

# THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

October 2019



The Magazine of the  
United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

## SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30am every Sunday  
with Holy Communion on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

6.30pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday only  
with Holy Communion

## PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR OCTOBER 2019

Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Joyce Berry
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Dave Bigmore

## SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR OCTOBER 2019

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Jean Reeve	Doreen Churchill	Malcolm Brown
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Heather Brown	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Malcolm Brown [Holy Communion]	June Gargrave	Doreen Churchill
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Jean Reeve	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

## FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER 2019

Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Heather Brown
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Flower Group - in memory of Betty Rice

### ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm

### CHURCH MEETING

No meeting in October

#### 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](http://www.hadleighessexurc.org.uk)

#### An invitation

We invite you to join us for worship and fellowship at any of our services where a warm welcome awaits. If you are in need of help that the ministry of the church can supply then be assured of our interest and concern. If you are suffering from ill health, loneliness or bereavement and feel that we could help, or if you would like to ask for a prayer or personal visit then please let our Minister or any of the other church officers know. All such requests are treated in the strictest confidence.

## From the Bible – John 1:35-42 (NIV)

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

<sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

<sup>39</sup> “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup> The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus.

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### Letter from Adrian

Over the past months it has been good to share in your ministry to Hadleigh. As I look to the future in my new role as ‘Support Lay Preacher’ it is with a real sense of God’s guidance in the past and of his hand upon the current situation. When God has his hand on a situation there is frequently unanimity of inspiration so that when it comes together there is a sense of his purpose and plan. When Royston contacted me, I felt this agreement of spirit and as I talked with my wife Carole and later with the leadership at Westcliff Free Church (my home church), this confidence in the Lord and His purpose was confirmed.

I am told that the title of ‘Support Lay Preacher’ is not a typical URC job title but has been devised to reflect my role as a regular lay preacher at the church and the support that I have agreed to provide in various other ways. The nature of this support has been discussed at both the Elders’ and Church Meetings and includes leadership of a bible study, contributing items to the church magazine and encouraging the wider church fellowship – not just those who worship on Sundays – by meeting them at the coffee morning and other church events.

The warmth of the church and its obvious desire to fulfil God’s mission for it in the area is the necessary basis upon which we can build in order to move into God’s plan for us. Over the next few months in this letter I would like to consider the ways in which people came to be associated with Jesus and to draw from there the basic evangelistic strategies.

John 1 vv. 35-42 (above) gives us a record of the way in which the first disciples were introduced to Jesus. John the Baptist whose whole ministry was to prepare the ground for the ministry of Jesus pointed him out to two of his disciples. These disciples had got to know John very well they had spent some considerable time with him so that when he spoke about Jesus, they were ready to listen to him.

So, it is with us. If we are to point people to Jesus then we really need to spend time with them so that they are able to trust us when we point them to the messiah. In fact, John’s purpose in getting to know these people was so that when they were ready, he could introduce them to him. It is therefore a valid means of evangelism to make friends so that ultimately you can introduce them to Jesus.

In verse 41 we see Andrew at work telling his brother about Jesus. He has only just discovered the Lord himself and is eager to introduce his brother to him. Here we see Andrew being prepared to talk about Jesus to his closest relatives. We too can be imitators of Andrew, bringing the people we are closest to meet the Lord. We don’t have to have great arguments to convince them of the truth before they come; our message is simply come and see for yourself. Leave the hard work to Jesus.

Yours in Him,

*Adrian*

## From the Editor

Welcome to the October edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

September seemed to pass very quickly but included our Harvest Festival, on which I have reported elsewhere. It also featured the 101<sup>st</sup> birthday of Jean Hodges, this magazine's oldest subscriber, and this is covered in the Family News section. Also in September, it was especially good to have Interim Moderator Rev. Jim Tarrant acting as chairman at our Church Meeting for the first time. We thank Jim and give thanks to God for his improved health following treatment.

There is no formal announcement in the magazine but Adrian Tinning, who has been preaching regularly in recent months, is now officially known as our 'Support Lay Preacher'. You can read more about this in the 'Letter from Adrian' article. We welcome Adrian in this extended role and thank him for his support.

We were introduced to Adrian through Wilf Tyler and Wilf has also introduced Adrian to Battlesbridge Free Church, where both are now preaching on a fairly regular basis.

*Malcolm Brown*

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## Bible Study

We have not had a bible study at the church since our last minister, Rev. Jack Roche, retired in April 2017. I am pleased to report that Adrian Tinning, our new 'Support Lay Preacher', has kindly offered to lead a new bible study and his offer was readily accepted at the September Church Meeting. The sessions will probably be held on a monthly basis although this will be discussed once sessions have commenced.

The first two sessions will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December and will commence at 12.30pm. As in Jack's time, we will have a (packed) lunch directly after the coffee morning and before the bible study. The session on 14<sup>th</sup> November will look at Luke 1 vv. 5-25 under the title "You really should believe an Angel" and the session on 12<sup>th</sup> December will look at Luke 1 vv. 26-38 under the title "I do believe the Angel". After Christmas, Adrian is proposing to look at some of the other less well-known passages around the birth of Jesus.

If you are able, please do support this new initiative. Study of the bible is a vital part of any Christian's discipleship and it is good to be able to share thoughts and experiences whilst learning. Sharing a meal together is also a good way of strengthening our fellowship with one another.

*Malcolm Brown*

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## Ron Hurrell – a man of letters

Whilst we have been without a bible study at our church, I have been attending the weekly Chapel House (bible study) meetings at Hadleigh Methodist Church. One of the other regular attendees is Ron Hurrell, who is well-known in the locality, not least for his regular contributions to the local Echo newspaper's Letters page. A few weeks ago, Ron revealed that he had finally achieved a long-held ambition of having a letter published in the national Daily Telegraph newspaper. Ron was kind enough to give me a cutting of the letter and I promised to give it wider circulation by including it in the Hadleigh Messenger. The letter was originally published on Monday 15 July 2019 in response to a letter from Guy Bargery suggesting that a goat was a good alternative to a lawnmower.

SIR – Thinking along similar lines to Guy Bargery, I bought two Soway lambs, which became very tame.

They soon learnt to recognise my whistle and would come to the back door to take titbits from my hand. In no time at all, these charming four-legged lawnmowers had also restored my garden to a semblance of tidiness, and I congratulated myself on a brilliant idea.

However, as the lambs grew into sheep, they became aggressive, destructive and impossible to

tether. They destroyed my greenhouse, killed a couple of treasured trees and caused £200 worth of damage to my neighbour's fence.

My garden has never fully recovered, and the only thing to be said in their favour is that, finally, over several months, they provided many tasty casseroles and Sunday roasts.

**Ron Hurrell**

*Benfleet, Essex*

## Tuesday Fellowship Programme for Oct & Nov 2019

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.30pm	Talk: The History of Garston's Footwear by David/Jonathan Garston
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.30pm	Talk: Bee-keeping by Marguerita Wilson

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

Meeting fee £2.00 – first time free

Annual subscription – £3.00

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# WHAT'S ON

## A round-up of future events in the area

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Tue 8 Oct 2019	- Community Coffee Morning at Elizabeth House care home, Benfleet Road, Hadleigh from 10.00am to 11.00am. Held every week.
Wed 9 Oct 2019	- Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church Community Room, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath, from 10.00am to 11.45am. £2.00 for as much coffee as you wish and a piece of cake.
	ditto - Kingsway Community Cinema presents 'Red Joan' at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets £3.00 from Eventbrite. Refreshments available. Bring a cushion.
Thu 10 Oct 2019	- Talk and Slideshow "Policing Of Disasters On The Railway" by Alan Clark at Rayleigh Town Museum. Starts at 7.30pm.
Sat 12 Oct 2019	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church - 10.00am to 12 noon.
	ditto - Local Councillors' Surgery at Old Fire Station - 10.00am to 12 noon.
	ditto - Beat & Beans Café with Monday Folk at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Live music with coffee, tea and snacks. Relax and enjoy the music in historic surroundings. Free admission.
	ditto - Southend Symphony Orchestra concert at SA Hadleigh Temple. Starts at 7.30pm.
	ditto - The Orpheus Singers present 'Songs from Stage and Screen' at Kings Road URC. Starts at 7.30pm.
Mon 14 Oct 2019	- Benfleet & District Historical Society Talk 'What is Beyond the Point' by Liam Heatherson & Joe Mander at Richmond Hall, Benfleet. At 8.00pm.
Thu 17 Oct 2019	- Poetry Reading Group Meeting at Hadleigh Library. Dorothy Turner reads from her book 'About Time'. From 2.30pm to 3.30pm.
Sat 19 Oct 2019	- Hadleigh Heritage Coffee Morning & Talk - 'The Choppen Family' by Bob delderfield - at St James the Less Church. Coffee from 10.30am. The talk starts at 11.00am. Free event.
	ditto - Big Brew Harvest Coffee Morning at Thundersley Methodist Church from 10.30am to 12 noon.
Sun 27 Oct 2019	- Café Church at Costa Coffee from 5.00pm to 6.30pm.
Mon 4 Nov 2019	- Benfleet & District Historical Society Talk 'Battlefield Essex' by Andrew Summers at Richmond Hall, Benfleet. Starts at 8.00pm.
Sat 9 Nov 2019	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church -10.00am to 12 noon.
	ditto - Local Councillors' Surgery at Old Fire Station -10.00am to 12 noon.
	ditto - 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 & Beans Café with Friendly Folk at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Live music with coffee, tea and snacks. Free admission.
Sat 16 Nov 2019	- Christmas Bazaar at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

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

# Harvest Festival 2019

On the morning of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, the church was decorated, as usual, with greenery provided by Royston. Whilst he and I were busy doing that, Jean Reeve and Heather Brown were laying the tables for the Harvest Supper. The ladies and helpers returned in the afternoon to prepare the food.

The supper started at 6.00pm with about twenty seven people present. Before we began, Adrian Tinning said grace. The cold buffet on offer was up to the usual high standard and there was also a tempting range of desserts.

After supper, everyone moved into the church for the entertainment. Things were a bit different this year as we had been able to book 'Celtic Spring', a local folk group, and they were enjoyed by all. June Gargrave read some entertaining poems and jokes in between two sets by the group.



**Celtic Spring**

Rev. Jack Roche, our former minister, closed proceedings with a few words and a prayer. A

retiring offertory was taken to cover costs and to provide a donation to Christian Aid.

Jack was also present on Sunday to lead our Harvest Festival service when he preached on the theme of first fruits. One nice surprise was the presence of three children – Ava, Flo and Willow, the granddaughters of Mark and Diane Pinnock. It was Willow's first visit to the church.

The harvest table had a nice variety of food items and some knitted fruit and vegetables made by my mum, Shirley, added to the display.



**Harvest table (lower part)**

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the harvest table. The fresh produce was once again taken to Little Havens Hospice whilst other items were retained to add to the collection for Hopeworx on the first Sunday of October.

*Malcolm Brown*

## Photos from the Harvest Supper



**Sharon, Sue, Eddie, Royston**



**Pamela, Adrian, Derek, Emily, Kay, Doreen, Angela**



**Irene, Mary, Vera, June, Peggy, Ann, Nichola**



**Colin, Ann, Jim, Fred, Paul, Jack**

## URC News

### Ashamed: a reflection on the #NoFaithinWar demonstration

Husband and wife URC ministers, Rev. Mark Meatcher and Rev. Melanie Smith (former minister at Kings Road URC), joined hundreds of protestors at the #NoFaithinWar anti arms fair demonstration on 3 September. Mark and Melanie, who are Ministers of the Enfield URCs, demonstrated against the opening of the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) exhibition which took place at the Excel Centre, London.

Mark reflects on the protest: “DSEI is the showcase for many manufacturers of weapons of warfare and promotes weapon sales “by giving arms dealers the chance to meet and greet military delegations, government officials, other arms companies and a host of individual visitors.



The #NoFaithinWar protest was attended by representatives of many different Christian groups, others from various different faiths together with atheists and agnostics. Although I was delighted to be able to be there supporting many others, at the end of the day I left with an overriding feeling of being ashamed.

I was ashamed because at around 2.30 pm the police literally burst into a very peaceful and moving time of Quaker worship, attended by approximately 300 people (including Melanie and myself) and loudly announced that they were going to clear the road and people needed to move out of the way. They proceeded to tell people that at 3pm they would start arresting people for obstruction of the public highway. This they then did, with 48 arrests being made, of people of all ages. I was ashamed because this was an act of worship that was interrupted.

I was ashamed because they were arresting peaceful protestors and yet no-one was arresting any government members for selling weapons of warfare to Saudi Arabia, something that the British courts have held to be illegal.

I was ashamed because it felt to me that the police were simply being used as tools of a system that is finance driven and not people focused. If we cared more about the people of

the world we live in, than making money, then we would stop supplying arms to others.”

### United Reformed Church nominates its next General Secretary

Rev. Dr John Bradbury, Minister of Downing Place URC, Whittlesford, Stetchworth and Cheveley URCs in Cambridgeshire, has been nominated as the next General Secretary of the URC. The Nominating Group, which is responsible for putting forward a name to the URC Mission Council, has undertaken a rigorous selection process. This started after the Rev. John Proctor, the current General Secretary, announced his retirement.



Rev. Bradbury was born in 1977 in Cumbria. After studying in Edinburgh, he undertook graduate work in Cambridge whilst training for ministry at Westminster College. He was ordained in Liverpool in 2004 to work as part of the ecumenical team in the centre of the city, and to minister with Earle Road URC in Picton, an inner-city area of Liverpool. As part of his work, John worked closely with the Bread Church, part of the Somewhere Else community, an early Fresh Expression (new type) of church. In 2007, John was appointed to teach Systematic Theology and Church History at Westminster College, where he ultimately served as Vice-Principal. In 2017, John was inducted to serve at the local Cambridgeshire churches.

He has been heavily involved in ecumenism and has served on various groups for the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE). Earlier this year, John was elected as one of the three presidents of the CPCE. As well as serving as co-chair of the URC-Roman Catholic dialogue, John convenes the United Reformed Church's Law and Polity Advisory Group. He is the author of *Perpetually Reforming: a theology of church reform and renewal* and co-editor of *Thinking again about Marriage*. John loves music, and when he gets time, is something of a pianist.

If the Mission Council accepts the nomination, Rev. Bradbury will be inducted as General Secretary at next year's General Assembly, when Rev. John Proctor will retire after six years in the role.



## Faith institutions reach £9 trillion divestment milestone

The United Reformed Church (URC) has joined a coalition of faith institutions to announce its divestment from fossil fuels.

Fossil fuel divestment now comes from institutions with £9 trillion in assets, institutions with assets of around £40 billion just five years ago. According to various sources, faith institutions constitute the greatest number of entities contributing to the global divestment movement.

In total, 22 organisations make up the coalition. Along with the URC nationally, its Synod in Wessex and Beulah URC in Cardiff, a number of Catholic institutions from around the world, the Scottish Episcopal Church, and a local Church of England congregation are included. A full list of the 22 institutions can be found [here](#).

## Prayers from the heart

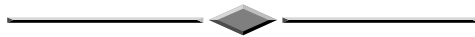
Featuring prayers for every week of the year, the 2020 United Reformed Church Prayer Handbook - Prayers from the heart is now available.



Edited by Karen Campbell, a Church Related Community Worker, and Rev. Ian Fosten, a URC Minister, Prayers from the heart features a mixture of prayer styles and approaches for all readers.

Contributors were encouraged to offer prayers that expressed the whole depth and range of joy, hope, thankfulness, fear, frustration and yearning that might be found within their own prayerful relationship with God.

The A5 edition of the prayer handbook is £4.99 plus p&p, or £4.49 for 10 or more copies.



## Sheila Maxey – On the pilgrim way (from Reform Oct 2019)

I have been clearing out our scullery after at least 30, if not 40 years. It is a Victorian house and we have lived in it for over 50 years. I am amazed at how rewarding and enjoyable the clearing out process has been. It did not start out like that. Observing the difficulty that old friends, frail and in their late 80s, were having downsizing from their home of nearly 60 years, I gloomily wondered about our future. Would I still have the energy to sort the scullery out in two years' time?

Our scullery was a dumping ground: saws and saw blades of various ages, multiple screwdrivers, pots of paint, endless screws, nails, hooks, hinges and fittings (just in case). Also old boots, a children's paddling pool, and stiff, old paintbrushes. My husband, Kees, is a DIY person. But he no longer has the health and strength for any but the little jobs. He also finds throwing out anything in working order difficult, so we had at least eight power supplies, 12 three-pin plugs, lots and lots of electrical cable, an old camping stove and a gas light with no mantel. I could go on – but you get the picture.

I tackled one shelf per day – and had to pass everything in front of Kees, to see if he would let the item go. I then listed those items, apart from complete rubbish, on the computer and emailed them to our extended family to see if they would like anything. Then, the process began to be fun.

I was in contact with my lovely family who, even if they did not want anything, were entertained by the list. One came and rummaged, others asked if they could forward the list to a DIY friend. One wanted the old, decrepit camping stove to experiment with boiling up lichens to make dyes. There was actually some competition for the half tin of anti-woodworm liquid!

Over the bank holiday weekend, we put two tables out on our forecourt and spread out everything that was left. We put up a notice inviting passers-by to help themselves for free, and we waited to see what would happen. People seem to feel guilty about just taking things, so it was important not to watch, but we did sometimes skulk. A man on a scooter drove up, took off his helmet, slowly inspected and then took the old camping light (the one with no mantel). He left £3! As the weather was fine, we left the tables out all night, and by the morning, all the electrical stuff had gone.

Recycling is an important duty – but the wonderful thing about this little episode in our lives is that it, quite unintentionally, became such fun. Jesus seems to describe the experience: 'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.'

# An extract from 'October' in *The Countryside Companion* by Wynford Vaughan-Thomas

June Gargrave recently showed me a copy of *The Countryside Companion* by Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, published in 1979. The book has chapters based on the months of the year. The chapter for October is mainly about the mountains of Britain and the following is an extract that I hope will be of interest.

In high Summer endless strings of hikers labour up the slopes of Helvellyn or tramp the Llanberis track to the crowded summit of Snowdon. But by October the crowds will have gone home.



**Borrowdale – looking to Derwent Water from Grange Crag**

The woods in Borrowdale are golden with the autumn leaves. You can have the summit of Lliwedd to yourself. The winter snows have not yet made Buchaille Etive, the 'shepherd' that guards Glencoe, an Alpine expedition. It's the best time to see again the wild places of Britain as they were 200 years ago.

I have chosen the date of 200 years deliberately, for it was about this time that the mountains began to change character in the eyes of the beholder. All through the preceding centuries the wilder parts of Britain had been regarded as places best avoided by sensible men. To the English, Snowdon was a stronghold held by the intransigent Welsh, a pile of worthless stones inhabited by rebels. Cumbria and its savage rocks was a 'horrid wilderness' to Bishop Burnet in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Dr Johnson and his bear-leader Boswell felt that their tour of the Scottish Highlands in 1775 was a bold adventure – as indeed it was for the period. Less than 30 years before, the Highlands had been in full rebellion for 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' against the English crown. As for the scenery, had not Dr Johnson himself written in his poem, 'London':

*'For who would leave, unbrib'd, Hibernia's land  
Or change the rocks of Scotland for the Strand?'*

Yet leave London he did, in his sixty-first year, and gallantly rode and tramped and sailed through the wildest and most inhospitable

scenery. 'This uniformity of Barrenness' was his description to Boswell of the mountains of Skye; and although he relished the sturdy independence of the Highlanders, he did not altogether approve of their happy propensity for dodging useful work whenever they could, and for living up to the old Highland verse:

*'Ah, wad the peats would cut themselves  
The fish leap to the shore,  
So thou and I might lie abed  
And love for evermore!'*

Even ten years after Johnson's journey, however, his attitude to mountains began to seem old-fashioned. Change was in the air, and the Romantic Movement had begun. Rousseau had invented the Noble Savage, and untouched Nature was the source of all goodness. It was not long before Wordsworth was busy applying Rousseau's principles to the mountains of his native Lake District. If ever a man put his own stamp on a landscape, it was Wordsworth. Even today, I cannot think of Lakeland without seeing that 'unfinished sheepfold, Beside the boisterous brook of Greenhead Ghyll', or picturing the daffodils on the shores of Ullswater, 'fluttering and dancing in the breeze'. Inevitably, as Wordsworth forecast they would, 'they flash upon that inward eye, which is the bliss of solitude'.

Wordsworth and his fellow Lakeland poets, and the generation of Keats, Byron and Shelley that followed them, had made the mountains of Britain fashionable, and a new breed of travellers was inspired to make the still slightly uncomfortable journeys to the Lakes and Wales. Dr Syntax and his like set off in search of the Picturesque. The Napoleonic Wars closed the continent, and the romantic-minded visitors had to make do with the local mountains. They rushed into print and hardly a year passed without one or two 'Tours through the Beauties of Cambria' coming from the press. Meanwhile, the greatest publicist of all had appeared in Scotland. Wordsworth may have made the Lakes famous throughout Britain. Sir Walter Scott made the Highlands of Scotland famous throughout Europe and eventually the civilized world.

So the High Places of Britain, from being the most shunned and desolate sections of the country, became the pride of the nation. All through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century their popularity increased. The advent of the railways made the pilgrimage to the hills easier for the increasingly prosperous middle class. Queen Victoria set her seal of approval on the mountain world when she settled at Balmoral with Prince Albert, and published the journals of her life in the Highlands, full of ecstatic underlining of her emotions as she travelled through the hills with her beloved Albert. Soon there wasn't a house in the land that didn't possess an engraving of a noble stag, 'The Monarch of the Glen', painted by the Queen's favourite Sir Edwin Landseer.

In the 1880s a new phase began in the appreciation – or should we now say the exploitation of the mountains. The first rock-climbers appeared on the scene in what was then the county of Cumberland. Mountaineering had already become a growing sport in the Alps, mainly pioneered by wealthy Englishmen who had the leisure and the money to hire the sturdy Swiss peasants as guides. John Ruskin, the great art critic who had been one of the

most eloquent popularisers of the moral values of mountain scenery, thundered his disapproval from his home at Coniston in the Lake District. 'The Alps themselves, which your own poets used to love so reverently, you look upon as soaped poles in a bear-garden, which you set yourselves to climb and slide down again with "shrieks of delight".' He was even more indignant when the climbers appeared not in the distant Alps but on crags which were in sight of his own home. Moreover, these new exploiters of the hills were distinctly middle-class – dons, civil servants, public-school masters. Later on, local men took to the crags. On the Lakeland mountains, two of the most daring of the new race of climbers were actually local photographers, the Brothers Abraham of Keswick. Surely the end of an era had been reached!

Actually it was the beginning of another wave of ever-increasing popularity for the wild mountains. Today rock-climbing and mountaineering have become big business — and completely class-less.

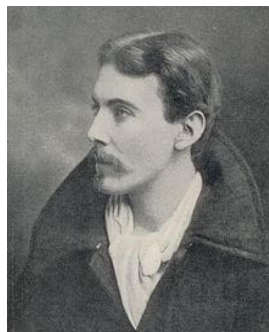
*Wynford Vaughan Thomas, 1979*

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## In this short span

In this short span  
Between my finger-tips on the smooth edge  
And these tense feet cramped to the crystal ledge  
I hold the life of man.  
For what is there in all the world for me  
But what I know and see?  
And what remains of all I see and know  
If I let go?

*Geoffrey Winthrop Young*



Young in 1898

Geoffrey Winthrop Young D.Litt. (25 October 1876 – 8 September 1958) was a British climber, poet and educator, and author of several notable books on mountaineering. He was educated at Marlborough College and Trinity College Cambridge, where he was awarded the Chancellor's Medal for English Verse. His first published book, *The Roof-Climber's Guide to Trinity*, which appeared anonymously in 1901, was the first written record of stegophily – climbing the outside of buildings.



## ‘Variety is the spice of life’

Since my last blog I have led worship three times, attended Greenbelt, participated in a Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) political party briefing, and prepared for a trip to Jerusalem. These occasions have brought home to me the variety we have within the URC family, which I am sure you will agree is a strength and a wonderful blessing.

My first service was at **Revidge Fold United Reformed Church** in Blackburn. It is an urban church, within a community that has a large Asian presence, mainly Muslims, and which is opposite a large Catholic College. The church embraces its community in many ways and welcomes all to use its buildings and facilities. Activities such as the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, a dementia café, a regular lunch club and social gatherings are held there. Formerly, the church was known as Four Lane Ends Congregational Church which began in 1820 as a ‘plant’ from the Chapel Street Congregational church in the centre of Blackburn that had been founded in 1778. The picture below shows the present church.



**Revidge Fold URC, Blackburn**

My second invitation to lead worship was from **Tockholes United Reformed Church** which is quite different being in the middle of the countryside close to Darwen. This church was formed in 1662. Those worshipping together in the church’s early days met in various buildings, eventually building a church in 1710. The present building, shown below, dates from 1880. In contrast to Revidge Fold, this church is tucked away down a country lane surrounded by farms and cottages. I was invited to lead a country-style Harvest festival service with lots of fruit

and vegetables and flower on displays, to be distributed to help those in need after the service. It so happened that in the congregation was a former minister, the Rev. David Netherwood who was on holiday in the area. Congregation members were very pleased to see him, and he was very pleased to be back at one of his former churches seeing friends and maintaining those connections.



**Tockholes URC, Darwen**

The third occasion I lead worship was at **Immanuel United Reformed Church**, in Swindon. This took place during a weekend of celebration to mark the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Swindon United Reformed Church and the 50th anniversary of the Old Town Partnership, a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP), which includes Bath Road Methodist and Christ Church with St Mary’s. They believe their Partnership may be one of the oldest LEPs in the country. This was a great weekend blessed with warm sunny weather. The Rev. Robert Jordan, Minister of Immanuel URC, took me to visit the other LEP churches.



**Rev. Robert Jordan of Immanuel URC with Derek Estill**

I was received warmly at all of these churches and shown around each one. I heard many things about their worship and outreach in the town. All are very active churches and engaged with all ages, showing a deep commitment to their Christian witness together in Swindon.

On Sunday, I was privileged to lead the anniversary service with an estimated audience of 200 people of all ages. The service followed the theme of listening out for Jesus calling us to follow him, and the need for us to respond and put our faith into action. The singing during the service, led by a choir of 34 people, was great. The Mayor and Mayoress of Swindon, Cllr Kevin Parry and Cllr Barbara Parry, attended illustrating the importance and good connection the LEP has with the town. Following the service, we all gathered to cut the anniversary cake, each having a piece with a cup of tea or coffee.



**Immanuel URC, Swindon**

During the August bank holiday weekend, I attended the **Greenbelt Festival** of arts, faith and justice for the first time. This festival has been held annually in England since 1974. Greenbelt has grown from a Christian music festival with an audience of 1,500 young Christians to its current more inclusive festival attended by around 20,000 Christians and those from other faiths and none. Many churches and other organisations were taking part in what was an uplifting event, attracting young and old and families, all having a great time together. The URC contribution was

very well received attracting many people especially children to come and have a go at art and craft or listen to a Bible story. The pictures below show the Archbishop of Canterbury on stage answering questions from the gathered crowd and the URC Tent.



**The URC tent at Greenbelt**

The URC is one of four churches that work with the **Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)**; the other churches are the Methodists, Baptists and Church of Scotland. As Christians we are called to act justly and to work for God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Both Nigel and I will be attending political party conferences soon and JPIT has arranged for us to engage with those at the Labour and Conservative political party conferences as Christian church leaders bringing the issues that we feel are important to their attention where we can.

To prepare for this Nigel and I have met, with other church leaders, and the JPIT team, and are now looking forward to the conferences at a time that is very confusing. It will be interesting to see how it works out as I am to attend the Conservative Party Conference.

As I finish this blog, I am preparing to go on a URC visit to Israel with colleagues. I look forward to updating you all upon my return.

*Derek Estill*

Moderator of General Assembly 2018-20

Posted on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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“No pleasure endures unseasoned by variety.” – Publilius Syrus, 1<sup>st</sup> century BC

“The joy of life is variety; the tenderest love requires to be rekindled by intervals of absence.”  
– Samuel Johnson, *The Idler*, 1758-60

“Variety's the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavour.” – William Cowper, *The Task*, 1785

## Cuttings from The News Quiz

One of your Editor's favourite radio comedy programmes is *The News Quiz*, which is broadcast on BBC Radio 4. The start and end of the programme feature the reading of humorous cuttings sent in by listeners. The cuttings are taken from newspaper and magazine reports, signs, adverts etc. Here some of the best cuttings suitable for inclusion in a church magazine!

- BBC2 at 9:00pm "Tribes, Predators and Me" - a programme where Gordon Buchanan learns to hunt crocodiles with his bare hands. Last in the series. - *From a TV listing in the Telegraph.*
- "I remember Elton John put on a party for us during the 1986/87 Ashes tour. We saw CDs for the first time because he'd brought his own collection with him. I don't think he actually played one of his own songs all night. It was fantastic." - *From the Daily Telegraph, a quote from former England cricketer Mike Gatting.*
- This toilet is a display model. Please ask a member of staff if you would like to watch a demonstration. - *From a sign spotted at the London Boat Show.*
- Mud Walk! Find out what lives in the mud of Exmouth estuary. Meet opposite the toilets at Imperial Road Rec. - *From Exeter Living Magazine.*
- A 12-week-old kitten was rescued from inside a living room sofa after fire officers chopped it up with hacksaws and hydraulic cutters. - *From the Northern Echo.*
- Mantle Books have announced that senior editor Sophie Orme will not be returning from maternity leave after an internal restructure. - *From Bookseller Weekly.*
- Due to unforeseen circumstances, clairvoyant Trisha will not be appearing in the Kevin Bird Suite tomorrow night. - *A Tweet from Mansfield Town Football Club.*
- Are you a man aged over 40? Windsor Lions Club is offering free prostate cancer checks with the help of a local estate agent. - *From The Royal Borough Observer.*
- Stench from Shropshire bio-gas site blamed on new employee. - *Headline from The Shropshire Star.*
- Please do not bring plastic bin bags to wear. We've had runners tripping over them, and they just end up in landfill. - *A warning to competitors in the 2017 Bath Half Marathon.*
- Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West gas said "We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that blew his house to pieces." - *From the Daily Telegraph.*
- A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coastguard spokesman commented, "This sort of thing is all too common". - *From The Times.*
- Would-be apprentices at Sizewell B are invited to come to an information event on Saturday. Roger Barge, apprentice training co-ordinator, said: "Apprentices at the nuclear power station enjoy great training and a glowing future." - *From the East Anglian Daily Times.*
- Hello. I'm looking for a free or cheap double mattress. I'm heavily pregnant so I would be extremely grateful if you are also able to deliver. - *From an advert on Facebook.*
- 23-year-old jockey Willy Twiston-Davies retires to focus on breeding. - *From the BBC Sport website.*
- Six foot boa constrictor. Free to a good home. Very friendly, good eater, likes children. - *From an advert in the pets section of the Sheerness Times and Guardian.*

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## Computer Corner

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### Old Man Stan - My Town (New Town Utopia) Basildon@70

**Interesting video**

A new 'Old Man Stan' video has been produced to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Basildon. For those who are not aware, Old Man Stan is a pensioner puppet who rose to fame locally in the 2000s, regularly creating music videos depicting life in the town and often making political points and taking swipes at Basildon Council.

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zt4TC3UAe1o> or go to YouTube.com and search for "Old Man Stan – My Town (New Town Utopia)"

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### Windows 10 Setup Now Prevents Local Account creation

**Interesting articles**

Windows 10 Home setup now forces you to sign in with a Microsoft account. This article explains how you can still create a local user account.

URL: <https://www.howtogeek.com/442609/confirmed-windows-10-setup-now-prevents-local-account-creation/>

If you're not sure about local user accounts and Microsoft accounts then this article may be worth reading:

URL: <https://www.lifewire.com/local-vs-microsoft-accounts-in-windows-3507003>

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### Canvey Green Belt Campaign

**Interesting website**

The main purpose of the campaign is to stop development of the last area of natural Green Belt land on Canvey Island but, as a consequence, the website often has interesting posts about the new Castle Point Local Plan – which has still to be approved!

URL: <https://canveygb.wordpress.com>

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## Word Search – Mountains from around the world

Continuing a theme from an earlier article in the magazine.

V	K	A	I	Q	I	H	Z	P	J	L	A	G	I	R	R	E	C	O	H
A	Q	D	E	T	K	N	O	C	K	M	E	A	L	D	O	W	N	S	G
S	R	L	K	M	O	A	N	R	U	P	A	N	N	A	X	T	U	U	A
T	M	S	N	A	F	Y	R	T	X	H	D	X	P	T	F	R	W	T	V
R	G	W	J	N	X	E	W	A	D	D	I	K	S	Z	B	Q	B	T	S
E	X	T	F	H	G	T	V	E	Z	O	E	L	H	L	C	T	E	N	L
A	Z	N	R	O	H	T	I	E	R	B	I	F	E	F	F	I	O	Z	A
P	M	V	K	Z	S	K	Q	U	R	D	N	N	I	U	K	W	T	K	C
C	Z	T	D	E	N	A	L	I	R	E	E	F	Z	C	D	G	I	Y	H
D	K	G	H	P	M	N	O	N	Z	J	S	X	A	O	Z	L	C	H	I
P	A	W	L	C	K	U	X	E	W	X	Y	T	N	O	I	H	B	D	M
N	I	M	C	X	P	K	M	A	S	B	S	Y	B	M	E	P	Y	K	B
M	X	N	A	U	M	K	O	G	P	N	U	A	A	L	M	Z	X	J	O
X	M	L	B	V	Z	R	U	E	A	X	A	N	V	J	P	K	L	N	R
L	A	M	W	N	A	K	J	R	I	X	J	E	T	P	M	O	P	Z	A
N	N	J	L	K	Z	N	C	U	M	A	L	Z	F	O	Q	W	Y	F	Z
H	K	T	I	S	K	G	D	P	R	L	Y	Q	Z	E	G	N	S	V	O
U	L	A	B	A	N	I	K	O	Y	Z	H	L	Z	V	L	Z	I	G	Y
D	T	X	S	K	U	Q	P	N	B	A	J	U	L	P	J	L	J	G	I
L	O	C	H	N	A	G	A	R	Q	T	B	M	T	J	Y	S	E	X	A

ANNAPURNA  
AORAKI  
BREITHORN  
CHIMBORAZO  
CRANSTACKIE  
DAMAVAND  
DENALI  
ELBRUS  
ERRIGAL  
EVEREST  
HELVELLYN  
KILIMANJARO  
KINABALU  
KNOCKMEALDOWN  
LOCHNAGAR  
SKIDDAW  
SNAEFELL  
SNOWDON  
STREAP  
TRYFAN

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

## CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2019

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Mr Adrian Tinning Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service – Mrs Joyce Berry
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship Meeting – David/Jonathon Garston Talk: 'The History of Garston's Footwear'
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Dave Bigmore
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

### From Sunset to Star Rise

Go from me, summer friends, and tarry not:  
 I am no summer friend, but wintry cold,  
 A silly sheep benighted from the fold,  
 A sluggard with a thorn-choked garden plot.  
 Take counsel, sever from my lot your lot,  
 Dwell in your pleasant places, hoard your gold;  
 Lest you with me should shiver on the wold,  
 Athirst and hungering on a barren spot.  
 For I have hedged me with a thorny hedge,  
 I live alone, I look to die alone:  
 Yet sometimes, when a wind sighs through the sedge,  
 Ghosts of my buried years, and friends come back,  
 My heart goes sighing after swallows flown  
 On sometime summer's unreturning track.

*Christina Rossetti (1830-94)*

Note: 'From Sunset to Star Rise' is a Petrarchan or Italian sonnet, rhymed ababbacdcde. Spoken by a woman who has chosen to ostracise herself from society and her friends – perhaps, as some critics have suggested, because she is a fallen woman – the poem uses autumnal imagery and the disappearing summer to reflect on fallenness and sin as part of human nature.