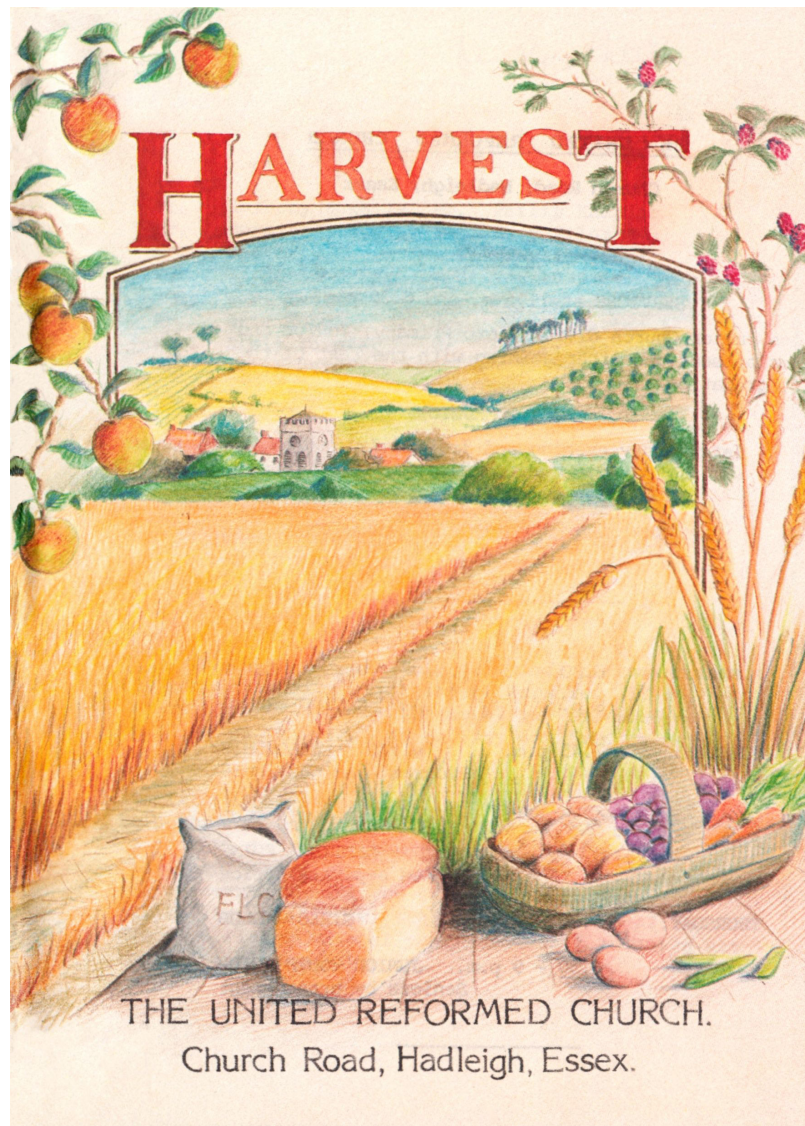


THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

September 2019



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 SEPTEMBER 2019

Sun 1 st Sep	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Heather Brown
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 8 th Sep	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
Sun 15 th Sep	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 22 nd Sep	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Wilf Tyler
Sun 29 th Sep	10.30am	Harvest Festival Service	Rev. Jack Roche MA

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 1 st Sep	Malcolm Brown	Doreen Churchill	Jean Reeve
Sun 8 th Sep	Jean Reeve	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 15 th Sep	Heather Brown [Holy Communion]	Malcolm Brown	Marion Fidell
Sun 22 nd Sep	Malcolm Brown	June Gargrave	Doreen Churchill
Sun 29 th Sep	Jean Reeve	Janet Wimbleton	Janet Wimbleton

FLOWER ROTA

Sun 1 st Sep	
Sun 8 th Sep	June Gargrave - wedding anniversary
Sun 15 th Sep	
Sun 22 nd Sep	
Sun 29 th Sep	Heather Brown - for harvest

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 11th Sep 7.30pm

CHURCH MEETING

Thu 19 Sep 12.30pm

HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS

Interim Moderators:

Rev. Jim Tarrant/Rev. Celia Whitman

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 one of our church officers know. All such requests are treated in the strictest confidence.

From the Bible

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. [...] He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today. – *Deuteronomy 8:7-18 (NIV)*



Harvest Reflection from Exeter Foodbank

In our world of 24-hour supermarkets – with their shelves bursting with countless pre-packaged forms of wheat, barley and their gluten-free equivalents, with multiple varieties of Manuka honey and chilli-infused olive oil – it can be easy for us all to take food for granted. Harvest Festival is a great opportunity for us to recall and celebrate together the origins of these good gifts – to express our gratitude for the land and people who produce them, and to thank God from whom they all spring.

At Exeter Foodbank, a Christian charity which provides emergency food for local people in crisis, we also see the hidden hunger that exists in the midst of this modern ‘land of plenty’. Every day, we meet people for whom the experience of wilderness (of food poverty and of destitution) and of slavery (to circumstances beyond their control) is both recent (or current) and raw. Yet amidst the frustrations of this work, there are also constant opportunities to recognise and appreciate afresh our dependence on God’s provision. We are so grateful for the immense generosity of the local community, whose gifts of food, finance, time and prayer are a wonderful expression of God’s care for those experiencing hard times.

Going to a foodbank to receive a parcel of (mainly long-life) food can be a strange and humbling experience. Our volunteers work hard to provide a warm welcome, restore dignity and offer choice – but dependence on the kindness of strangers is not quite the same as the freedom of a supermarket run. For volunteers, similarly, the experience can be unsettling; handing someone a

bag of pasta can seem an inadequate response to the enormity of circumstances. However, like the provision of manna in the wilderness, it is important to remember that the foodbank is intended to serve as short-term solution to an immediate problem for people en route to a more plentiful place.

Exeter Foodbank works in partnership with over 130 referral agencies, which include the Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Exeter City Council Benefit Support Team, debt-relief agencies, health services, social services, housing providers and schools. We help relieve the pressure created by immediate food poverty, whilst these specialist agencies ensure further support is put in place to help people get their lives back on track. In addition, our team of trained sign-posters are also on-hand in food distribution sessions to point clients towards further help.

This harvest, please pray for foodbank clients who are travelling through the wilderness and have lost hope of coming out the other side. Please pray that through the food they receive, they will also taste something of God’s great love for them – a God who both sees their immediate need, and who cares passionately about their future. Pray also that God will help the foodbank and its partner agencies to keep our eyes fixed on the long-term destination of restoration, greater independence and security for those that we work with, even when circumstances seem overwhelming. Pray for wisdom, creativity, perseverance and courage as they support people in their journeys towards it, no matter how long or circuitous the route.

From the Editor

Welcome to the September edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

I hope readers have been able to enjoy the summer months. I look forward (forlornly?) to receiving articles about holidays undertaken, places visited, events attended, books read, new hobbies started, or simply humorous items seen in other magazines.

We look forward as a church to our harvest celebrations in September. Although we don't live in a rural area and experience the harvest

first-hand, our harvest supper and harvest festival service are good opportunities to invite friends and family to the church and remind ourselves and guests of God's continuing provision.

September also sees the birthday of the Hadleigh Messenger's oldest subscriber. Born in Hadleigh in 1918, and married at our church in 1956, we wish Jean (Hodges) a very happy 101st birthday on 22nd September and I look forward to sharing in the birthday cake!

Malcolm Brown



Reform September 2019 Editorial

I thought that readers might be interested to read what the Editor of Reform to say this month.

In Cole Porter's wonderful 1934 song *You're the Top*, a couple tell each other how terrific they are. Each likens the other to a succession of delightful things and people – a mix of timeless classics and up-to-the-minute sensations, from Napoleon brandy to Mahatma Gandhi and from Strauss to the six-year-old Mickey Mouse.

Probably the most surprising line for later generations is: 'You're the National Gallery, you're Garbo's salary, you're cellophane.' When was something as mundane as food packaging ever so exciting? The answer is: in 1934. Moisture-proof cellophane was seven years old. It kept biscuits crunchy and vegetables crisp. It reduced waste and increased storage time, making food cheaper. It reduced damage. It allowed for self-service meat counters, eliminating queues. And it allowed you to see exactly what you were getting.

In 2019, we can no longer sing the praises of plastic packaging so wholeheartedly. Since Porter's time, we have produced billions of tonnes of plastic, and millions of tons enters the oceans each year. Like industrial use of fossil fuels, what started out as a blessing has become a vast, all-consuming, destructive addiction.

It is still worth reflecting on all the benefits these things have brought into our lives. It would be terribly churlish not to be grateful; we also need to get a handle on just how much our lifestyle depends on these unsustainable godsend if we are to change. Which, of course, we have to do, drastically.

All of which, in my usual roundabout style, is by way of flagging up the fact that we have finally changed the packaging in which single copies of Reform are delivered to subscribers. This has taken a while. If you receive your magazine from a local church distributor, this was never a problem, but individual copies were posted in polythene.

Readers have repeatedly pointed out – most recently on this month's letters page – that writing strong words about the environmental crisis and then wrapping them in single-use plastic is a good way to look like a fool. We looked into alternative packaging more than once but found the price ruinous. Now, at last, we have moved to a distribution company who wrap magazines in biodegradable polythene. This decomposes in sunlight, so it is recommended that we put it in the recycling rather than compost.

It is a small step, and inadequate, but in the right direction. Climate has to be addressed on a national and international scale. Michael Gove's ban in May on plastic straws, swizzle sticks and cotton buds was a start – a drop in the ocean, to use a dismal metaphor – but again a small step in the right direction. I increasingly think that what we are is an accumulation of small, inadequate steps. We just need to be going in the right direction – and have enough time to get there.

Stephen Tomkins

Tuesday Fellowship Programme for Sep & Oct 2019

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 17 th Sep	2.30pm	Slideshow: 'Scotland in Springtime' by Mrs Margaret Butler
Tue 15 th Oct	2.30pm	Talk: The History of Garston's Footwear by David/Jonathan Garston

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

Meeting fee £2.00 – first time free

Annual subscription – £3.00

Southend Standard – 10 November 1904

HADLEIGH CONGEGATIONAL CHURCH

On Sunday, the Rev. N. Richards preached a powerful sermon to a crowded congregation; not a seat being vacant, and several standing throughout the service. The preacher took his text from Luke 1:1: "Those things most surely believed among us." Referring to the discussion now running in the "Daily Telegraph" of the question "Do we believe?" he stated: This discussion has aroused more than usual interest, partly on account of the great ability with which it is conducted and, partly, perhaps mainly, because it synchronizes with the current mental attitude towards religion. The characteristic of our modern time is an apathetic indifference to the great beliefs of Christendom – not so much active hostilities as neglect, which is, perhaps, due to the great strain and rush of modern life and the all-absorbing demands of competitive business methods. Men give no time to the contemplation and practice of religion, and eventually they realize that by continued indifference the spiritual verities have, for them, become vague and hazy speculations. Strong religious beliefs, however, are necessary to escape the tyranny and thralldom of the present. The ages which have been marked by strong religious convictions have been in those in which liberty and progress found their inspiration. There are certain fundamentals which Christian people should strive to keep before them today. The existence of God, the Divinity of our Lord, and Immortality. These are some of the "things most surely believed among us." The popularising of science has produced a jaunty scepticism which professes to explain God out of the universe, but materialism is really the least capable of dealing with the problem of existence. Unless we conceive God as the ultimate cause, we cannot account even for Evolution. Matter, to be matter, must be lifeless. A theory of a fortuitous concourse of atoms is an insult to our imaginations. The only explanation of the World is that which accepts a guiding, intelligent spirit. The Divinity of our Lord is also the only explanation of the wondrous hold which Jesus Christ has had in the civilised world for nigh two centuries. Belief in Him is the greatest motive power of noble, unselfish lives. While belief in the soul's immortality reconciles us to the mysteries of life – its trials, its failures and disappointments – we accept life with all its incongruities, believing that God shall at last "make perfect our imperfect life."

I came across the above article recently whilst reading old editions of the Southend Standard. It dates from the first year of our church's existence and shows how even then, despite a full congregation, the preacher was concerned about the level of religious belief in the population.

Malcolm Brown

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Wed 11 Sep 2019	- Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church, Daws Heath, from 10.00am to 11.45am.
	ditto - Kingsway Community Cinema presents 'Fisherman's Friends' (12A) 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.
Sun 14 Sep 2019	- Westwood Art Group Exhibition Day 1 at Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 9.30am to 5.00pm. Free entry. Refreshments available.
	ditto - 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 Uggy Brown. From 10.30am to 12.30pm. Free admission.
	ditto - Hadleigh Gardening Association Harvest Show from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Raffle and refreshments.
Sun 15 Sep 2019	- Westwood Art Group Exhibition Day 2 at Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 10.30am to 2.00pm. Free entry. Refreshments available.
Thu 19 Sep 2019	- Friends Of Coombe Wood Special General Meeting for existing members and potential new members interested in the care of Coombe Wood. At the John Pond Room, St Peter's Church starting at 7.30pm.
Sat 21 Sep 2019	- Community Coffee Morning at Thundersley Methodist Church from 10.00am to 12 noon. In aid of Motor Neurone Disease Association.
	ditto - Heritage Open Day at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 4.00pm. Coffee served. Old Hadleigh Shops display with slideshow at 11.00am. Guided tour of church at 12.30pm led by Rev. David Childs.
	ditto - The Music Man Project Concert at St Mary's Church, South Benfleet, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00 from 01268 752997.
Sun 22 Sep 2019	- Thundersley on Foot (informal walking group) Walk starting from the White Hart Pub at 2.00pm. Approximately two hours.
	ditto - Café Church at Costa Coffee from 5.00pm to 6.30pm.
Tue 24 Sep 2019	- Churches Together Prayer Meeting at SA Hadleigh Temple at 2.00pm. Refreshments served at start.
Sat 28 Sep 2019	- Book Sale at Hadleigh Library from 9.00am to 5.00pm.
	ditto - Macmillan Coffee Morning at Thundersley Methodist Church from 10.00am to 12 noon.
	ditto - Michaelmas Fair at St Michael's Church from 11.30am to 3.00pm with lunches, cream teas, cakes, plants, handicrafts, white elephant stall.
Sat 5 Oct 2019	- Community Arts & Crafts Competition at Hadleigh Old Fire Station with viewing from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Free entry - phone 07768 591145.

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

Synod Advocate for Church Growth & Evangelism

My name is Trevor Hahn and I am the minister of Christ Church URC, Clacton-on-Sea and Dovercourt Central LEP. I am also the (Eastern) Synod Representative for Church Growth and Evangelism and am excited about partnering with God in building His kingdom, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and making disciples. God has a plan to use us, His church, in fulfilling His mission, to make God and His love known in the church, in our communities and beyond. I have always received encouragement from hearing good news stories of evangelism, growth and new life so do please contact me – on 01255 483288 (mobile 07854 640773) or email trevorhahn@talktalk.net – and let me know what is happening in your communities and do get in touch if you would like to share or ask anything.



Latest Newsletter

Well Pepito, our dog, has certainly made himself at home and is now very much part of the family. He is no longer an 'it' as relationships have been formed and we are all smitten – even me, or Trish would say especially me! And the family, it seems, are not the only ones taken with him. We have been grateful for all the offers of dog sitting and walking received, especially when we were away on our holidays. As suspected all the ground rules have gone out the window. He now spends time on the sofa, on his back, legs akimbo, in the air, with a pleading look on his face, so much so, it is impossible to resist tickling his tummy. He has now got into the habit of lying on our bed, too, and in the mornings coming up and licking my face to wake me up.....or perhaps Trish is encouraging him to go upstairs to persuade me to get up in the mornings!

And Pepito is an opportunist. I left my dinner on the sofa to help with something and came back to find that Pepito had eaten my sausage. Yesterday, we left a cooked joint of meat, only half eaten wrapped up in foil, way out of reach on the kitchen worktops and came down to find that Pepito had snaffled that too. The only evidence was the elastic band left on the kitchen floor and the fact that Pepito could not stop licking his lips! I am sure we will learn. But this episode reminded me of the story of the Canaanite woman who approached Jesus for the healing of her daughter and Jesus called her a dog (Matthew 15:21-28). She refused to get offended but instead said 'even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Although in Pepito's case it was half a roast dinner! And it did not fall, it was pushed! But just like Pepito, the Canaanite woman was an opportunist.

Scripture states that Jesus withdrew to the region. He had no plan to go there but after upsetting the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day, he moved away to relative peace and safety. The Canaanite (Gentile) woman called out to Jesus

with a traditional Jewish greeting 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me.' She hailed Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. Jesus ignored her, His disciples urged Jesus to send her away, and even after the woman kneels at Jesus feet and begged Him, Jesus calls her a dog. Only after her response did Jesus acknowledge her great faith and healed her daughter. The Canaanite woman wasn't Jewish, and therefore was not part of Jesus' mission which at that time was only to the children of Israel, the Jews. Jesus was a Jewish Messiah, sent to Israel first and the Gentiles would only come to recognise Jesus as their Saviour after the cross. This Canaanite woman recognised Jesus as Saviour not only of the Jews but the whole world ahead of time and pressed in and persisted and was rewarded accordingly.

Some say the persistence of the woman, caused Jesus to recognise His calling not just as a Jewish Saviour but as the Son of God sent to bring salvation and healing to the whole world. This is possible, but remember, Jesus had already commended the Roman Centurion for his faith and healed his servant. Perhaps Jesus' hesitancy was to draw out and reveal the faith and persistence of this Canaanite woman and be an example to everyone to not to give up praying, not to give up asking, even when you are taking advantage of an unexpected opportunity, even when you may not be entitled to receive what you are asking for. Pepito's opportunist persistence was rewarded as was the persistence of this Canaanite woman.

May we also have their persistence and may we take full advantage of all the opportunities afforded us. Jesus rewards faith and persistence so we may well receive even more than crumbs under the table or in Pepito's case a sausage and joint of meat.

Yours in Christ, now and always.

Trevor

The Humber Bridge

In June, when I spent a week with my mum in Beverley, we visited the town of Hessle, just west of Hull, where I went to secondary school. After walking round the town and having lunch in one of the cafés, we then drove to the Humber Bridge Country Park on the outskirts of Hessle, on the north bank of the River Humber. We parked in the very large car park and visited the tourist information office.

The Country Park is located in a former chalk quarry and now contains some wonderful trees. We walked through the country park and the birdsong was amazing.



Trees in the Country Park

It is possible to access the river bank by walking through a tunnel under the A63, the main road into Hull from the west, which at that point is known as Clive Sullivan Way. It is named after one of Hull's legendary rugby league players who played for both of Hull's rugby league teams and represented Wales and Great Britain. Sadly, Clive passed away in 1985 from cancer at the early age of 42.

On exiting the tunnel under the A63, you are confronted by the wonderful site of a tall mill.



Former whiting mill

This was a whiting mill used to grind chalk from the quarry into whiting. It was built around 1806, replacing a horse-powered mill and was worked until 1925 when the sails were removed. Electric power then drove a new large grinding tub. The quarry closed in the 1960s and was converted into the country park. Chalk, whiting and lime, from the many lime kilns on site, went to markets inland along the river network.



The whiting mill in 1900

From the foreshore there are superb views of the Humber Bridge which spans the River Humber from Barton-upon-Humber in Lincolnshire to Hessle in East Yorkshire. The bridge is well-used, particularly since the toll was reduced to £1.50 for cars in 2012.



Heather admiring the Humber Bridge

The Humber Bridge opened to traffic on 24 June 1981 but was opened officially by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on 17 July 1981. The ceremony included a prayer of dedication by the Archbishop of York and a fly-past by the Red Arrows but what is less well-known is that world-renowned Hadleigh escapologist Nick Janson (otherwise known as Barry Wootten) also performed one of his death-defying stunts at the opening ceremony. Barry tells me that he has no photos of his performance and I have not been able to locate any on the Internet.

When it opened, the Humber Bridge was the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world and held the record for 17 years, until Japan's Akashi Kaikyō Bridge opened on 5 April 1998. The bridge has a centre span of 1,410 metres (4,626 ft) and a total length of 2,220 metres (7,283 ft). It is now the tenth-longest in the world but remains the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world that one can cross on foot or by bicycle.

Before the bridge opening, commuters would go from one bank to the other either by using the Humber Ferry that ran between Corporation Pier at Hull and New Holland Pier at New Holland, Lincolnshire or by driving via the M62 (from 1976), M18 (from 1979) and M180 motorways, crossing the River Ouse near Goole (connected to the Humber) in the process.

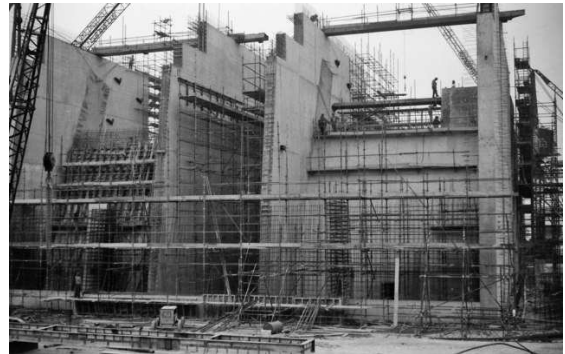
Plans for a bridge were originally drawn up in the 1930s, and were revised in 1955, but work did not begin until 27 July 1972. The Humber Bridge Act, promoted by Kingston Upon Hull Corporation, was passed in 1959. This established the Humber Bridge Board to manage and raise funds to build the bridge and buy the land required for the approach roads. However, raising the necessary funding proved impossible until the 1966 Hull North by-election. To save his government, Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson prevailed upon his Minister of Transport Barbara Castle to sanction the building of the bridge.

The consulting engineers for the project were Freeman Fox & Partners – now Arcadis NV. Sir Ralph Freeman had produced the first ideas in 1927. Bernard Wex OBE produced the design in 1964 that was actually built. At the time of construction, it was built to last 120 years. The road deck is designed for wind speeds up to 105 miles per hour (170 km/h). In 1985 Wex was awarded the Telford Medal by the Institution of Civil Engineers.

The main contractor for the steel superstructure was British Bridge Builders. The contractor for the concrete towers, anchorages and sub-structure was John Howard & Co Ltd of Chatham, Kent, who were later bought by Amec. Concrete was chosen for the towers, instead of steel, partly due to cost but also to fit the surrounding landscape.

Work on the bridge foundations began in March 1973. The northern tower and anchorage are built on solid chalk on the shore with foundations down to 8m (26ft) but the southern

tower and anchorage were built on fissured Kimmeridge Clay, in the river, 500 metres from the southern shore, with foundations down to 36m (118ft).



The south anchorage under construction

The towers were constructed by slipforming. Each tower consists of a pair of hollow vertical concrete columns, each 155.5 m (510 ft) tall and tapering from 6m (20ft) square at the base to 4.5m × 4.75m (14.8ft × 15.6ft) at the top. The bridge is designed to tolerate constant motion and bends more than 3m (10ft) in winds of 80 mph (129 km/h).



Humber Bridge under construction

Cable spinning took place between September 1977 and July 1979. Each cable weighs 5,500 tonnes (6,100 tons), with 37 strands of 404 lengths of cable. The cable on the northern span has four extra strands. The total length of the suspension cable is 71,000 km (44,000 miles).

The deck is of box girder form. The box sections weighed around 140 tonnes (150 tons) each. The first box sections were assembled in June 1975, and put into the main span on 9 November 1979.

The bridge's surface takes the form of a dual carriageway with a lower-level foot and cyclepath on both sides. There is a permanent 50 mph (80 km/h) speed limit on the full length of the bridge.

In 2017, the bridge was designated a Grade I listed building.

Malcolm Brown

Church Related Community Work

Church related community work is a distinctive and recognised ministry within the United Reformed Church and church related community workers (CRCWs) play a vital role in the denomination's community involvement. CRCWs are called by God, professionally and theologically trained and then commissioned to help the church to live out its calling.

CRCWs use the principles of community development to respond to and challenge the issues facing their particular neighbourhoods and communities and work alongside a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations, developing initiatives and projects to transform individuals, churches and communities.



Jo Patterson is a newly qualified CRCW based at Copleston Church and Community Centre in Peckham. Jo's parish is in an area that has become an attractive location for both professional and highly skilled people. Yet Peckham is listed as one of the worst-affected areas in the country for personal debt and, within areas of local authority housing, there continues to be a high number of people suffering deprivation. Within this context, the church seeks to find ways of establishing meaningful connections and engagement across all sections of the area. Jo has written the following reflection about her new role:

"Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes... the ones who see things differently – they're not fond of rules... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because they change things... they push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do." – The late Steve Jobs (co-founder of Apple Inc), speaking in 1997.

I am not a huge fan of Apple equipment – although I would struggle without my MacBook Air – and I don't know a great deal about Steve Jobs, but I think he had something important to say here. Perhaps because I am sometimes the "troublemaker"!

Recently in worship, we looked at the well-known passage from Acts 16 about the jailer in Philippi. It speaks of his conversion by Paul and Silas and the subsequent baptism of his family. As it concludes, all concerned join together for some food and to share hospitality at the jailer's home. A wonderfully evocative tale of someone finding faith in Jesus.

But this account is about more than a simple story of conversion, it is about fundamental and profound change. Change is word that scares many and for most it is often difficult to even think about. In my current project at the Copleston Church and Centre, I am surrounded by new opportunities and social justice issues that require change.

The congregations are satisfied with their fellowship but would like to experiment with their style of worship and share it more widely. This will require some change to their community and we are currently exploring what that might look like. They certainly do not want to stand still, and I truly admire the way they have embraced our

tentative early discussions about both what could, and what should, be done.

We have a long way to go but they are already daring to be the "round pegs in the square holes." The jailer's conversion helps us consider not only how difficult it can be to change, but also how challenging each other and ourselves can lead to transformative outcomes.

But change is not just about what happens in our church. South London has a rich history of community organising with Citizens UK. Recently, I attended a Peckham and Camberwell Citizens Assembly and joined many institutional leaders speaking about why we were there and the passions that drive us forward. There were representatives from schools, colleges, Christian churches of all denominations and other organizations all across Peckham and Camberwell.

We agreed three areas on which to focus our campaigning; WELCOME – meaning to help those without recourse to public funds including refugees and asylum seekers; HOUSING – particularly regarding community land trusts and affordable housing – and, finally, the SAFETY of young people locally, where police stop & search and on-going knife crime issues are everyday challenges.

This group came together motivated by a desire to affect genuine change with creative actions to gain the attention of local politicians, councillors and stakeholders. The ‘pay-off’ is not money or influence, but through listening to the local community, to make significant and long-lasting change for the benefit of all.

In those actions, everyone involved is also changed – the people involved in Citizens work, the organisers, and the institutions they return to – our congregation for one – by forming relationships and listening to each other. It

proved to me that change doesn’t have to be that frightening if we are taking the leap together. So, how brave of the jailer – to listen and to take a leap. How courageous of the Copleston congregation to decide together to make some changes!

And how do we encourage others, in churches, communities and in larger institutions? With grace-filled chatter, by leading by example, by being both bold and brave and sometimes by simply being different. Paul, Silas and the jailer did just that and looked what happened...

Family News

Harvest Prayer

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,
the spiritual blindness that prevents us
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,
the endless cycle of nature,
of life and death and rebirth.

Forgive us for taking without giving,
reaping without sowing.

Open our eyes to see,
our lips to praise,
our hands to share.

May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread
and our footsteps be worthy of following
for they lead to you.



The Hidden Meanings Behind Company Names

Some entrepreneurs name their businesses after themselves, some choose a name with deep social meaning, and then there are those who pick something that works after finding out their first choice was already taken. We spend most of our day surrounded by popular companies and major brands, but have you ever wondered what their names actually mean? Here are the hidden meanings behind ten of them.

Twitter – In 2006, co-founder Jack Dorsey created Twitter as an online SMS service that would update in real-time on a webpage. Its working name was called “Status,” but Dorsey wanted to create a buzzing feeling when you heard the company’s name, so he later thought of “Twitch” because that’s what a phone would do when it would vibrate. However, Dorsey eventually landed on “Twitter” because he didn’t think “Twitch” was a strong enough name as it didn’t bring up the right imagery. So he and his staff looked in the dictionary for words around it, and came across the word ‘twitter’. The definition was ‘a short burst of inconsequential information,’ and ‘chirps from birds’ and Dorsey was of the opinion that that’s exactly what the product was.

Skype – First released in 2003, Skype is derived from “Sky peer-to-peer,” as in a way to connect people together from the “sky” wirelessly. It was then shortened to “Skyper.” However, Skyper.com was already a registered domain, so its developers simply dropped the “r” at the end to become Skype.

Facebook – Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook, Inc. as a way to connect Harvard University students online in 2004. The company’s name comes from the physical “face book” directories of students’ faces and names given throughout university campuses in the United States.

Lego – Danish carpenter Ole Kirk Christiansen established the name LEGO in 1934 for his manufacturing company, which originally produced stepladders, ironing boards, stools, and wooden toys. The name comes from the Danish phrase “Leg Godt,” which means “Play Well” in English and “I Put Together” or “I Assemble” in Latin. LEGO didn’t create the colourful interlocking plastic bricks that the company is known for until 1949.

Amazon – Starting in 1994 and originally named “Cadabra,” as in “abracadabra,” founder Jeff Bezos changed his retail company’s name to Amazon a year later after his lawyer mistook the original name for “cadaver.” Bezos landed on Amazon because it’s the name of the largest river in the world and he wanted his company to reflect its size with the launch tagline “Earth’s

biggest bookstore” in 1995. In addition, Amazon’s logo also reflected the company by selling everything from A to Z.

Starbucks – Established in 1971, Starbucks founders Jerry Baldwin, Zev Siegl, and Gordon Bowker landed on the company’s name after Bowker’s business partner mentioned words beginning with the letters “ST” were powerful and bold. He then noticed the small mining town of “Starbo” on an old mining map of the Cascade Range. Bowker, who is also a writer, later remembered the name of Captain Ahab’s first mate in Moby-Dick was “Starbuck” and believed that was a much stronger name.

Häagen-Dazs – Although it’s not actually a Danish phrase or word, ice cream man Reuben Mattus called his company Häagen-Dazs as a tribute to Denmark’s respect and good treatment of Jewish people during World War II. “The only country which saved the Jews during World War II was Denmark, so I put together a totally fictitious Danish name and had it registered,” said Mattus. “Häagen-Dazs doesn’t mean anything. [But] it would attract attention, especially with the umlaut.”

Samsung – In 1938, founder Lee Byung-chull named his company Samsung because it means “Three Stars” or “Tristar” in Korean. He wanted his company to last forever like stars in the sky, while the number three represents something big, powerful, and bright in Korean culture.

Ikea – Seventeen-year-old businessman Ingvar Kamprad founded IKEA in 1943. The furniture company’s name is actually an acronym for Ingvar Kamprad’s name and his childhood farm and hometown in Sweden, Elmtaryd, Agunnaryd.

Google – Founded in 1996 and originally called “BackRub,” the internet giant Google received its name when co-founder Larry Page misspelled the number “Googol,” which is a digit followed by 100 zeros. Page and co-founder Sergey Brin decided to keep the name because the domain name was available. “It turns out that most people misspell some things,” said Page, which is why Google corrects spelling mistakes for all searches.



Let us pray

In a blog post from 29 August, Rev. Nigel Uden, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, urges prayer for the needs of our Church and society.

Last month, I wrote about the value of praying with and for politicians. There have been times when people have criticised my praying for a local MP because they (the critic) did not share that parliamentarian's philosophy and commitments. I nevertheless continue, convinced by Paul that part of the Church's vocation is to be a community of prayer for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Current developments in parliament only confirm me in that conviction.

This month, I am in a similar vein. But I also urge prayer for the Church, and particularly for the United Reformed Church. Over the coming months, there are several processes of discernment in train: for the appointment of a General Secretary to replace the Rev. John Proctor, when he retires in August next year; for a Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship) to succeed the Rev. Richard Church, whose retirement is just a few weeks prior to John's; for a Principal for Westminster College, Cambridge, as the Rev. Neil Thorogood's term will be complete at the end of the Easter term next year; and for four new Moderators – for North Western, Yorkshire, East Midlands and Southern Synods – to build upon the work of the Revs. Andrew Mills, Kevin Watson, Peter Meek and Nicola Furley-Smith respectively. Nicola is replacing the Rev. Craig Bowman, who after 12 years is moving on from being Secretary for Ministries. Craig has accepted a call to the Cheam and Wallington churches.

In part, our prayers can be of thanksgiving for the leadership that these eight people have offered over many years. Each, in distinctive ways, has brought the gifts and graces with which God blessed them, and deployed them for the good of the Church – both the URC and the ecumenical community within which we determinedly take our place. We are in their debt.

Looking to the future, there is much else for which our prayers are vital. Groups have been appointed to enable the recruitment of a new generation of

leaders, and a range of people are applying, nominating, or thinking through whether to respond to a nomination by submitting an application. After the shortlisting process, candidates will prepare themselves for interview, or adjust to the process having come to an end. Each process culminates in extensive conversations in which all concerned are 'seeking the mind of Christ'. Once a call has been discerned, issued and accepted, some have new beginnings to stir their enthusiasm, and others will settle back into what they were doing before the possibility of doing something different disturbed them.

These are not processes for us to undertake lightly, less still without prayer. Prayer is that opening of ourselves to the presence, the power and the wisdom of God, as we see God in Christ. My strong sense is that we stand at a moment in the URC when all of us who are this Church have an obligation to pray: in the immediate term, for these processes and for those who will be appointed as a result. But more than that. We have to pray for the fresh reformation into which God is calling us, that we might be the Church in ways as fruitful in our generation as it was in our forebears.

In one of his many books, *Vision and Authority*, the Rev. John Oman, a former Principal of Westminster College, reminds us of the tradition in parts of the Church to be at least outwardly reluctant to assume high office. It's akin, perhaps, to the House of Commons' custom when electing a new Speaker – the speaker-elect is expected to show reluctance as they are 'dragged unwillingly', grudgingly moving from the back benches to the Speaker's chair. In churches of another tradition, the Latin phrase *Noli episcopari* sums it up: 'I do not wish to be bishoped.'

At this important moment in the URC's life, let us pray for such people, for those charged with finding them, and for the Church House personnel who oversee the processes.

Nigel Uden

To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'erbrimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spare the next swath and all its twin'd flowers;
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Aye, where are they?
Think not of them, – thou hast thy music too,
While barr'd clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing, and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

John Keats



Despite his death at the age of 25, Keats is one of the greatest English poets and a key figure in the Romantic movement. He was born on 31 October 1795 in London. His father worked at a livery stable, but died in 1804. His mother remarried, but died of tuberculosis in 1810.

Keats was educated at a school in Enfield. When he left at 16, he was apprenticed to a surgeon. He wrote his first poems in 1814. In 1816, he abandoned medicine to concentrate on poetry. His first volume of poetry was published the following year.

In 1818, Keats nursed his brother Tom through the final stages of tuberculosis, the disease that had killed their mother. Tom died in December and Keats moved to his friend Charles Brown's house in Hampstead. There he met and fell deeply in love with a neighbour, the 18-year old Fanny Brawne, though they never married.

This was the beginning of Keats' most creative period. He wrote, among others, 'The Eve of St Agnes', 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci', 'Ode to a Nightingale' and 'To Autumn'. The group of five odes, which include 'Ode to a Nightingale', are ranked among the greatest short poems in the English language.

Early in 1820, Keats began to display symptoms of tuberculosis. His second volume of poetry was published in July, but he was by now very ill. In September, Keats and his friend Joseph Severn left for the warmer weather of Italy, in the hope that this would improve Keats' health. When they reached Rome, Keats was confined to bed. Severn nursed him devotedly, but Keats died in Rome on 23 February 1821.

Computer Corner

London Undone

Interesting podcasts

London Undone is a site for podcasts about London produced by Catherine Cartwright, a journalist, professional Blue Badge Guide, City of London Guide, City of Westminster Guide, visiting lecturer at University of Westminster, Art Historian, and resident East Ender. Catherine has recently produced a series of podcasts on London City churches.
URL: <https://londonundone.org.uk>

An interview with Adrian Lucas, President of Old Southendian Organ Society

Interesting video

In 2018, the organ at Southend High School was rebuilt and on completion of the work, Adrian Lucas, an international acclaimed musician and old boy of the school, performed a concert. This is an interview in which Adrian talks about his time at school, his career since then, and the recent work and activities of the Organ Society.
URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGtbK89dBDg>

Internet Archaeology

Interesting website

Internet Archaeology is an open access (free to read), independent, not-for-profit journal with quality academic content incorporating video, audio, searchable data sets, full-colour images, visualisations, animations and interactive mapping. Internet Archaeology is international in scope and all content is peer-reviewed. The site is hosted by the Department of Archaeology at the University of York and digitally archived by the Archaeology Data Service. It was established in 1995 and has been publishing online since 1996.
URL: <https://intarch.ac.uk/>

Word Search – Exotic fruit and vegetables

A harvest from other parts of the world

S	H	M	L	H	M	O	N	T	N	E	E	T	S	O	G	N	A	M	I		AVOCADO
T	F	H	A	O	V	R	H	H	Z	C	E	O	T	I	J	O	E	P	A		CHERIMOYA
A	G	O	O	W	S	H	H	Z	C	N	U	H	O	G	O	D	H	O	U		COMBAWA
U	I	L	L	Z	O	P	P	M	U	I	G	U	C	G	Z	Y	J	Q	A		DURIAN
Q	I	Z	H	A	D	O	I	M	G	U	C	I	O	J	S	I	I	Q	L		FEIJOA
M	E	P	F	K	A	D	T	I	A	Q	E	L	U	A	E	E	B	H	L		GRANADILLA
U	N	Y	H	B	C	B	A	N	Y	B	S	N	L	F	J	S	C	V	I		JACKFRUIT
K	Y	A	F	D	O	M	Y	P	O	M	D	L	T	B	I	E	F	Q	D		KAKI
I	R	K	T	N	V	S	A	S	M	L	I	A	Y	A	M	T	N	N	A		KUMQUATS
U	F	B	E	U	A	X	E	Z	I	S	W	J	D	J	J	Y	P	M	N		MANGOSTEEN
S	Q	A	W	A	B	M	O	C	R	V	S	W	W	A	M	F	N	X	A		MOOLI
S	F	P	E	F	J	M	R	T	E	E	X	T	C	V	I	U	A	H	R		OKRA
R	J	K	A	I	Z	N	A	B	H	Q	I	K	A	Y	X	M	V	D	G		PHYSALLIS
D	U	R	I	A	N	Z	S	R	C	W	F	A	F	R	H	A	L	Q	S		PITAYA
E	U	P	A	C	J	O	A	K	B	R	R	K	U	R	F	B	S	U	P		POMELO
U	L	Y	R	X	T	L	V	X	U	K	L	R	I	E	C	R	S	S	N		QUINCE
J	K	S	E	Z	S	E	H	I	O	J	S	K	R	B	K	C	U	M	M		RAMBUTAN
V	H	C	P	S	A	M	T	H	P	T	A	C	M	M	F	U	P	I	Y		STARFRUIT
M	C	H	W	V	L	O	W	N	T	K	F	G	K	O	Q	I	W	D	T		TOMBERRY
E	D	F	T	W	F	P	B	L	Y	E	Y	E	Y	T	N	C	L	Q	J		YAM

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Sunday 1 st	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Mrs Heather Brown Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 2 nd	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 5 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Saturday 7 th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast Meeting
Sunday 8 ^h	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Adrian Tinning
Monday 9 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Wednesday 11 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 12 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 15 ^h	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 16 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 17 th	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship – Margaret Butler Slideshow: 'Scotland in Springtime'
Thursday 19 th	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 22 nd	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Wilf Tyler
Monday 23 rd	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 26 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Saturday 28 th	6.00pm	Harvest Supper
Sunday 29 th	10.30am	Harvest Festival Service – Rev. Jack Roche MA
Monday 30 th	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group

Harvest Festival – 28th & 29th September 2019



Our Harvest Festival weekend begins with a Harvest Supper in the Small Hall on Saturday 29th September at 6.00pm. Food will be provided but there will be a retiring offertory to cover costs and to hopefully leave a surplus for charity.

A list for names of those intending to come will be placed on the church noticeboard in advance. After the supper there will be musical entertainment in the church from the group 'Celtic Spring'. The group includes Graham and Audrey Godfrey who have performed at our church in the past with the Yardarm Folk Orchestra.

Our Harvest Festival service will take place at 10.30am on Sunday 29th September and will be led by our former minister, Rev. Jack Roche. Since retiring as our minister in April 2017, Jack has joined the Eldership at his home church, Christ Church Wickford. He still preaches occasionally at Hadleigh and attends our quarterly men's breakfasts.

Donations of food items, either fresh or preserved (dried, tinned etc.), may be brought to the Harvest Supper or to the service. Fresh items will be donated to Little Havens Hospice in Daws Heath and preserved items will be included in the October collection of items for HopeWorx.

Family and friends are very welcome to join us for the Harvest supper and the service.

Malcolm Brown