this church, and Titus thought: 'I'd really like one of those.' Inside the church there are signs of his presence all over the place – loads of 'TS's littered around the building. There's a bit of an ego there.

Coachloads of tourists come here constantly. When I arrived, I foolishly assumed the tourism was seasonal, but it's every day of the year. On a Sunday, we might have people in the congregation from Nicaragua, Australia, Canada, Wales. In my four years here, I've never once led worship to just the regular congregation.

We open the building daily from April to September. If a walking tour group wants to come in and see me, I will always go. I'm conscious that when people enter a church it might be the first time since the funeral of a loved one, so it brings up all kinds of stuff. They often have a very emotional response. People are moved and don't know how to put it into words. Talking to the visitors can be difficult because there are a lot of languages I do not speak, and I rarely find out what has happened to them after spending time with them. Sometimes they email about how they've sought out a church in their local area, which is lovely.

The building is both a burden and opportunity. It can also be hard for the congregation, meeting in a church that needs to make room for others.



Interior view

Late last year, a church meeting finally agreed to allow volunteers from the village to help with the cafe, because they were too tired to do it all themselves. That's a huge milestone. Many retired people in the village would love to help opening up the church as well, but that's not gone down very well with the congregation, who feel personally attached to the building. Restoring the cafe involved raising a carpet bought in 1953, which was horrifying to some people, so it has to be baby steps all the way.



Organ added in 1890, rebuilt twice since

The building is a money pit. For a largely elderly congregation, it's too much to keep restoring. The heating alone is extortionate ~ if we have a wedding or funeral in winter, the heating's got to be on for up to 16 hours, and if a door is open for more than ten minutes, all the heat's gone. We're very precious about the front door! Basically the money comes from the congregation, with the occasional gifts from visitors.

My husband Mike is a stage manager touring with bands, and very practical. He took a year out working on the restoration of the cafe, getting the floor back to its original grandeur. He fixed the terrible ceiling and installed new toilets, including the first disabled one. He's breathing new life into the building and I can't take any credit. When he returns from tour in September, we finish the last phase of the building project — the junior church room downstairs. We're praying, and know we'll have a lot of support from God because he has been so faithful to this group of people.

I have a special category post of ecumenical chaplain to the village, running photographic groups and art events. It's a very arty village and that's my way in. I also run the Bread Project, where we make bread and share food, a Gospel reading and prayer. That has got me into more than 60 houses for wonderful, intimate Bible sessions. People really open up when you're doing something artistic, or food.

Saltaire was a tough village to crack. A lot of people don't really take to someone from the outside until they get to know you. In a small village, there is a lot of politics – there are two history clubs in opposition to each other – and it can be inward-looking. Even now I'm finding stuff out – I just discovered there's been a food-sharing scheme since the First World War, long before foodbanks. I'd visit people and see bags of food they pretended they hadn't brought in from the car yet. Then I noticed blue cards in letter boxes. Two wonderful sisters in the village looked embarrassed when I asked them about it, but explained that when a blue card goes out it means the family are struggling and people share food with them. Every time I think I've got this village nailed...

Rev. Caroline Andrews

Minister of Saltaire URC and Ecumenical Chaplain to the Saltaire World Heritage Site

Sir Titus Salt



Titus Salt was born in Morley, near Leeds, on 20th September 1803. His father Daniel was a drysalter (dealer in chemical products such as glue, varnishes, dyes and salt for preserving food) and then a farmer. The Salt family lived at Manor Farm (now The Manor, a pub) in Crofton, near Wakefield between 1813 and 1819.

After working for two years as a wool-stapler in Wakefield, Titus became his father's partner in the business of Daniel Salt and Son. The company used Russian Donskoi wool, which was widely used in the woollens trade, but not in worsted cloth. Titus visited the spinners in Bradford trying to interest them in using the wool for worsted manufacture, with no success, so he set up as a spinner and manufacturer.

In 1833 he took over his father's business and within twenty years had expanded it to be the largest employer in Bradford. Titus became mayor of Bradford and in 1848 became Liberal MP, although he lost the seat two years later. Around 1850, he decided to build a mill large enough to consolidate his textile manufacture in one place and bought land three miles from the town in Shipley next to the River Aire, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the Midland Railway. He opened Saltaire Mills (now known as Salt's Mill) on his 50th birthday, 20 September 1853, and set about building houses, bathhouses, an institute, hospital, almshouses and churches, that make up the model village of Saltaire.

He built the Congregational church which is now Saltaire United Reformed Church, at his own expense in 1858–59, and donated the land on which the Wesleyan Chapel was built by public subscription in 1866–68. He forbade 'beershops' in Saltaire, but was not teetotal himself. He was a county JP, and also a Deputy Lord Lieutenant. In 1869 he was created a Baronet, of Saltaire and Crow Nest in the County of York. Titus was a private man, and left no written statement of his purposes in creating Saltaire but he told Lord Harewood at the opening that he had built the place "to do good and to give his sons employment".

Titus Salt married Caroline, daughter of George Whitlam, of Great Grimsby on 21 August 1830, and had five sons and three daughters. He died at Crow Nest, Lightcliffe, near Halifax on 29th December 1876 and was buried at Saltaire Congregational Church. Some estimates put the number of people lining the route of the funeral at over 100,000. [Source; Wikipedia]



‘God’s insurrection’

Nigel Uden, Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, shares how reading fuelled a rediscovery of the real song of Easter.

Throughout my ministry, Holy Week has been preceded by a season of slightly anxious wondering about what to say around the events of Calvary and the empty tomb. Always, some reading helps.

This year, I was assisted by a senior colleague offering a comment upon the sermon I had preached at a funeral. I had suggested that the empty tomb was crucial as an image of God’s reliably resurrected love, for the deceased and for those who mourn.

I suppose I was saying that, in the inextinguishable light of the empty tomb, those who had sought to defeat that love were seen to have been foiled. Concerned that I was understating the cross, my correspondent reminded me of the work of Scottish theologian PT Forsyth, who 110 years ago published *The Cruciality of the Cross*.

After a journey out of more liberal thought, Forsyth wrote:

‘Only if [we] hold that in the atoning cross of Christ the world was redeemed by holy God once for all, that there, and only there, sin was judged and broken, that there and only there the race was reconciled and has its access to the face and grace of God – only then [have we] the genius and plerophory of the Gospel.’*

I understand Forsyth to be saying that the cross is crucial because it is where God shared the world’s pain and suffering, as only God could if it was to be redeemed. ‘The greatest human need’, Forsyth wrote, ‘is not only holy love, but holy love.’ Impressive stuff. I am helped by it, and grateful to my colleague. But I am not fully satisfied by it. I need the rest of Easter.

A clear out of my church office provided the stimulus to re-read something else. I came across a more recent book *Dare We Speak of*

Hope? by Allan Aubrey Boesak (Eerdmans, 2014). Boesak is a South African, who was active and influential when I was serving the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa in the early 1990s. He offers a pithy understanding of Easter from the perspective of struggling for justice: ‘The resurrection is God’s insurrection, God’s rebellion. ... It is God’s uprising against the violence that nailed Jesus to the cross and freezes us into paralysis.’

This resurrection/insurrection language is not a novel play on words but for me, it is a useful one. The attack on grace and truth which we see at Calvary is not the end. The empty tomb tells how God’s bigger than that, stronger than that, and victorious over that. Somehow, that gives us hope. I certainly recall how this sense of insurrection was a hope giver in the South Africa of high apartheid.

One final word which has nourished my Easter thinking. I had a rather lavish Lent lunch with an American theologian, Thomas W Currie III. In a book of addresses to his theological students, *Bread for the Journey* (2014), he spoke of ‘hope migrating’.

Pondering that idea, I was left realising that hope doesn’t leave us where it finds us. It has the capacity to help us migrate to another place. That is Easter’s hope. It doesn’t leave us with God’s grace and truth in a tomb of defeat. It points us to God’s newness, where, despite unrelenting challenge, grace and truth endure – durably, penetratingly, transformatively.

I don’t fully understand it, because I believe it to be beyond our human understanding. But it does stir my Alleluias. They are the real song of Easter, as we celebrate the insurrection of holy love tenaciously holding us in migrating hope.

Nigel Uden

Posted April 2019

* full assurance, certainty

Computer Corner

Secret visit to Notre Dame Cathedral roof (subtitled)

Interesting video

An extract from a French film about the inner workings of the ancient Notre Dame Cathedral. The 850-year-old cathedral was devastated by fire on 15th April. This extract shows the roof, the wooden beams of which were completely destroyed by the fire.

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkGJMExlByk> or go to YouTube.com and search for "Notre Dame roof"

How to Customize the Taskbar in Windows 10

Interesting article

A post on the How-To-Geek website that gives advice on how to configure the taskbar in Windows 10. It covers such things as changing the size of the taskbar, pinning apps to the taskbar, adding files or folders to a pinned app's 'jump list', configuring or removing Cortana and the Search Box, hiding application icons and more.

URL: <https://www.howtogeek.com/225568/how-to-configure-and-customize-the-taskbar-in-windows-10/>

what3words

Interesting website

I was going to write an article about this website but it would not have been of interest to everyone. However, the site and its associated app may revolutionise how we identify locations. In short, what3words provides a precise and simple way to identify any location by dividing the world into a grid of 3m x 3m squares and assigning each one a unique 3 word address. The system is being used increasingly by emergency services. By the way, the what3words address for the church is [///rope.senses.line](https://www.what3words.com/rope.senses.line).

URL: <https://what3words.com>

Word Search – Words from pub names

Inspired by the imminent demolition of The Crown pub in Hadleigh

J	R	P	B	T	W	H	P	I	N	W	P	W	I	R	D	I	G	W	S		
B	L	D	C	A	L	G	Q	Z	H	P	J	L	Q	E	X	Y	L	L	B		ANCHOR
V	Z	T	N	N	T	O	X	I	L	L	K	W	H	I	G	U	W	F	Y		ANGEL
J	M	A	S	U	O	N	L	E	G	N	A	N	O	I	T	A	T	S	F		BELL
I	A	L	A	Q	O	X	G	F	X	I	F	L	W	E	S	B	P	P	J		CASTLE
T	F	O	X	D	Q	H	D	Q	A	G	A	P	U	S	L	H	X	Z	S		CHEQUERS
W	L	O	L	S	E	R	Y	E	Q	S	L	Q	Z	C	G	T	P	R	L		CRICKETERS
H	I	I	T	R	G	O	S	E	L	L	I	M	D	N	I	W	S	L	G		CROWN
S	O	V	V	E	G	H	B	S	R	K	C	X	M	O	O	R	G	A	T		DRAGON
E	N	Z	I	T	G	C	M	M	T	G	S	D	V	B	K	S	D	J	C		FOX
O	S	D	N	E	H	N	O	M	C	S	V	G	B	B	E	G	Z	M	X		GREYHOUND
H	M	X	X	K	V	A	C	X	H	R	P	C	U	C	Y	H	C	K	N		GROOM
S	M	Y	A	C	P	R	I	N	C	E	A	P	R	O	S	G	H	K	K		HORSESHOES
E	P	Z	M	I	K	Q	L	V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A	U	E	Y	Y		KEYS
S	C	C	K	R	F	G	J	Y	Z	U	W	D	G	X	E	O	Q	P	D		LION
R	B	F	R	C	W	G	E	N	E	N	Y	R	A	S	M	L	U	R	Q		PLOUGH
O	I	R	Q	G	U	L	K	T	A	A	O	A	Q	V	G	P	E	B	A		PRINCE
H	Y	N	V	X	A	X	F	N	E	W	D	G	V	N	J	T	R	W	V		STATION
P	N	E	T	U	S	E	B	E	L	L	S	O	J	Q	D	D	S	J	Z		SWAN
P	V	X	B	K	V	E	Q	L	X	O	D	N	G	K	Q	S	U	J	F		VICTORIA

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY 2019

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 2 nd	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Saturday 4 th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast Meeting
Sunday 5 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service - Mr Adrian Tinning Evening Service with Holy Communion - Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 6 th	No Session - BH	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 7 th	No session - cancelled 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Tuesday Fellowship - Mr Richard Cecil Illustrated Talk: 'The Work of MAF'
Wednesday 8 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 9 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 12 th	10.30am	Morning Service - Rev. John Ambrose PGCE (Ox)
Monday 13 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 14 th	No session - cancelled	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 16 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 19 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion - Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 20 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 21 st	No session - cancelled	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 23 rd	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 26 th	10.30am	Morning Service - Mr Wilf Tyler
Monday 27 th	No session - BH	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 28 th	No session - cancelled	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 30 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

Daisy Time

See, the grass is full of stars,
Fallen in their brightness;
Hearts they have of shining gold,
Rays of shining whiteness.

Buttercups have honeyed hearts,
Bees they love the clover,
But I love the daisies' dance
All the meadow over.

Blow, O blow, you happy winds,
Singing summer's praises,
Up the field and down the field
A-dancing with the daisies.

Marjorie Pickthall