

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

July & August 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

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



The United Reformed Church (URC) began in 1972 by a union between the Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church of England - hence United. The Union has since been extended to include the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ, which joined in 1981, and the Congregation Union of Scotland, which joined in 2001.

The description 'Reformed' refers to the doctrine of the church, which derives from the Reformation of the 16th century. There is a full Statement of Belief in the Basis of Union determined by the Act of Parliament in 1972. Briefly, however, it may be stated thus:

- We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that the Word of God in the Old and the New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people.
- We believe that Jesus Christ, born into this world, living as a man among men, dying upon the cross, raised from the dead and reigning for evermore, is God's gift of himself to the world whereby his love and mercy are revealed, offering to all men forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life.
- We believe that the Church is God's people, gathered by his love to serve Him in reconciling the world to Himself.

The URC is governed by God acting through its members who are guided by the Holy Spirit in their councils – the Elders' Meeting, the Church Meeting, the provincial Synod and the General Assembly. Local churches belong to an Area Partnership (AP), which meets approximately twice a year. At Hadleigh, we belong to the South Essex Area Partnership, which is part of the Eastern Synod.

HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS

Interim Moderators:

Rev. Dr. Jim Tarrant MA MTh
& Rev. Celia Whitman

Hon. Secretary:

Mr Royston Brackin (01702 558862)

Acting Hon. Treasurer:

Mr Royston Brackin

Elders: (* denotes Serving Elder)

Mr Royston Brackin*

Mrs Heather Brown* (01702 557678)

Mr Malcolm Brown* (01702 557678)

Miss Jean Reeve* (01702 554907)

Mrs Mary Milne

Elder 'emeritus': Rev. Peter Brewer

Each Serving Elder has a list of Church members and adherents for whom they have a pastoral responsibility. Please speak to your Elder if you have any problems, news etc.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address: 1 Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, SS7 2DQ

Website: www.hadleighessexurc.org.uk

URC website: www.urc.org.uk

URC Eastern Synod Office contact info:

Address: Synod Office, The United Reformed Church,
Whittlesford, Cambridge, CB2 4ND

Tel no: 01223 830770 E-mail: eastern.admin@urc.org.uk

Website: www.urc-eastern.org.uk

An invitation...

If you are not currently connected with this church or any other place of worship then we assure you of a warm welcome at our services. Why not join us next Sunday? Alternatively, drop in to our coffee morning on Thursdays.

If you are in need of help that the ministry of the church can supply then you can be assured of our interest and concern.

If you are suffering from ill health, loneliness or bereavement and feel that we could help, or if you would like to ask for a prayer or personal visit then please let any of the church officers know. All such requests are treated in the strictest confidence.

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JUL 2019

Sun 7 th Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Wilf Tyler
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 14 th Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Keith Berry
Sun 21 st Jul	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Celia Whitman
Sun 28 th Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Major Geoff Ashdown

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR JUL 2019

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 7 th Jul	Jean Reeve	Doreen Churchill	Malcolm Brown
Sun 14 th Jul	Heather Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 21 st Jul	Malcolm Brown [Holy Communion]	June Gargrave	Doreen Churchill
Sun 28 th Jul	Jean Reeve	Janet Wimbleon	Janet Wimbleton

FLOWER ROTA FOR JUL 2019

Sun 7 th Jul	
Sun 14 th Jul	Pamela George - in memory of Colin
Sun 21 st Jul	
Sun 28 th Jul	

ELDERS' MEETING	CHURCH MEETING
Wed 10 th Jul 7.30pm	Thu 18 th Jul 12.30pm

Praying Together



A time of prayer organised by Churches Together in Hadleigh.

Join us as we pray for Hadleigh and the wider world.

On Tuesday 16th July at 2.00pm.

At Hadleigh Baptist Church, Falbro Crescent, Hadleigh, SS7 2SE.

Refreshments served at the start.

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUG 2019

Sun 4 th Aug	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. John Ambrose PGCE (Ox)
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 11 th Aug	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
Sun 18 th Aug	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mrs Janette Stevens
Sun 25 th Aug	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Roger Brett

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR AUG 2019

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

FLOWER ROTA FOR AUG 2019

Sun 4 th Aug	
Sun 11 th Aug	
Sun 18 th Aug	Heather & Malcolm Brown - wedding anniversary
Sun 25 th Aug	Vera Knapton - in memory of her mother, Eleanor Jones

ELDERS' MEETING	CHURCH MEETING
No meeting in Aug	No meeting in Aug

August by Helen Hunt Jackson

Silence again. The glorious symphony
 Hath need of pause and interval of peace.
 Some subtle signal bids all sweet sounds cease,
 Save hum of insects' aimless industry.
 Pathetic summer seeks by blazonry
 Of colour to conceal her swift decrease.
 Weak subterfuge! Each mocking day doth fleece
 A blossom, and lay bare her poverty.
 Poor middle-aged summer! Vain this show!
 Whole fields of golden-rod cannot offset
 One meadow with a single violet;
 And well the singing thrush and lily know,
 Spite of all artifice which her regret
 Can deck in splendid guise, their time to go!

Helen Hunt Jackson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1830 and died in 1885.

Who is this Jesus?

John Wesley had never been on a ship before until he sailed across to America. They're a week from land and there's a violent storm. The English passengers cringed in terror. Wesley, however, noticed the German Moravians steadily continued singing psalms. He was impressed with their faith in their hour of need. He saw the difference between those who truly knew the Lord and those who didn't. Even though he'd been a preacher for some time, he didn't have that faith that the Lord would, as we read the psalm: "Calm the storm to a whisper, still the waves and bring them safely into harbour!" (Ps.107:29-30).

The sea, of course, can be very dangerous. Even a small one, like the Sea of Galilee only seven miles across at its widest point, can be prone to violent storms and big waves, because it lies in a deep valley surrounded by hills where hot air meeting cooler air causes sudden gales which although expected can still be frightening.

Now Jesus had taken Himself off to the hills to pray, resisting the temptation to allow the people to make Him king. The disciples waited for Him, but as darkness fell, decided to head back home across the lake to Capernaum. Perhaps the weather was changing and they wanted to get back rather than spend a cold night out under the stars (with a few thousand rabble rousers who were trying to make Jesus king!)

So they're about four miles out by which time the sea is very rough. There's a gale sweeping down upon them. Now, they probably were able to handle themselves. Unlike Wesley they were used to such conditions. The point being made in the text is they were terrified: "When suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water approaching the boat." (6:19). Who wouldn't be? It's not something you'd expect to see. Bodies are heavier than water. The waves are pounding. But having already multiplied food to feed thousands of people, Jesus has already shown He can manipulate the laws of nature.

John in his gospel is once again profoundly demonstrating that Jesus is clearly greater than Moses. He's already been seen as the Prophet, as the King and now the gospel hints at Him acting like God. Moses led his people through the sea, but Jesus was able to walk on the sea! This miracle can't be explained away by a modernist, scientific mind-set. This abbreviated story is told to demonstrate the assurance that "Everyone who

calls on the Lord will be saved." (Rom.10:13; Acts 2:21).

The disciples' reaction suggests that here John intends us to understand that Jesus is walking on the water to find them. There's a storm that could easily capsize the boat. They are in danger. However, they recognise that the Lord brings His comfort and healing to them calling out: "Don't be afraid. I am here!" (6:20). They trust Him. The wind stops. Jesus gets into the boat beside them.

We often face spiritual and emotional storms and feel tossed about on the waters of life. In spite of terrifying circumstances, if we trust our lives to Christ for His safekeeping, He will give us peace in any storm. Even Jonah realized that! Also Isaiah's prophecy: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown" (Is.43:2) has been fulfilled by Christ. One could argue physically with the disciples and spiritually with us. Lastly, remember that God sometimes takes us into troubled waters not to drown us but to cleanse us. And storms don't last forever.

Back to the text, the next morning the crowd, who were hoping to make Jesus king remember, was still lingering on the far side of the lake where Jesus had blessed the bread. Therefore they had no option but to resume their pursuit of Him. Jesus wasn't flattered by their interest in Him. He gets straight to the point of exactly why they are searching for Him suggesting it has nothing to do with His teaching or His miracles but because they like the prospect of free food! "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you [on the hillside]..." – they have no understanding of who He really is and He knows their hearts desire (6:26).

The point we've got to grasp is this: that Jesus gives more than bread to satisfy our stomachs; He is the true bread of heaven that will satisfy our souls as it leads to eternal life. The work of God is not something we have to do, but someone we are to believe in. Isaiah symbolically speaks of this invitation to the Lord's salvation: "Why pay for bread that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food." (Is.55:2). Are you eating the bread of life?

Rev. Tim Mullings

Tettenhall Wood & St. Columba's URC, Wolverhampton

From the Editor

Welcome to the July and August edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

It has been a struggle to finalise this edition and as a consequence it has been printed much later than I would have liked. However, the delay has allowed me to include news of various birthday celebrations in the Family News section.

Having appealed for more family news last month, my cup runneth over this month so thank you to those who responded. I have published the family news from June Gargrave on a separate page because of the nature of the article and because the main section already occupied two whole pages!

I have included other articles from various sources but, given more time, I would have liked to have written something about my recent trip 'home' to East Yorkshire. One of the places I visited was the Humber Bridge, the beautiful Grade 1-listed structure that spans the River Humber from Barton in Lincolnshire to Hessle in East Yorkshire. I'll see what I can do for September.

In the meantime, whether you're holidaying on some distant exotic island or simply sitting in the back garden, may I wish readers of the Hadleigh Messenger a relaxing and enjoyable time over the next couple of months.

Malcolm Brown

Christian Aid Week 2019



Christian Aid Week 2019 ran from Sunday 12th May to Saturday 18th May but these dates only apply to the house-to-house collection. We no longer hold such a collection, which is a shame as it would help to maintain the profile of Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Week fundraising in Hadleigh now relies on envelope collections at churches, donations from churches and church groups, and profits from events.

The total amount raised this year was £1,423.24 compared to £1,267 in 2018, an increase of around 12%. This increase was due mainly to increases in the collections at St James and St

Barnabas but donations made at the Beat and Beans Café at St James on 11th May were also given to Christian Aid, which was a bonus.

Friends at St Michael's did very well again with their Strawberry Cream Tea on 8th June which produced £400. I am grateful to Ken Jones and his helpers at St Michael's for running the event and for friends from the Parish of Thundersley and further afield for supporting it.

Monthly bric-a-brac sales at our church coffee morning were about the same as last year. I am grateful to everyone who donated items to sell and to all who bought items. I would also like to thank our Tuesday Fellowship who, again, kindly donated £30.

The table below shows totals for each of the sources of income in Christian Aid Week 2019.

Source	£	Gift Aided
Church collections: URC (£167.50), Methodist (£20.00), St Barnabas (£240.50), St James the Less (£101.00)	529.00	275.00
Churches Together Good Friday service offertory	235.90	
Good Friday Walk of Witness refreshments surplus	20.03	
St. Michael's Church Strawberry Tea	400.00	
Hadleigh URC coffee morning bric-a-brac sales	81.16	
Hadleigh URC Tuesday Fellowship donation	30.00	
Hadleigh Methodist Church donation	60.00	
Beat and Beans Café donations	67.15	
Total	£ 1,423.24	275.00

On behalf of Christian Aid, I would like to thank everyone who supported this year's fundraising.

Malcolm Brown

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 July 2019

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 9 th Jul	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Afternoon Tea Party

A message from Kay, Leader of the Tuesday Fellowship

Many thanks to members for your support over the first part of 2019. I hope everyone enjoys the summer break and that the weather remains fine, particularly if you are going away on holiday. Do remember to collect postcards for the Mission Aviation Fellowship.

The autumn session will commence on Tuesday 17th September. The speaker is not yet confirmed but I will issue a programme for the session in due course.

Kay Watson

Church 115th Anniversary

On Sunday 16th June, we celebrated the 115th Anniversary of the founding of our church. The morning anniversary service, which included Holy Communion, was led by Adrian Tinning. Adrian returned with his wife Carole for our Anniversary Tea at 5.00pm. This was attended by around 25 people including members of the congregation, other preachers and friends from local churches. To make things easier for the catering team at the church, the food for the event was bought in but there was still work required to prepare the tables and lay out the food. Our thanks are owed to Jean Reeve, Kay Watson and Heather Brown for doing that and to all those who helped with the clearing up after the meal.

The evening service was due to be led by Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant but unfortunately, Jim was referred for some urgent hospital tests in the week before so Royston, our Church Secretary, sought an alternative preacher. We are therefore most grateful to Wilf Tyler who kindly stepped into the breach at short notice. We pray that those doctors are able to deal with Jim's health problem, which is causing concern.

Regrettably, I forgot to take the usual photos of each table of guests at the Anniversary Tea so instead I took a photo of most of the congregation just before the start of the evening service. One or two people who attended the tea could not stay for the service but a couple of other people joined us just for the service, including Rev. Ruth Cartwright.



Congregation before the start of the evening Anniversary service

From comments received, I think the anniversary celebrations were enjoyed by all. Afterwards, I received an e-mail from a Methodist guest who attended the tea and evening service with a friend. She wrote: "Thank you so much for your hospitality and making us so welcome at your anniversary celebrations. We both enjoyed meeting old and new friends and found the service quite inspiring."

Malcolm Brown

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Sat 13 Jul 2019	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00am to 12 noon. Cards also on sale.
ditto	- Local Councillors' Surgery at Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 10.00am to 12 noon. Parking available.
ditto	- Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon. Bring your old photos and other memorabilia or view articles on the Archive website.
ditto	- Beat and Beans Café at St James the Less Church with music by Peter Dunhill And Mike Blant. From 10.30am to 12.30pm. Free admission.
ditto	- Daws Heath Village Fayre at St Michael's Field, Daws Heath from 12.30pm to 4.00pm.
Tue 16 Jul 2019	- Hadleigh & Thundersley Cricket Club XI v. Lashings XI at John Burrows Recreation Ground. Starts at 2.30pm (TBC). Free admission.
Wed 17 Jul 2019	- Kingsway Community Cinema presents 'Can You Ever Forgive Me' at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets £5.00 from Eventbrite or at the door if available. Refreshments.
Sat 20 Jul 2019	- Coffee Morning at Thundersley Methodist Church. 10.00am to 12 noon.
Sun 21 Jul 2019	- Castle Point Show at Waterside Farm, Canvey Island, from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Admission £1.00.
Sat 27 Jul 2019	- Summer Market at St Barnabas Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Admisison £1.00, includes coffee and biscuit.
Sun 28 Jul 2019	- Café Church at Costa Coffee, 269 London Road, Hadleigh, from 5.00pm until about 6.15pm. Bring a friend.
Sun 4 Aug 2019	- Meet the Tudors Day at Southchurch Hall from 11.00am to 3.30pm. Admission £4.00.
Sat 10 Aug 2019	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00am to 12 noon. Cards also on sale.
ditto	- Local Councillors' Surgery at Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 10.00am to 12 noon. Parking available.
ditto	- Music Day at St James the Less Church fom 10.30am to 3.30pm with Russian Folk, Hadleigh Voices Singalong, U3A Ukulele & Graham Godfey.
Wed 14 Aug 2019	- Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church Community Room, Daws Heath, from 10.00am to 11.45am.
Sat 17 Aug 2019	- Hadleigh Heritage Coffee Morning & Talk - 'A Hadleigh Shepherd' by Terry Barclay at St James the Less Church. Coffee from 10.30am. Talk starts at 11.00am. A free event (donations welcome).
ditto	- Summer Fayre at St Peter's Church, Thundersley -12.30pm to 4.00pm.
Sun 25 Aug 2019	- Café Church at Costa Coffee, 269 London Road, Hadleigh, from 5.00pm until about 6.15pm. Bring a friend.
Sun 1 Sep 2019	- Hadleigh Community Summer Fayre at John H. Burrows Recreation Ground from 11.00am to 5.00pm.

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

A Gargrave Abroad

In the June Hadleigh Messenger, Malcolm appealed for items of family news so I thought readers may like to hear what our grandson, Alex Gargrave, has been doing for his summer holidays. The following item appeared in the Kyiv Post, the English language newspaper for Kyiv (or Kiev as we know it).

Summer Camps for Ukrainian Children Break Down Linguistic, Cultural Barriers

By Teah Pelechaty, published July 5th 2019

Alex Gargrave's decision to spend his past three summers teaching English to children in Ukraine took some of his peers back in England by surprise. Ukraine doesn't exactly make it into their list of "must-see destinations" for the summer.

"There are a lot of stereotypes about Ukraine – that it's always cold, that it's radioactive, that the people aren't friendly – partly because they see Russian as an angry language", says Gargrave, a 20-year-old student at the University of Portsmouth, "but it's the opposite of that."

Gargrave is one of about approximately 1,000 international volunteers that have allocated portions of their summers to promoting English to schoolchildren via GoCamp, an English

language-learning initiative that seeks to break down linguistic and cultural barriers in Ukraine.

Now in its fourth year of operation, the project boasts volunteers from around 70 countries, 1,500 participating schools, and 140,000 students in an array of summer camps across the country.

"Our goal is the integration of Ukraine into the global world – and we have this saying that, if you want to change the world, it's via kids," the director of the NGO Global Office and leader of the GoGlobal project, told the Kyiv Post.

"We're working on the new generation of Ukrainians, and we want them to be more open, to be without barriers – cultural and language – and to be more motivated in finding what opportunities are open to them."

The GoCamp initiative hosts free summer camps for eight to fifteen-year-olds at the children's local



schools during June and August. Schools across Ukraine are selected on the basis of motivational videos, whereby students and teachers alike express their eagerness to participate in the programme.

Alex speaks Russian and has an A level in that language, and spent his first few years of schooling in Kiev when his father was working there and where his parents lived for three years. In most of the country the Ukrainian language is now being used in schools and not Russian.

Alex can be seen in this recent photo – he is the middle one of the three boys at the front.

June Gargrave

Castle Point Bible Society Action Group



On Thursday 8th August, Afternoon Tea will be served at the home of Janice and John Phillips at 2 The Chimes, Benfleet from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. The event is in aid of Bible Society funds and tickets costing £5.00 may be purchased in advance from Vera Knapton (01702 559184). Please do your best to support this event.

Last year, the Castle Point Action Group raised £588 and a further £120 was raised from church donations and £116 from box holders.

Thank you to all who supported the members of the committee to raise the above amounts of money for a vital part of the Lord's work.

Vera Knapton

Article redacted

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. – *Colossians 3:12-14*

Exploring the strange journeys that words take

Ever wondered why we pass news on 'through the grapevine', or why it is a shock to 'let the cat out of the bag'? The origin of hundreds of everyday words and phrases can be found in a vast and fascinating guide called 'The Etymologicon: A Circular Stroll through the Hidden Connections of the English Language'.

Here you can discover many of 'the strange back alleys and extraordinary and ridiculous journeys that words take,' to quote the compiler, Mark Forsyth. Hence, 'through the grapevine' began as the 'grapevine telegraph', a phrase used in the US Civil War, which described the unofficial, word-of-mouth network used by Confederate soldiers while drinking wine, or by slaves while picking grapes from vines.

'Let the cat out of the bag' dates back to medieval markets in Britain, where piglets were sold in bags (a pig in a poke). But a common con was to switch the valuable piglet for a worthless cat or dog: hence buyers were either 'sold a pup' or, when they discovered the ruse, 'let the cat out of the bag'.

To give someone the 'cold shoulder' came from the sort of mutton leftovers given to unwelcome house-guests. A 'hoax' grew from hocus-pocus, a Protestant taunt of the rite of consecration used in the Roman Mass: Hoc est corpus meum (This is my body).

'Winging it' comes from actors learning their lines in the wings; 'in a nutshell' comes from Pliny, the Roman writer who claimed there was a copy of The Iliad so small it could fit in a nutshell. 'Average' comes from an old French term *avarie*, meaning 'damage done to a ship'. Vessels were often co-owned, and when repairs were done, the owners were expected to pay an equal share, or the average.

This article was supposed to be an insight into The Etymologicon but I could not resist two words from Mark Forsyth's book about lost words entitled The Horologicon. How many times have we looked up a word in the dictionary and our eyes strayed down the page and thought is there really such a word for that?

Here are two of my favourites: 'Wamblecropt' – which means overcome with indigestion. At one time you might have thought that your stomach was wambling a bit but if the wambles got so bad that you couldn't move, then you were wamblecropt. 'Ultracrepidarian' – which is when you give your opinion on a topic about which you know nothing. What makes this word so useful is that nobody knows what it means. Tell someone they are ultracrepidarian and they'll probably consider it a compliment!

From the Parish Magazine of St Mary's Church, Stotfold, Summer 2017 edition.

The Ultimate Guide to Confusions in English Spelling & Pronunciation

English is tough stuff!
Dearest creature in creation,
Study English pronunciation.
I will teach you in my verse
Sounds like corpse, corps, horse, and worse.
I will keep you, Suzy, busy,
Make your head with heat grow dizzy.
Tear in eye, your dress will tear.
So shall I: Oh hear my prayer.

Just compare heart, beard, and heard,
Dies and diet, lord and word,
Sword and sward, retain and Britain.
(Mind the latter, how it's written.)
Now I surely will not plague you
With such words as plaque and ague.
But be careful how you speak:
Say break and steak, but bleak and streak;
Cloven, oven, how and low,
Script, receipt, show, poem, and toe.

Hear me say, devoid of trickery,
Daughter, laughter, and Terpsichore,
Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles,
Exiles, similes and reviles;
Scholar, vicar, and cigar.
Solar, mica, war and far;
One, anemone, Balmoral
Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel;
Gertrude, German, wind and mind,
Scene, Melpomene, mankind.

Billet does not rhyme with ballet,
Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet.
Blood and flood are not like food,
Nor is mould like should and would.
Viscous, viscount, load and broad,
Toward, to forward, to reward.
And your pronunciation's OK
When you correctly say croquet,
Rounded, wounded, grieve and sieve,
Friend and fiend, alive and live.

Ivy, privy, famous; clamour
And enamour rhyme with hammer.
River, rival, tomb, bomb, comb,
Doll and droll and some and home.
Stranger does not rhyme with anger,
Neither does devour with clangor.
Soul but foul, haunt but aunt,
Font, front, wont, want, grand, and grant,
Shoes, goes, does. Now first say finger,
And then singer, ginger, linger,
Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, gouge and gauge,

Marriage, foliage, mirage, and age.
Query does not rhyme with very,
Nor does fury sound like bury.
Dost, lost, post and doth, cloth, loth.
Job, knob, bosom, transom, oath.
Through the differences seem little,
We say actual, but also victual.
Refer does not rhyme with deafer.
Feoffer does, and zephyr, heifer.
Mint, pint, senate and sedate;
Dull, bull, and George ate late.
Scenic, Arabic, Pacific,
Science, Conscience, scientific.

Liberty, library, heave and heaven,
Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven.
We say hallowed, but allowed,
People, leopard, towed, but vowed.
Mark the differences, moreover,
Between mover, cover, clover;
Leeches, breeches, wise, precise,
Chalice, but police and lice;
Camel, constable, unstable,
Principle, disciple, label.

Petal, panel, and canal,
Wait, surprise, plait, promise, pal.
Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, chair,
Senator, spectator, mayor.
Tour, but our and succour, four.
Gas, alas, and Arkansas.
Sea, idea, Korea, area,
Psalm, Maria, but malaria.
Youth, south, southern, cleanse and clean.
Doctrine, turpentine, marine.

Face, but preface, not efface.
Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass.
Large, but target, gin, give, verging.
Ought, out, joust and scour, scouring.
Ear, but earn and wear and tear
Do not rhyme with here, but ere.
Seven is right, but so is even,
Hyphen, roughen, nephew Stephen,
Monkey, donkey, Turk and jerk,
Ask, grasp, wasp, and cork and work.

Finally, which rhymes with enough -
Though, through, plough, or dough, or cough?
Hiccough has the sound of cup.
My advice is to give it up!

This poem (with two other verses) allegedly came out of an exercise for multi-national translation personnel at the NATO headquarters in Paris.

Sisters of Sinai

A story of two remarkable sisters from the July/August 2019 issue of Reform

Westminster College, Cambridge, has recently celebrated the vision and generosity of twin sisters who were its benefactors, with the dedication of a Cambridge blue plaque. A formal unveiling of the plaque was carried out at the college's Alumni and Friends Day on 1 June, in memory of Agnes Smith Lewis (1843-1926) and Margaret Dunlop Gibson (1843-1920). Not only did the sisters donate the site on which the College is located, they were also biblical scholars, linguists, and intrepid explorers.



Agnes Smith Lewis & Margaret Dunlop Gibson

The ceremony was carried out by Professor Janet Soskice, Professor of Philosophical Theology for the Faculty of Divinity at Cambridge University and an Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College. The blue plaque, awarded by Cambridge City Council, is only the seventh to be given to women.

The twin sisters, Agnes and Margaret, were brought up as Presbyterians in Irvine, Ayrshire, inherited a fortune, and taught themselves 12 languages. They travelled widely across Europe and the Middle East at a time when such journeys by Victorian women were unheard of, making some remarkable discoveries along the way which have had profound significance for biblical scholarship. They were both awarded honorary doctorates by the major Universities of Scotland, Germany and Ireland for their work on ancient manuscripts.

Their nine trips to Egypt, including to St Catherine's Monastery in Sinai, made between 1868 and 1906, earned Agnes and Margaret the name 'the Sisters of Sinai'. They were keen photographers, capturing manuscripts at the monastery as a way of taking clear copies of original documents, which they then transcribed, translated, and published on their return to England. They also brought back further manuscripts from booksellers in Cairo for Westminster College and Cambridge University.

Perhaps the most famous manuscript was Syriac Sinaiticus which was discovered in 1892, a late fourth-century translation of the four Gospels in Syriac, a written form close to the Aramaic that Jesus spoke.

Following this pioneering research at St Catherine's, the Sisters also found – during their 1896 visit to Cairo – leaves from an early 11-12th century Hebrew version of Ecclesiasticus (also called Sirach or Ben Sira), a work of ethical teachings from the second century BC. Using these leaves, Solomon Schechter, an American rabbi and academic, discovered the lost Cairo Genizah in 1896. This is a collection of some 300,000 Jewish manuscript fragments that were found in the genizah or storeroom of the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Fustat or Old Cairo, Egypt. The sisters joined Schechter in working to collect the material found there, and, with the permission of the Chief Rabbi of Cairo, took it back to Cambridge, where it is now housed in the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit at Cambridge University Library.

As Presbyterians, another expression of the sisters' commitment to learning was their generosity to Westminster College, then the college for the Presbyterian Church of England, which trained young men for ministry. In 1896, the General Synod of the Church agreed to move its college from London to its current site in Cambridge, onto land Agnes and Margaret had agreed to buy from St John's College. The sisters also contributed generously to the building appeal and laid the foundation stone for the College in 1897. The Grade II listed building was completed in 1899.

As a resource to the Church and a full participant in the theological training of students within the Cambridge Theological Federation, Westminster College is also a place where all those in ministry can study and deepen their faith. It is a place for refreshment and learning, available to all of those involved in the life of the Church from many different traditions, people from other faiths and those with no faith commitment.

Nick Lomax

Note: If you would like to subscribe to Reform, the national magazine of the United Reformed Church, please speak to Malcolm. An annual subscription to the paper edition, covering ten issues, costs £29.50.



A 'milestone Assembly'

The Rev. Nigel Uden, Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, shares insights from the Church of Scotland's Assembly.

At the end of May, I attended the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Its welcome, hospitality and inclusion were remarkable.

Richard Scott – Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, and Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the Assembly – described it as a 'milestone Assembly' for several reasons. Some reasons were due to domestic Church of Scotland matters but others arose from the contributions and experience of voices from other parts of the world

The Rt Rev. Alwin Samuel, Bishop of Sialkot, Pakistan, spoke of Christians' vulnerability in a majority-Muslim state. The price of steadfast witness to Christ in such places reminds one of the Bible's challenging injunctions – to be 'faithful unto death' (Revelation 2:10).

From Mozambique, the Rev. Paulo Mucapele Joao addressed the Assembly in Portuguese that was all the more passionate for its understatement. We learned of the long-term impact of Cyclone Idai, and of the tiny dent that overseas aid will make in reconstruction costs. At the same debate, the Rev. Sharon Hollis, from the Uniting Church in Australia, spoke of climate change and its devastating effect upon the Pacific islands. She echoed Mr Joao's cry, that the climate crisis is literally killing communities. Conflicted as we all are, the Assembly agreed that the world is in a climate and ecological emergency, but differed from the URC's Mission Council in deciding that it is not yet the time to urge disinvestment from fossil fuel companies.

My own intervention in the debate emphasised the impact upon Mission Council's deliberation of the voices from URC Youth and its Assembly, where the key word was 'urgency'. Throughout the Assembly, the Church of Scotland's young people were like our own – informed, participative and quietly vehement. Mindful that, at its best, the church is a community of all ages, the Kirk's youth seek a participative place not just in debate but also

in decisionmaking. I have witnessed to the significant contribution and difference that the inclusion of URC Youth makes to our own (URC) decision-making bodies.

The opening days of the Assembly received a report from the Rev. Prof David Fergusson, who chaired a special commission that offered a radical action plan (RAP). It faces head on the Kirk's declining membership, reduced ministerial numbers and financial constraints, and looks for a structure and governance that are better for today. The RAP's aspiration is 'to liberate the local church to be as effective as possible; build the capacity of the church at regional level to support local churches; and to streamline the national structures of the church, fulfilling tasks and functions which cannot sensibly and reasonably be undertaken locally or regionally'.

In his closing address, the Moderator quoted Machiavelli: 'There is nothing more difficult to carry out, nothing more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to handle than to institute a new order of things'. He then went on to observe that 'the pain of not changing is worse than the pain of doing so.' As we had sung earlier in the week, so we concluded with the Scottish Paraphrase 48 (Romans 8): 'Each future period [God's love] will bless, as it has bless'd the past; He loved us from the first of time, he loves us to the last.'

Almost without exception, the Assembly's business was profoundly similar to that of the URC's. Differences of scale do not remove similarity of circumstance. We have much to learn from each other, and from our overseas partners. It only serves to emphasise the ecumenical imperative, so stressed in the Kirk's RAP, and so central to the URC's identity. We also have much to gain from renewing our trust in the One who 'died but rose again, triumphant from the grave'. The One who 'pleads our cause at God's right hand, omnipotent to save'. (Words from Paraphrase 48)

Nigel Uden

Posted 3 Jun 2019

Computer Corner

How to Buy Fish – Gordon Ramsay

Interesting video

Some time ago I was searching YouTube for videos featuring Roger Barton, the former Billingsgate fish merchant and bookmaker who became well-known through various TV appearances. Roger used to live in Lynton Road in Hadleigh. He appears in this video by Gordon Ramsay giving advice on how to tell whether fish is fresh or not.

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GTTXJKZ08Q> or go to YouTube.com and search for "buy fish ramsay".

BurnAware

Useful free software

BurnAware is a free burning program to create CD, DVD and Blu-ray discs of all types. You can burn bootable discs, multisession discs, audio CDs and video DVDs. It can also be used to create ISO images of discs, which is something I do with software CDs and DVDs in case I mislay them.

URL: <http://www.burnaware.com>

Bible Society – The Bible in Transmission

Interesting website

Many readers will be aware of the Bible Society magazine 'Word for Today', which can be downloaded from the Bible Society's website. Whilst I was doing just that, I came across another Bible Society publication, *The Bible in Transmission*, which I had not seen before. It is described as 'a forum for change in church and culture' and is a free Christian theological journal featuring articles written by Bible Society staff and guest contributors from a wide range of backgrounds.

URL: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/bible-in-transmission>

Word Search – Migrating birds

Birds that migrate to the UK or passage through the UK at various times of the year.

H	F	R	D	V	B	M	U	H	Q	H	P	W	N	I	T	R	A	M	E	
T	Z	J	X	X	B	D	D	P	P	A	C	K	C	A	L	B	P	T	C	BLACKCAP
I	V	O	W	A	X	W	I	N	G	Q	U	O	W	W	M	A	S	N	M	BLUETHROAT
M	V	D	U	L	Z	Z	E	Z	I	B	B	S	W	J	F	Z	Z	U	R	BRAMBLING
E	N	O	T	S	N	R	U	T	S	R	B	P	D	O	Q	U	J	E	M	BUNTING
Q	V	T	M	I	I	Y	V	D	A	B	P	R	O	B	O	T	L	A	F	CUCKOO
W	V	A	X	E	G	A	W	M	F	V	P	E	G	Z	E	E	W	T	L	FIELDFARE
N	J	O	K	L	I	W	B	S	R	U	N	Y	V	W	V	D	J	Y	Y	FLYCATCHER
E	S	R	D	A	T	L	Y	O	Y	W	W	V	Z	O	T	A	U	J	C	GODWIT
R	H	H	U	G	I	N	E	N	A	T	H	N	H	X	J	J	Q	B	A	GOLDCREST
A	E	T	E	N	W	W	B	I	G	S	I	S	Z	A	J	Y	P	H	T	MARTIN
F	U	E	G	I	D	S	K	H	N	E	T	G	K	C	W	S	W	K	C	NIGHTINGALE
D	X	U	K	T	O	L	W	L	I	R	E	U	N	U	Y	W	Z	D	H	OSPREY
L	S	L	A	H	G	L	Z	A	A	C	T	G	N	I	T	N	U	B	E	REDWING
E	O	B	L	G	I	Y	A	Q	L	D	H	T	K	T	W	X	H	V	R	SHOVELER
I	Z	O	E	I	O	W	O	L	G	L	R	Z	W	F	O	D	U	R	N	SWALLOW
F	Q	R	K	N	R	J	S	C	I	O	O	S	O	I	R	R	E	P	H	SWIFT
L	A	F	S	C	W	F	W	K	B	G	A	W	K	W	W	I	K	R	S	TURNSTONE
X	E	K	L	V	U	B	C	E	U	F	T	M	M	S	T	D	E	I	L	WAXWING
P	I	R	H	F	W	C	W	H	E	A	T	E	A	R	E	P	Y	P	L	WHEATEAR
																				WHITETHROAT

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY 2019

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 4 th	10.30am - 12.noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 7 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Mr Wilf Tyler Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 8 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 9 th	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Wives' Fellowship – Afternoon Tea Party
Wednesday 10 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 11 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 14 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Keith Berry
Monday 15 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 18 th	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac stall for Christian Aid CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 21 st	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Celia Whitman
Monday 22 nd	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 25 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 28 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Major Geoff Ashdown
Monday 29 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group

CHURCH DIARY FOR AUGUST 2019

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 1 st	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 4 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Rev. John Ambrose PGCE (Ox) Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mrs Heather Brown
Monday 5 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 8 ^h	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Adrian Tinning
Monday 12 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 15 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Mrs Janette Stevens
Monday 21 st	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 22 nd	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 25 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Roger Brett
Monday 26 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 29 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

The Last Laugh

I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.