

# THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

February 2020



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 FEBRUARY 2020

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Keith Berry
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Roger Brett
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mr Adrian Tinning
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	10.30am	Morning Service	Major Alan Bennett

## SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Malcolm Brown	Doreen Churchill	Jean Reeve
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Jean Reeve	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Heather Brown [Holy Communion]	June Gargrave	Doreen Churchill
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Malcolm Brown	Janet Wimbledon	Janet Wimbledon

## FLOWER ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	If you would like to have flowers in the church, perhaps to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or in memory of a loved one, please speak to Jean Reeve.
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	

### ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 6.00pm

### CHURCH MEETING

No meeting in Feb

#### 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.

## Letter from Adrian

Dear friends,

Over the past years there has been a renewed interest in Celtic Christianity. When we reflect upon the Celtic spirituality as evidenced in their writings and the reports from others of their time, there is a recurring theme that reflects very closely the central theme of so much scripture. One example of this was St Aidan whose heart was said to be so full of love for the people of Northumbria that he was moved to leave the cloisters of Iona for Lindisfarne, in spite of the fact that the preceding mission had returned speaking of the people as obstinate and barbarous.

This is of course only a reflection of the state of the early church as recorded in Acts. I wonder what there was about the early church which brought out the comment recorded by Tertullian: "See how these Christians love one another". We know that it was a command of the Lord recorded in quite a number of verses (e.g. John 15:12 – 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.') but how was it so obvious to the community outside the church that they commented upon it.

Certainly, they appeared to be continually in one another's company. As it is recorded in Acts 2 after the conversion of the 3000, they met daily. But I don't think that would have been sufficient to have produced that observation. Maybe it was the way they cared for each other: Acts 2:45 – "Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need". Or maybe it was the community aspects of the early church: Acts 2:44 – "All the believers were together and had everything in common".

It is clear that between the church reflected in the early chapters of the Acts and the Celtic monastic tradition there are a number of parallel concepts among which are daily worship and prayer, community property and a deep affection for each other and also for those outside the church. When Aidan moved to Lindisfarne in essence, he set up a community in which the people around could see the love of God at work in their midst, within the brotherhood and reaching out from the community reaching out into their world.

How can we enable that love and fellowship which we already experience within the church here to grow and develop so that like our Celtic fathers before us we reflect more of that experience of the early church? Obviously, the key concept is one of love. Love for God, love for each other and love for the lost. Love is not something you can turn on at will it happens as we get closer to the object of our love. If we are to love the Lord more we must spend more time with Him, experience more of His gentleness as he deals with us, more of His compassion as he heals us, more of Him as he resides with us day by day. By allowing our hearts to be warmed by His presence the rest comes naturally.

I am not a monk. I have other responsibilities and time is a precious resource. So was the jar of ointment that was broken over Jesus, very precious. In the same manner, are we ready to pour out our lives as Mary poured out her perfume to the Glory of our Lord and Him alone?

Blessings,

*Adrian*

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## From the Bible

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other."

**John 15:9-17 (NIV)**

## From the Editor

Welcome to the February 2020 edition of the *Hadleigh Messenger*.

Unfortunately, due to various events, this is being published later than expected. At fairly short notice, I made arrangements to bring my mum down from Beverley to spend her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday with us so the travelling up and down to East Yorkshire and the celebration of her birthday used up three days. Since then, our eldest son, Michael, has been detained in hospital following a routine operation to remove a bunion. When he came round after the anaesthetic he was found to have a speech problem. This is still being investigated but a CT scan and an MRI scan were both good and so a stroke has been ruled out. His

speech appears to be slowly improving but it is still far from normal.

I am grateful to June Gargrave for her contribution about Malta and St Paul. She has also been very kind in donating two tables and a variety of other items to the church as a result of a recent move to a flat, which required major downsizing. June has also kindly donated a variety of goods to my bric-a-brac stall for Christian Aid. Thank you, June.

I have received several donations towards the cost of producing this year's magazines. If you would like to make a donation then the suggested amount is £5.00 plus extra for any postage costs.

*Malcolm Brown*

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## Reform Editorial – February 2020

Readers may be interested in this Editorial from the February 2020 edition of Reform magazine.

What kind of person would split a nationwide Church because they disapprove of the clothes the ministers wear? Someone with no sense of proportion? A fanatic? Someone who places their own opinions above the mission of the Church?

This is exactly the issue that split the Church of England in the time of the Reformation. Puritans hated the ornate 'popish' robes ministers were forced to wear, and a thousand of them quit the Church of England to start an illegal underground church in 1566.

We remember them particularly this year because in 1620, four hundred years ago, a group of them sailed on the Mayflower to found a settlement in New England (see 'The church of the Pilgrims', page 24\*.) We also remember them because they are the fathers and mothers of both the Congregational and Baptist movements, meaning that their spiritual offspring today number tens of millions.

Which makes it a little embarrassing that their starting point was as flimsy and small-minded as a quarrel over a dress code. Isn't family embarrassing? And yet, once they had formed their underground congregations, this gave them the impetus to totally – as we might say today – reimagine church.

The Church is not a whole nation forced to agree in one set of beliefs, they said, it is a voluntary community of actual believers. The Church is not a monarchy, ruled by the Queen through her lord bishops, they said, it is the people of God, where every person's voice has equal weight. Religion must be free, they said; coercion must end. They said: the

state has no right to tell people what to believe, and the Church has no right to make laws for unbelievers. God's will is discerned not by one person, they said, but by the whole people. And everyone should be able to take part.

This was properly revolutionary. The underground church was outlawed and many worshippers lost their lives for sticking with it. But they have won the argument and today western society is, you could say, built on their insights – freedom of belief, freedom of speech, the rule of the people. Pretty good going for a bunch of small-minded fanatics.

So what do you want now, an edifying moral or an offer you can't refuse? For moral fans: if we listen to people who seem to have obviously wrong and foolish ideas, we might find they also have something surprisingly and challengingly wise to say too.

For the rest of you: rejoice! My new book *The Journey to the Mayflower: God's Outlaws and the Invention of Freedom* is now out from Hodder & Stoughton, and though it's available from all good bookshops for £20. Reform readers can buy it from the best bookshop (the URC's) for £14 plus p&p. Visit [www.urcshop.co.uk](http://www.urcshop.co.uk) or call 020 7916 8629.

*Stephen Tomkins*  
Editor of Reform

\*Editor's note: Readers who visit the church can read the article by borrowing the church copy of Reform, available from the church foyer when not 'on loan'. I will include an article about the Pilgrim Fathers later in the year, particularly as some of them came from Essex.

Articles for the magazine can be e-mailed to the Editor, Malcolm Brown, at [mgbrownmail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mgbrownmail@yahoo.co.uk).  
Opinions expressed in any published articles do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editor or the policy of the United Reformed Church, either locally or nationally.

## Tuesday Fellowship Programme for Feb & Mar 2020

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.30pm	Illustrated Talk: 'My Family Tree' by Fred Feather (Essex Family History Society)
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	2.30pm	Annual General Meeting followed by a Members' Afternoon

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

Meeting fee £2.00 – first time free

Annual subscription – £3.00

## Donations and gifts

### End of year charity donations

At the end of each year, the church makes monetary donations to a number of charities. The donations are made from a Charities Fund built up during the year from three sources, namely, Sunday morning refreshment donations, Communion Service Benevolent Fund offertories and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday cash offertories. Donations are made to two or three charities in each of three categories – local, national and international. At the November 2019 Church Meeting, it was agreed to make donations of £80 to each of the following nine organisations:

Local	National	International
Smart Minds (Alzheimer's group)	Premier Christian Radio	Water Aid
Essex & Herts Air Ambulance	Christian Concern	Smile Train
Carers Choices	Great Ormond Street Hospital	Romanian Crestin Trust

### Christmas gifts

At the November 2019 Church Meeting, it was also agreed that gifts brought to the Christmas Gift Service on 1<sup>st</sup> December should be donated to HopeWorx and to various members and friends of the church who are housebound or who have restricted mobility and to those resident in care homes. The congregation was invited to bring suitable gifts. After the Gift Service, Heather Brown and Jean Reeve made up gift bags for nine people (all ladies) and I then had the pleasure of delivering all but one of them.

All those who received the gifts bags were delighted (and in some cases surprised!) to have been thought of in this way and were very appreciative. Thank you to all those who brought gifts for the ladies and for HopeWorx.

*Malcolm Brown*



## Paul's farewell to the Ephesian Elders – Acts 20:32-35

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'”

# WHAT'S ON

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

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Sat 8 Feb 2020	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church - 10.00am to 12 noon.
ditto	- Beat & Beans Café with Hadleigh U3A Ukulele Group at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Live music with coffee, tea and snacks. Enjoy music in historic surroundings. Free admission.
Wed 12 Feb 2020	- Kingsway Community Cinema Presents 'Downton Abbey' at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets £5.00 in advance via Eventbrite or pay at the door if seats available.
Sat 15 Feb 2020	- Love Your Library Day at Hadleigh Library from 9.00am to 5.00pm. See how libraries celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). Get ready to experiment, create, game and more.
ditto	- Community Coffee Morning at Thundersley Methodist Church, Kennington Avenue, Thundersley from 10.00am to 12 noon. Cakes also on sale. Proceeds will go to The Stroke Unit, Southend Hospital.
Thu 20 Feb 2020	- Poetry Reading Group Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month's subject - Welsh poets.
Fri 21 Feb 2020	- A 4-mile health walk. Meet at the car parking area at the bottom of Castle Lane, Hadleigh from 10.15am for 10.30am start.
Tue 25 Feb 2020	- 'The Kettle's On' Coffee Morning at St Barnabas Church from 10.30am to 12 noon. Coffee, tea, biscuits and home-made cake (sometimes!).
Sat 29 Feb 2020	- Southend Symphony Orchestra Concert at the SA Hadleigh Temple. Starts at 7.30pm. Programme: Korngold ~ The Sea Hawk, Gershwin ~ Piano Concert in F, Gershwin ~ An American in Paris.
Mon 2 Mar 2020	- Benfleet & District Historical Society Talk - 'Wimpole Hall before the Great House' by Graham Shuttlewood at Richmond Hall, off Richmond Avenue, South Benfleet. Starts at 8.00pm. Visitors £3.00.
Tue 3 Mar 2020	- Churches Together Lent Course Session 1 of 5 at St James the Less Church. Starts at 7.30pm. Refreshments from 7.15pm.
Fri 6 Mar 2020	- World Day of Prayer Service at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Starts at 2.00pm. Refreshments served afterwards. All welcome.
Wed 11 Mar 2020	- Kingsway Community Cinema Presents 'Mrs Lowry & Son' at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets £5.00 in advance via Eventbrite or pay at the door if seats available.
Sat 14 Mar 2020	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church - 10.00am to 12 noon.
ditto	- Beat & Beans Café with the Salvation Army Singers at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Live music with coffee, tea and snacks. Enjoy music in historic surroundings. Free admission.
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
Sat 21 Mar 2020	- Hadleigh Heritage Coffee Morning & Neil Hamper Memorial Talk at St James the Less Church. Doors open 10.00am. Talk by Elizabeth Barham on 'Investigating The Prittlewell Princely Burial' starts at 11.00am.

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

# The Unexpected Arrival of St. Paul on Maltese Soil

I was very interested to read the article headed 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020' in the December/January edition of the *Hadleigh Messenger*, which was all about the unexpected arrival of St. Paul at Malta after his shipwreck whilst being transported to Rome as a prisoner (Acts 27:1). The article gave a very comprehensive description of his arrival there and how the people of Malta welcomed all those who were thrown unexpectedly on to their shores.

This article was a very happy reminder of a holiday which Keith and I spent on Malta – the second of three holidays spent all or partially there. It was a very interesting one since we were staying in a small hotel in St. Paul's Bay on the island. Just offshore was a small rocky island with a large cave which held many people and it was there that we were taken with a very knowledgeable guide.



**St Paul's Island**

The guide told the story of the arrival of Paul and the others on that ill-fated sea journey and how the people of Malta took pity on them and looked after them and when the conditions were right the party were able to go on their way to Rome. They would have needed another boat unless they were able to patch up their old one enough to take them on another journey.

The party of holidaymakers were very interested in the story, many of whom probably did not know anything about it if they were not churchgoers. Keith and I found that the islanders of Malta were very proud of St. Paul's Bay and lots of places there were named after him. At that time the Maltese would write extracts from the bible on the side of their cars and vehicles and every one had a Christian symbol hanging inside the car or bus. I believe the bus drivers have now been told that this should stop.

This was not the first visit we had made to Malta as prior to that we had flown from Southend Airport for a May holiday there with a party of people all from around this area. This gave an added dimension to the holiday since we all had things in common. As usual, Keith had spent quite some time painting there and in fact had sold all his paintings but one (which I insisted was mine) before we had arrived back at Southend. We were fortunate in having for our guide a historian who was able to take us to many places where tourists do not normally go.

One of these places was another cave at the extreme end of Malta, which was deep in the ground. Amazingly there was a historian's delight there – a room full of shelves holding large jars full of antlers, horns, skulls, bones etc. from animals which had died in the cave. We were told that this was because when Malta was still attached to Africa there must have been a huge fire or disaster which terrified all the wild animals and they panicked and tried to outrun this but when they came to the cave they were trapped and died there. There was a huge pile of bones of all kinds still unexplored and which they thought could contain the remains of thousands of animals.

This was indeed a fascinating trip and one which I can still remember vividly although it must have been a very long time ago when we went as it was when Southend Airport was mainly used for short trips to Europe and before it stopped all its 'long distance' flights. Another thing I remember from our trips to Malta and Gozo was the fact that traffic did not drive on the right or the left but just 'out of the sun' because it was extremely hot in the summer.

We have also visited another place which is proud of its association with Paul – Cyprus – and Keith made a painting of the church there where English speaking Christians had an afternoon Sunday service which we attended. That church had been built on the site of a former church, of which the only remains were the pillars which had once surrounded it. One of the pillars was very worn and we were told that this had been given the name of 'St. Paul's whipping post' as it was where whippings had taken place in the old days and Paul was supposed to have been given that treatment by the officials in Paphos.

*June Gargrave*

# News from Churches Together in Hadleigh

The latest meeting of Churches Together in Hadleigh took place on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and was held at our church.

**Opening** – The meeting was chaired by the Leader, Rev. Ruth Cartwright, the Priest-in-Charge of St James the Less and St Barnabas churches. Ruth opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Guest speaker, Jamie Sawtell (Bar ‘N’ Bus)** – For the first time in a long time, a guest speaker was welcomed to a Churches Together meeting. I had arranged for Jamie to come and talk about the work of Bar ‘N’ Bus having heard him speak at the last URC South Essex Area Partnership meeting back in October. Jamie is well-placed to do so as he is now the full-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bar ‘N’ Bus. He was previously the CEO of The Megacentre but had been working part-time as the CEO for both organisations before committing himself fully to Bar ‘N’ Bus.

Jamie described the work of Bar ‘N’ Bus and how it has changed over the years, including the fact that buses are no longer used for their outreach work. Street-based outreach is undertaken in Rayleigh and Hullbridge but a large part of the work now consists of mentoring in schools. Mentoring programmes are in place at Fitzwimarc School in Rayleigh, at Cornelius Vermuyden School on Canvey and mentoring is about to start at The Deanes School.

Apart from Jamie, the only other paid worker is Aaron Watts, the Youth Development Worker for Castle Point & Rochford. Aaron liaises with churches, schools and councils and in 2019 his salary was funded by donations.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Maureen Maley (SA) reported that after paying out £40 for the expenses in producing the Churches Together Christmas cards, the bank balance is £175.29. She will send out letters requesting the annual subscription in April.

**News from the churches** – As more time than expected had been taken up in discussion of the work of Bar ‘N’ Bus, it was decided not to have news reports from each church. However, Maureen Lennard-Brown did report that Hadleigh Methodist Church has a new minister – Pastor Steve Mayo, a former Salvation Army officer.

## Review of recent events

**Remembrance Sunday Service at Hadleigh War Memorial** – Owing to lack of space it proved difficult to assemble everyone close to the war memorial.

**Armistice Day service** – It was mentioned that a publicity poster for the service, which took place near to Morrisons entrance, included a request from Morrisons that people should not park in the car park if they are only attending the service. As the car park is not solely for Morrisons customers this was felt to be inappropriate.

**Churches Together in Essex & East London (CTEEL) Annual Meeting** – Rev. Ruth Cartwright attended this meeting. Her report was held over until the next meeting.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 (18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Jan)** – The following meetings were agreed:

- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Jan - Salvation Army Temple - United Service at 6.00pm
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jan - Methodist Church - 7.15 for 7.30pm. (Rev. Peter Moorhouse)
- Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Jan - St Barnabas Church - 2.15 for 2.30pm
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan - Salvation Army Temple - 10.45 for 11.00am
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Jan - St Peter’s Church, Thundersley - 2.15 for 2.30pm

**World Day of Prayer 2020** – The World Day of Prayer service in Hadleigh will be held at the Methodist Church on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm. There is a rehearsal on Fri 21<sup>st</sup> February at 2.00pm. The material has been prepared by women of Zimbabwe.

**Lent Course** – It was agreed to hold a course based on the York Course ‘Stardust’ over five sessions at St James the Less Church on Tuesdays in March, i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March. The sessions will start at 7.30pm with refreshments served from 7.15pm.

**Good Friday United Service** – The Good Friday United Service on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April will be held as usual at the Methodist Church, starting at 10.15am. It was proposed that Pastor Steve Mayo be invited to lead the service. [It was confirmed later that Pastor Steve had accepted this invitation.] The Walk of Witness to our church will start around 11.00am.

**Easter Day Sunrise Service** – The Easter Day Sunrise Service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April at Hadleigh Castle will start at 6.00am. Rev. Ruth Cartwright kindly offered to lead the service.



**Christian Aid Week 2020** – I offered to order posters and envelopes as usual for the churches taking part in Christian Aid Week, which runs from Sunday from Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020. A Strawberry Tea will be held at St Michael's Church, Daws Heath, on a date yet to be arranged.

**Thy Kingdom Come 2020** – This prayer initiative, originally led by the Church of England but now embraced by Christians worldwide and Churches Together in England, will take place from Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May (Ascension Day) to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May (Pentecost).

As part of this initiative, it was agreed to hold a joint prayer meeting at the Baptist Church on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 2.15 for 2.30pm.

**Pentecost (Sun 31<sup>st</sup> May)** – The Methodist Church has held a Pentecost event in recent years and it was agreed to ask Roger Kingston if an event is planned this year.

**Date of next meeting** – The AGM will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at the Baptist Church, starting at 7.30pm.

#### **Future events**

**Costa Coffee meeting** – The next meeting will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 5.00pm. A new poster to publicise the meetings is needed.

**All Things Funeral** – St Peter's Church are holding this event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Representatives from organisations connected with funerals will be present to answer questions.

**Salvation Army Fun Day** – To be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**Salvation Army Holiday Club and camping** – To be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

**Closing** – The meeting closed with the sharing of the Grace.

*Malcolm Brown*

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## **Family News**

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### **Julie Lockhart**

Sadly, Julie, the daughter of Marion Fidell, passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> December in Southend Hospital. She had earlier spent five weeks in hospital in Leeds after collapsing when about to return home after attending an NHS conference. Julie was eventually transferred to Southend Hospital and after a short spell there she returned home but she was re-admitted after several days when her condition deteriorated. Julie's funeral took place at Pitsea Crematorium on 20<sup>th</sup> January when the service was led by Graham Arram from Thundersley Community Church.

*We pray that God will uphold Marion in the days ahead and we send her our love, particularly as she is unwell at the present time. We also remember her daughter Elaine who has been a great source of help and comfort since Julie's death.*

### **June Gargrave move**

June has recently moved to a flat in the centre of Thundersley but has retained the same telephone number. A lot of hard work was involved in preparing for the move as much furniture and other items had to be disposed of. June was fortunately able to have various improvements carried out to the flat before moving in. Anyone who would like June's new address is asked to contact the Editor.

*We wish June much happiness in her new home and hope that she is able to adjust to her new environment quickly.*

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## URC News

### Church House to mark 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Second World War bombing

The morning of 9 February 1945 started off much like any other at Presbyterian Church House, Tavistock Place, London. Staff arrived at their desks for a busy day of work and by the afternoon colleagues, delegates, ministers and lay people from across the country gathered for a conference with the newly formed British Council of Churches' Department of International Friendship.

When the conference had finished, the Rev. William Thorburn Elmslie, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England, made his way to another appointment – a church extension committee meeting which was also being held in the building, now the central office for the United Reformed Church (URC).

He never made it. Mr Elmslie, along with nine others – eight men and two women – died when a German V2 rocket struck the building.



**Damage to Presbyterian Church House**

To commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing, the URC will hold a short memorial service at Church House on 10 February at 11.30am and will display a Second World War memorial exhibition in the Madge Saunders room.

The Rev. John Proctor, General Secretary of the URC, said: "War takes a terrible toll of life and hope. This rocket ended many lives, including ten people in Church House. Others had to spend time in hospital, and the building was utterly wrecked. We remember these our predecessors with sorrow, with honour, and in thanksgiving for all who work for peace in our world."

According to the National Archives, V2 rockets were first launched against England in September 1944. Launched from mobile units on the continent, each V2 rocket was 14 metres (46ft) high and carried a ton (900 kg) of explosives. The V2 was a new type of weapon, it travelled at the speed of

sound and made no warning noise before impact, unlike the V1 rockets, which were also known as flying bombs, buzz bombs and doodlebugs.

Over the next few months, nearly 1,400 V2s struck London causing mass destruction and the deaths of thousands of people. They were less accurate than V1s, but since they travelled so swiftly and silently, it was almost impossible to defend against them.

The V2 was effectively the world's first space rocket, developed during the Second World War in Germany, to attack Allied cities in retaliation for bombings against German cities. It was fuelled by liquid ethanol and oxygen and built with a powerful motor capable of propelling the rocket more than 50 miles above the earth in a trajectory of around 120 miles.



**People gather to inspect the damage**

Colleagues at the then Presbyterian Church House sadly did not stand a chance. Along with Mr Elmslie, those who died in the Church House bombing were:

- Alexander James Polson, Treasurer of the Publications Committee, who also served as an Elder at Ilford and then Watford.
- Ernest Henry Morris, Book-Keeper. Mr Morris had worked in the offices since he was first employed and was responsible for all book-keeping at the time of his death. He was a member at Richmond.
- George Moir, Assistant to the Financial Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England. Mr Moir was also Treasurer at St Andrew's, Ealing, and Treasurer to London North Presbytery.
- Ida Muriel Warner was known as the 'voice' of Church House as she was its Receptionist. She was the youngest of the ten, aged just 21.
- Muriel Kenyon, Book Room Assistant, and a member at St John's Kenton.

- Rev. Reginald Herman Tribe, Minister of Anglican Society of the Sacred Mission, was attending the British Council of Churches' Department of International Friendship meeting.
- Wilfred Henry Wright, Financial Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England. Mr Wright had joined the staff as a school leaver and one of his responsibilities was to prepare the Report Book for General Assembly. Mr Wright also served as an Elder at Bromley PCE.
- William Thomas Stubbs, Assistant to the General Secretary. Mr Stubbs had previously held office as organising Secretary for the Youth Committee, and was an Elder at Southend.
- Rev. Thomas William Douglas James, Foreign Missions Secretary. Mr James used to fire watch at Church House and was particularly concerned for the pastoral care of families whose missionary members were interned or whose fate was unknown.

The complete casualty list for the attack came to 34 dead and 121 injured.

The threat from V2s ended in 1945 after the British army and their allies advanced across France, Belgium and Holland, capturing the launch sites.

## Government's continued ban on fracking welcomed

The Moderator of the United Reformed Church (URC) General Assembly has welcomed news that the government is maintaining its ban on fracking in the UK.

As reported in the Blackpool Gazette on 21 January, when asked during business questions in Parliament if the moratorium on fracking announced on 2 November would be made permanent, Kwasi Kwarteng, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Minister, is reported to have said: "We're stopping it. The only way it can be resumed is by compelling evidence which so far is not forthcoming. So, the moratorium stays and fracking, for the time being, is over."

Derek Estill, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, who met with protestors at the site of the UK's first horizontal shale gas exploration wells in Preston New Road, Lancashire in April 2019, said, "I hope this is a sign of government acceptance that fracking is not an acceptable way

of meeting and contributing to the energy needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As we continue to wrestle with the increasing climate crisis, the health and safety risks to the local communities that fracking causes in the vicinity of their operations need to be paramount."

## Minister's drive to fight climate change

According to government figures, pollution from cars account for more than 18% of UK emissions. Action in the car industry is considered crucial to cutting emissions to 51% by 2025 and to reach net zero by 2050 – a key target in the 2008 Climate Change Act.

To help fight climate change, Rev. Malcolm Fife, Minister of Christ Church URC, Cross Lane United Church, and Huyton URC, has become the first minister in the URC Mersey Synod to choose a plug-in hybrid car.

"I spend a lot of time on the road between my churches and with the Folkus Gallery Band," he



said. "I was driving a gas guzzling diesel SUV and as I'm green in other areas, I researched electric, self-charging hybrid and plug in hybrid versions. I need a larger car as I carry significant amounts

of equipment, and also to tow a touring caravan at times."

There's a simple difference between plug-in hybrid and conventional hybrid vehicles: the former can be connected to an outside electrical source for charging its battery, and the latter hybrid cannot. The government provides up to £3,500 on the price of brand new low-emission vehicles that is given to dealerships and manufacturers and included in the selling price.

The minister added: "I'm very happy as the running costs seem very low. I get between 70 to 80 miles per gallon and my charging costs have been below £1 per day."

In principle, charging an electric vehicle (EV) is akin to charging a mobile phone. Once the battery has been depleted, the car needs to be plugged into a charging point. Public charging points are becoming widely available but you can also have a charging point installed at your home if you have a suitable space.



## 'Queuing for hope'

The Rev. Nigel Uden, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, reflects on the nature of hope in this New Year, and explains why it's Christian to queue...

What's on your bucket list – the things you hope to do in your lifetime? The year 2019 enabled me to tick off two very special ones from my own. In June, while visiting First Nations people with the United Church of Canada, a free evening made it possible to nip down the highway to the Niagara Falls. And in November, an overnight stay in Berlin enabled me to go to a concert in the Philharmonie – the world famous concert hall of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. It wasn't performing, but a fine chamber ensemble, visiting from the US, offered a sparkling programme of Beethoven and Mendelssohn.

At 7.15am on Christmas Eve, I was walking through Cambridge and saw how the queue for that afternoon's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College Chapel was already well down King's Parade.



**Queue outside King's College**

I stopped for a chat with the person who was first in the queue. He'd started his annual wait on 21 December, as he has done almost every year since he was a choral scholar himself there in the 1970s. He was soaked after heavy night time rainfall, but eager in his anticipation of the first such service to be conducted by King's new Director of Music, Daniel Hyde.

As I trudged along King's Parade, I was aware of the host of local and overseas accents from those happily chatting as they waited. Why were they there? For some, maybe because nostalgia is a persuasive force, even if things aren't what they used to be; for others, because they admire the music.

Some may come because Christmas without 'the mystery of the incarnation' is incomplete. Yet others come because carols at King's is on their bucket list. But what really inspires these three days of queuing?

I wonder if it is a feeling after hope? The thing with hope is that it is so hard to articulate. Precisely because it is to do with the future, with things unseen, we cannot confine it to what we've already known and experienced.

As 2020 dawns, there is much for which we need to be sustained by hope: our nations' new relationship with the European Union; our relationships within the body of Christ as we ponder the future of the church in these islands; our relationship with the planet; our relationship with one another, as varied levels of wealth separate us and as the reality of migration continues; each of us in relationship with our own self, if we are living with questions of our errors, of our health or of our identity.

When things around us seem uncertain, it is all too easy for us to feel disillusioned, even dystopian. Do we queue for hope? We long not so much for simple solutions – like eat less, work harder or give more – but for something more profound, which offers what Malcolm Guite calls 'realignment'.

How I hope for realignment within the disparate voices in our nations, for realignment of all the strands of creation so that we complement rather than exploit each other, for realignment within the Church, so that our conversations are less about survival and more about the Gospel, for realignment with God. Queuing for that hope might take some of us to King's for the carols, and others to our knees, with Mary pondering the 'immensity cloistered in [her] dear womb'.

One of my Christmas sermons was a reflection upon the hope that characterises Isaiah 9:7. Speaking to a people concerned by exile and its aftermath, the prophet speaks of light shining upon people who walk in darkness. The passage concludes 'the zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this'.

Investing that thought with Christian perspectives, hope is not first and finally because of our own cunning plans or good deeds but because of God's determination to realign us through the work of Christ. At its best, that is what a carol service – or, for that matter, any Sunday service – will offer us. Those events are where we queue for hope.

Wycliffe translated Isaiah 9:7 as 'the fervent love of the Lord will make this.' I enter 2020 with a

gratitude for that fervent love which I have no words to express, and for which I am content to wait. It's not easy; indeed, there are times when hope eludes us. But whatever is on my bucket list, none feeds my hope in quite the same way as trusting in Jesus Christ as the hope of the world.

Keep queuing – it's not only rather British, it's also profoundly Christian.

*Nigel Uden* - Posted 2 January 2020

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## God is alive!

**Taken from the URC material for Racial Justice Sunday on Sunday 9th February**

...God is alive! In that sense of hope, I thought let me go to the temple to offer and pray for justice and peace in our land. As I went near the temple, I saw a great crowd moving in and out busy with buying and selling of goods. How sad the temple once built for worship has now become a place of unjust commercial activities. As was the tradition, women are not allowed any further into the temple except into the outer court. Then I saw those men, the religious leaders with long robes in the temple who mocked at me, calling me names and laughed over the death of my husband. Reminding that anyone speaking against empire will have to die.

In all that buzz of business going around, I went into a corner to find some peace and pray to God for peace and justice. I wept and prayed to God for liberation of our land from oppression of the empire. I wept and prayed for my kids and for the difficulties we have been facing. In that time of prayer, God listened to my prayer and gave me a spirit of peace, which the world did not give. God strengthened me by calling me to make myself present at the temple to keep reminding the religious leaders of their exploitation. Yes, I thought I should visit temple everyday to keep reminding these men on long robes of their fake spirituality for they do things in the temple only for the 'sake of appearance' without any fear in God or the Scripture.

Then towards the end went to the treasury box to make an offering to God and dropped the remaining two coins that I have all, saying a prayer 'God bring us peace and justice.' Just before me, I saw this man on long robe offering a huge sum of amount in the offertory box, again showing off his pride exposing his false

spirituality. I went in all sincerity and faithfulness and not only dropped the two coins but also offered myself in the presence of God to fight injustice by my presence in the temple. After all, our Scripture says to care for the widows and orphans, and here are men in their long robes exploiting us.

I made my offering and was on my way home. Suddenly I saw this man from that just movement, Jesus standing at the offering box and saying to his disciples that I have put in more than those who are contributing for the treasury. I smiled at his observation, thinking I don't care what I have given, for I have given my offering heartfully to God and not for the sake of the people. For Jesus recognised that I have given it in my poverty, because I came into the temple to offer myself for peace and justice in the land. Then those dozen men with this man Jesus were surprised with their mouths wide open, not understanding all Jesus said. However, I went home that day with a sense of hope, with a sense of commitment to make my presence in the temple a symbol of resilience and to contest injustice in all forms.

Later as I thought this man Jesus was killed and was crucified, buried and then in a miraculous way God on the third day raised him, and from then on, I began to follow Jesus, and hosted a church at our house. God was faithful to me, I brought up my children and they journeyed far and wide to share the testimony of Jesus in all the Asia Minor. God of grace did not leave me nor forsake me. Jesus Remembered me in the temple, Jesus Recognised my offering, Jesus Revealed the hypocrisy of the men on long robes.

*Rajbharat Patta*

## From the Archives – Items from past magazines

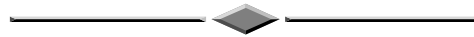
### Dusting

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
to paint a picture or write a letter,  
bake a cake or plant a seed,  
ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,  
with rivers to swim and mountains to climb,  
music to hear and books to read,  
friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there  
with the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,  
a flutter of snow, a shower of rain.  
This day will not come round again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
old age will come and it's not kind.  
And when you go - and go you must -  
you, yourself will make more dust!



### Science Howlers

These are real answers given by children to science questions. I hope they raise a smile!

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?

A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?

A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: What happens to your body as you age?

A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q: What does 'varicose' mean?

A: Nearby.

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A: Premature death.

Q: What is the fibula?

A: A small lie.

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: What does the word benign mean?

A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

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## Computer Corner

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### Stephen Cottrell – new Archbishop of York

Many readers will be aware that the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt. Rev. Stephen Cottrell, has been appointed as the next Archbishop of York. This is a link to a page on the Church Times website that has audio recording of the press conference that took place when Bishop Stephen's appointment was announced.

#### Interesting audio

URL: <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/20-december/regulars/podcast/archbishop-of-york-designate-stephen-cottrell-press-conference-and-qa> OR Google "church times stephen cottrell press conference".

Note: As some will know, Bishop Stephen grew up locally. His last service in the Chelmsford diocese is to be on Easter Sunday at the cathedral, but his last but one service will be at St Barnabas Church in Hadleigh at the 10.30am Communion service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

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### Sleazehold – The true cost of leasehold

#### Interesting article

This is a revealing article about the leasehold system of house ownership. The website is about leasehold reform and may be of interest to readers who are leaseholders.

URL: <https://barcode1966.com/2020/01/26/sleazehold-the-true-cost-of-leasehold/>

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### Roger Buxton, retired broadcaster

#### Interesting web page

It is a pleasure to welcome Roger Buxton to our church from time to time when Rev. Jim Tarrant is preaching. No doubt many readers will remember him from his local radio broadcasting days but for those who don't, this archive page on the BBC website gives an overview of Roger's career. (The link to the audio of 'Roger's best bits' does not work.)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/essex/content/articles/2008/07/31/roger\\_retirement\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/essex/content/articles/2008/07/31/roger_retirement_feature.shtml)

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## Word Search – 'Thank you' in different languages

Inspired by the theme of Keith Berry's service on 2<sup>nd</sup> February (Simply saying 'thank you'), this word search may be a little trickier than normal...

D	P	N	Q	X	J	A	I	W	N	T	W	G	A	W	J	Y	Y	Q	N	ARIGATO
F	B	L	W	X	K	A	S	A	N	I	E	R	G	Y	S	H	W	H	O	ASANTE
C	I	F	Y	W	Y	I	U	C	V	E	A	T	N	U	N	Z	V	L	T	DANKIE
W	Z	W	U	K	R	W	N	K	K	V	A	P	O	B	U	A	A	I	I	DANKON
J	A	Q	K	D	S	W	J	O	V	D	R	Q	B	Q	L	H	I	R	R	DIOLCH
J	S	C	N	F	J	Z	F	F	T	P	I	C	A	A	A	H	A	M	E	FALEMINDERIT
C	A	A	Q	O	X	Y	X	M	O	J	G	Q	Y	M	K	S	E	F	D	GRACIAS
W	N	V	V	E	N	F	O	H	S	P	A	H	I	X	U	B	N	X	N	GRAZIE
I	T	N	K	K	D	N	Y	G	I	C	T	W	G	W	M	M	G	N	I	HVALA
E	E	R	L	B	O	M	R	H	F	Z	O	N	N	N	S	O	C	A	M	KIITOS
U	T	Q	X	Z	V	A	D	U	D	A	N	K	O	N	D	D	Q	A	E	KOSZONOM
E	A	O	S	U	Z	G	D	W	W	K	Z	T	I	M	Z	A	N	R	L	MAHALO
D	C	O	L	I	P	R	Q	T	K	U	Q	G	I	I	I	G	C	K	A	MERCI
Z	K	G	E	Y	C	A	A	A	B	T	E	H	Q	N	H	I	N	U	F	NANDRI
K	H	G	T	U	G	C	T	H	Y	R	C	W	O	L	R	R	F	H	R	NGIYABONGA
Z	O	A	C	N	G	I	A	P	H	L	C	J	L	S	X	B	T	S	F	OBRIGADO
D	A	N	K	I	E	A	H	B	O	L	B	V	R	J	U	O	J	F	I	SHUKRAAN
U	X	O	M	X	C	S	N	I	Z	P	U	Z	F	B	C	O	N	U	M	TACK
G	A	U	I	M	V	E	D	E	T	R	U	G	A	R	E	Z	F	Y	N	TAKK
K	H	K	I	I	T	O	S	I	I	V	U	F	X	I	M	E	R	C	I	TRUGAREZ

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

# CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2020

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Mr Keith Berry Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship – Talk: ‘My Family Tree’ by Mr Fred Feather
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 9 <sup>h</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Roger Brett
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	ELDERS’ MEETING
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm - 13.30pm	Coffee Morning Bible Study
Sunday 16 <sup>h</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Mr Adrian Tinning
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service – Major Alan Bennett
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

## Sonnet for the 14<sup>th</sup> of February

No popular respect will I omit  
 To do thee honour on this happy day,  
 When every loyal lover tasks his wit  
 His simple truth in studious rhymes to pay,  
 And to his mistress dear his hopes convey.  
 Rather thou knowest I would still outrun  
 All calendars with Love's, - whose date always  
 Thy bright eyes govern better than the Sun, -  
 For with thy favour was my life begun;  
 And still I reckon on from smiles to smiles,  
 And not by summers, for I thrive on none  
 But those thy cheerful countenance complies:  
 Oh! if it be to choose and call thee mine,  
 Love, thou art every day my Valentine.

Thomas Hood (1799 – 1845)



Thomas Hood was an English poet, author and humourist, best known for poems such as ‘The Bridge of Sighs’ and ‘The Song of the Shirt’. Hood wrote regularly for The London Magazine, Athenaeum, and Punch. He later published a magazine largely consisting of his own works. Hood, never robust, lapsed into invalidism by the age of 41 and died at the age of 45. William Michael Rossetti (brother of Christina) called him "the finest English poet" between the generations of Shelley and Tennyson.