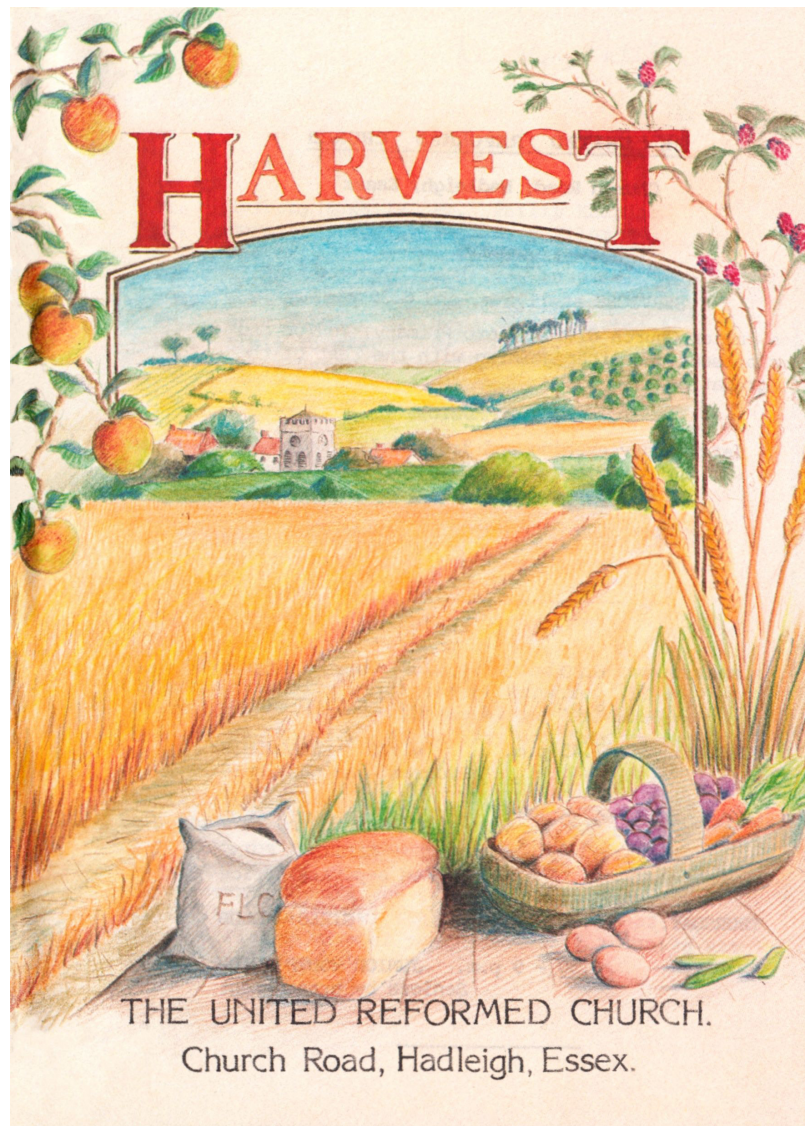


THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

September 2022



SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning service starts at 10.30am

For more information about services,
please phone 01702 557678

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun 4 th Sep	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 11 th Sep	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
Sun 18 th Sep	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 25 th Sep	10.30am	Morning Service (Harvest Festival)	Major Geoff Ashdown

FLOWER ROTA

Sun 4 th Sep	
Sun 11 th Sep	Irene Webb - in memory of Jim
Sun 18 th Sep	June Gargrave - for the wedding of James & Tamires
Sun 25 th Sep	

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 14th Sep 3.30pm

CHURCH MEETING

Thu 22nd Sep 12.45

Harvest Festival – 24th & 25th September 2022



Our Harvest Festival weekend begins with a Harvest Supper in the Small Hall on Saturday 24th September at 6.00pm. Food will be provided but there will be a retiring offertory to cover costs. A list for names of those intending to come will be placed on the church noticeboard in advance. If you would like to attend but are unable to add your name to the list, please phone 01702 557678. After the supper, there will be entertainment in the church.

Our Harvest Festival service will take place at 10.30am on Sunday 25th September and will be led by our good friend from the Salvation Army, Major Geoff Ashdown.

Donations of food items, either fresh or preserved (dried, tinned etc.), may be brought to the Harvest Supper or to the service. Fresh items will be donated to Little Havens Hospice in Daws Heath and preserved items will be donated to the Castle Point Food Bank.

Malcolm Brown

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.hadleighsexurc.org.uk

An invitation

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

Reflection for Harvest Thanksgiving

Readings: Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Luke 12:16-30

One of the joys of being in a walking group – I used to walk the Welsh hills every week – is that you have the time to engage in conversation that can have depth and meaning. I remember one such conversation which essentially was about whether I have any responsibility for someone who lives in a different country, community and culture. My companion argued that there was enough to be concerned about with one's own; "Charity begins at home". And I suspect that's a view shared by many, who would do away with our national aid budget.

As I read the opening verses of the passage in Deuteronomy – "For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land.....a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing" – there is such a strong sense of harmony, of nature working together to produce a rich bounty. It makes my companion's view difficult to sustain.

There is an interconnectedness in creation which is complex; wonderful; mysterious; beautiful; and fragile, all at the same time. But that reality has far reaching consequences because it means that as we disturb the sometimes robust, but sometimes delicate eco structure, we disturb the harmony and threaten our very existence. Perhaps COVID-19 has reminded us of that reality. What happens in a town in China can impact the world.

Our readings for Harvest have within them two injunctions – which perhaps become more difficult as we age: Do not forget! Do not worry!

As the promised land beckons the Israelites are reminded "Do not forget the Lord your God"; "Do not say to yourself my power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth. But remember the Lord your God".

In a world where we are expected to earn success, it's natural to conclude that if we are successful then that is by our own effort. The danger is that, like the rich man who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich towards God, we become self absorbed. We inhabit a "lockdown" world.

But if we forget – if we forget the reality of God; if we neglect this relationship, if we become self absorbed, then the balance and the harmony that God intends are distorted. And the result is Global warming; floods; fires; animal extinction.

And how then can we avoid the worry? And under stress we worry more. "Do I have enough toilet rolls? better just buy another pack – in case – store them in my barn." But the gospel says don't worry. What is it that makes us worry? We worry when we are not in control. We worry when we feel inadequate to meet life's problems. We worry when we fear for the future. And we worry not just for ourselves but for those we love.

Into this worry God in the humanity of Jesus says "Don't worry. Don't worry because I have made a covenant with you to bring you into a land of plenty and harmony and fruitfulness. Don't forget I fed you with manna even in the wilderness of life."

And you need only look around, to comprehend the nature of my provision and love for you. Contemplate the birds; Consider the lilies and the grass. Above all consider my love for you in the suffering of death and the joy of resurrection." That cycle of life, death and resurrection which is written into the very DNA of creation.

Perhaps, especially this harvest, we need to be reminded of the reality in which we can trust.

- This world is God's creation. As the psalmist puts it, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the round world and they that dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1)
- That we can see God at work in the beauty of nature. Bonaventure, the contemporary biographer of St Francis, saw all things as likenesses of God; fingerprints and footprints.
- That God created a world of harmony, and we are invited to get in tune with the earth's song. We are part of the "Family of Man"; part of "One World".
- That God has made a covenant with us to provide for us and protect us, and bring us to fullness of life. Despite our problems and difficulties, God's kingdom is coming.

So "don't forget" and "don't worry" and may we contribute in whatever small way we can to the intended togetherness of this world and its peoples.

David Pattison

Reader, Oakham Team Ministry

From the Editor

Welcome to the September 2022 edition of the *Hadleigh Messenger*.

Apologies for the late publication of the magazine, which is due to a variety of factors including a rare week's holiday in East Yorkshire at the end of August and beginning of September. Some of the time was spent with my mum and with other relatives but we did manage trips to York, Driffield and Pickering amongst other places. Hopefully, I will find time to write about some aspect of the holiday for next month's magazine.

Whilst the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II has cast a shadow in recent days we should give thanks to God for her faith and her devotion to duty. The Queen often referred to Christ quite naturally at Christmas in her annual broadcasts, retaining her respect for those of other faiths, but making it clear where she stood.

On a happier note, I am pleased to report that Rev. Andrew Birch is to be our new minister. See the item below for more information.

Malcolm Brown

Our new minister – Rev. Andrew Birch

At the Special Church Meeting held on Thursday 11th August, there was a unanimous vote to call Rev. Andrew Birch as minister of Hadleigh United Reformed Church. Unusually, the result of the vote was immediately communicated to Andrew in a phone call from our Interim Moderator, Rev. Jim Tarrant. I am pleased to report that Andrew advised Jim in the same phone call that he would be pleased to accept the call to be our Minister.



Since the meeting, discussions have taken place about the date of Andrew's induction service and this has now been confirmed at Saturday 12th November. The service will start at 2.00pm and there will be refreshments afterwards. The Moderator of the Eastern Synod, Rev. Lythan Nevard, will be present at the induction. More details will be published next month.

Andrew's appointment is based on a 20% scoping at Hadleigh with an 80% scoping at his current church, Kings Road URC, where Andrew was inducted on Saturday 12th September 2020. (The service was recorded and can still be viewed on the Kings Road YouTube channel.) Although the two churches are not becoming a joint pastorate but simply sharing ministry, we will hopefully get to know one another better than we do now. Kings Road URC is a very lively church and holds many social events which we struggle to do given the size of the fellowship.

The 20% scoping will allow Andrew to preach once a month at Hadleigh and this will usually be at the Communion service on the third Sunday of the month. Andrew will also be involved at the church on Thursdays when he will attend the coffee morning whenever possible, chair bi-monthly Church Meetings and hopefully lead a monthly bible study. He will also chair the monthly Elders' Meetings, which currently take place on a Wednesday afternoon.

Andrew is keen to meet members of the congregation and wider fellowship and has already attended a coffee morning with his wife Hilary and observed an Elders' Meeting. I hope to persuade him to write an article for the magazine about how he was called to the ministry and how he sees the way ahead.

We give thanks to God for leading us to this outcome and look forward to Andrew's ministry.

Malcolm Brown

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – *Jeremiah 29:11*

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

Hosting a Ukrainian family

On 24 February, Russia invaded Ukraine. Since that time, more than 9.6 million Ukrainians have fled their country and a third of the population displaced. In response, the government opened up the Homes for Ukraine scheme for visa applications from individuals or households fleeing from Ukraine who have named people in the UK willing to sponsor them.

What is it like hosting a family from Ukraine? Rev. Nadene Snyman, who with husband Kevin, United Reformed Church (URC) Programme Officer (Global Justice & Partnerships), opened their home to a Ukrainian family, explains:

I'm the minister at Christ Church URC, Petts Wood, and Camberwell Green URC, and we loved the fact that Southern Synod gave the green light to hosting Ukrainian refugee families.

Kevin and I spent hours discussing whether to offer space in our manse to a Ukrainian family. The manse is a place of quiet, peace, and gentleness – an environment in which we are able to recharge for ministry. The thought of giving that up to offer strangers a space in our oasis made us a bit anxious.

So, what made us change our minds?

Well, three things: lots of prayer, and asking ourselves: "What would Jesus want us to do in this situation?" Third, I have a member of my congregation who came to the UK with the Kinder Transport as a child refugee from war-torn Germany. Maria's story is incredibly inspiring. She speaks about being hosted by a Congregational minister and the difference that made in her life. With all of these pressing us forward, we decided to offer our home, and we sensed God bringing peace and gentle reassurance that all would be OK.

Once our decision was made, we soon heard back from a member of our local churches together who was in Warsaw at the time meeting with refugee families. He put us in contact with a mum (Olga) and 17-year-old daughter (Christina) who wanted to come to the UK. We contacted them and the form-filling marathon began. As the weeks went by, we found WhatsApp a friendly and convenient space for asking questions, sending photos, and sharing documents.

Eventually visas were granted, and dates were set. The house took some arranging as Christina was writing her final exams of first year university.

We created a study area. Both would have their own rooms and share a separate bathroom.



Being at the airport in that context was so strange. Our family was on a flight filled with refugees that were being picked up by host families holding placards and sharing hugs and welcome smiles. When our family walked through, I recognised them immediately and we all hugged like long lost friends. Both mum and daughter looked tired from months of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty among hundreds of thousands of refugees in Poland.

There was something so special about those first few days of listening to their stories, and discovering what foods reminded them of home.

Christina sat her exams everyday online for three weeks along with attending online lectures followed by long hours of study. The house was so quiet as we all kept vigil while Christina focused on finishing her first year at the medical school of the International University of Kyiv. Olga has already set up a cleaning business and will soon not require Universal Credit. Talk about hard workers! Ukrainians are a wonderful, hard-working, and innovative people.

This has been such a bonding time with our little family. They have truly blessed us. We all cook together most evenings which inevitably is filled with much laughter and sharing. Kevin and I have discovered that we love Ukrainian food! We find joy in the ordinary things of life, like going to the beach and having meals out. Life with our new family feels normal and precious.

Even if our family went back to Ukraine tomorrow, we are forever forged and knitted together in love. We will always be a part of their lives and them ours. Christina's future will be bright, and we are honoured to be a part of it.

Nadene Snyman

Minister of Christ Church URC Petts Wood, and Camberwell Green URC

Family News

Irene Harrington



Sadly, Irene passed away in Southend Hospital on 29th July at the age of 94. She had been admitted on the morning of 6th June after suffering a fall the previous evening that resulted in a fractured femur. Irene had attended a Platinum Jubilee street celebration in the afternoon. She contracted pneumonia in hospital but managed to overcome it though her breathing was not very good and she was unable to walk.

Malcolm Brown visited her a couple of days before she passed away. She was hopeful of returning home to her bungalow where adaptations had been made but she deteriorated quite rapidly and it was not to be. Irene's next-door neighbour Georgina had been a great blessing to Irene over recent years and it was Georgina that conveyed the sad news.

There was no funeral for Irene but a memorial service or gathering may be held.

We thank God for Irene's long life and remember her fondly from her time as a member of the Wives' (Tuesday) Fellowship.

Family News continued

Please remember those associated with our fellowship in need of prayer...





Seedtime, Harvest was Thy promise

Seedtime, Harvest was Thy promise,
Given to Noah while earth remains.
Summer, Winter, Spring and Autumn,
Cold, then heat to ripen grain.
Scythe and sickle did the reaping,
In those days so long ago.
Hand thrashed corn to fill the garner
Blessed by your Almighty hand.
Heavenly Father, through the ages,
With Thy guidance and Thy grace,
Increased yields and modern methods,
Combine reaping now takes place.
Pre-packed food in supermarket,
Shelves stacked high are on display,
Grown for us in God's green hectares,
To sustain us on our way.
Bread alone is not sufficient,
For the soul of inner man,
Prayer and Praise and Supplication,
We must offer while we can.
Guide us, Lord, to share Thy harvest
With the hungry and the poor,
And the Bread of Life eternal,
So all hunger nevermore.

Herbert Bloomfield

URC News

URC minister elected as WCC president

Rev. Dr Susan Durber was elected as President of the European Region of the World Council of Churches (WCC) at its Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany, on 5 September.



In total, eight new presidents were elected following a vote

involving 574 delegates. The presidents are ex-officio members of the WCC central committee, and Dr Durber has just stepped down as the WCC's Faith & Order Moderator.

"I am moved, surprised and profoundly honoured to have been elected as WCC President for Europe," Susan said.

"I have been involved in the work of the WCC since I first went to a world conference on faith and order as a younger theologian in 1993. This new role gives me a privileged opportunity to do what I love; to meet with people among different churches and to speak for an ecumenism that is grounded in relationships and in shared faith, that listens to the voices of all the people and that is committed to justice, peace and the healing of creation."

According to the WCC constitution, the role of the WCC presidents is to promote ecumenism and interpret the work of the WCC, especially in their respective regions. The WCC Assembly is the highest governing body of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and normally meets every eight years.

Susan is a retired URC minister who has served in several local churches, the last one in Taunton, and as Principal of Westminster College in Cambridge and Theological Advisor for Christian Aid.

URC minister becomes Chaplain of Boys Brigade

Rev. Stewart Cutler has become the first URC minister to be appointed Brigade Chaplain of the Boys Brigade. Stewart's association with the Brigade began at the age of six, gaining both the Queen's Badge and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award during his time as a young person.

The Minister of St Ninian's Church in Stonehouse – an ecumenical partnership between the URC and



Church of Scotland – went on to serve as a leader in 4th Carluke and 1st Stonehouse as well as Chaplain of the KGVI Youth Leader Training course at Carronvale House.

He now has more than 30 years of experience

working with children, young people, volunteers, students and ministers in Churches and communities around Scotland.

Stewart said: "I am delighted to become the Chaplain of The Boys' Brigade UK and Republic of Ireland. I've spent the last 30 years working with children, young people and their leaders in Churches, so I know just how important The Boys' Brigade is to the Church – for reaching out into the community, and engaging with young people, bringing them to faith and telling them the good news of Jesus. For me, The Boys' Brigade has hugely impacted my spiritual journey and my working life. It has always been a place of fun, friendship, and faith."

Stewart succeeds Rev. Leigh Maydew, who stepped down as Brigade Chaplain at the conclusion of Brigade Council, the organisations' Annual General Meeting, following three years in the role.

Rev. John Donald Waller, 1937-2022

The United Reformed Church is sad to announce the death of Rev. John D Waller, General Assembly Moderator 2002-2003. John, who had celebrated his 85th birthday last month, died at the end of July.



Following his ministerial training at Westminster College, John was ordained in 1965. He served local pastorates in Richmond, Bracknell, Derby, and Purley before becoming Moderator of the West Midlands Province from 1985 to 1995. He was then called to be Deputy General Secretary from 1995-2002 and Moderator of the URC General Assembly 2002-2003.

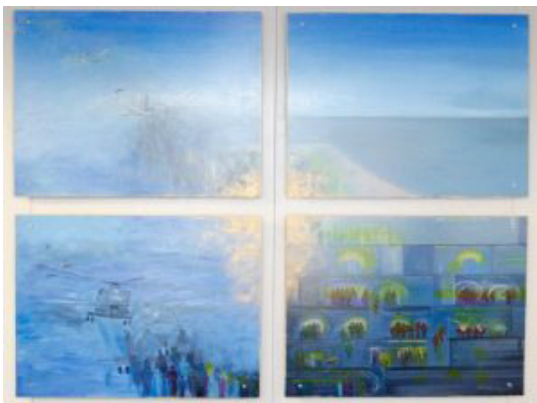
With a passion for ecumenism, John founded the Bracknell Christian Council, and served as President of the Croydon Free Church Council, and as Free Church President of the Birmingham Council of Christian Churches.

John married Margaret in 1966 and they had two children, Simon and Katharine, and six grandchildren of whom one sadly died.

Rev. Tony Burnham, URC General Secretary 1992-2001, said: "John and I got to know each other when we served together as Synod Moderators. Then in 1995 he joined me in serving the General Assembly as Deputy General Secretary. For six years it was a happy partnership until I retired. After a year assisting David Cornick to settle in as General Secretary, John began his retirement by serving as Assembly Moderator. His Moderator's address displayed his forthright and honest personality as he dealt with the realities of church and world on the basis of a deep biblical faith."

URC gifts inspirational painting to Royal Navy

URC ministers, Royal Navy officers, chaplains, and family and friends attended the unveiling of a painting for the UK's largest ever aircraft carrier. Around 20 people gathered on 8th August in the chapel of the HMS Queen Elizabeth to see "Revival", a painting by Rev. Elizabeth Gray-King gifted to the Royal Navy on behalf of the URC.



'Revival' by the Revd Elizabeth Gray-King

Explaining how the commission came about, Elizabeth said: "Rev. Michael Meachin, a URC Minister, was the first Chaplain of HMS Queen Elizabeth. He asked the URC to sponsor the commission, wanting to have artwork which would be inclusive inside the Chapel which he developed to be a multi-faith space."

HMS Queen Elizabeth is the flagship of the Royal Navy's fleet and is its largest and most advanced vessel ever constructed. The ship can

carry up to 40 aircraft, and its two propellers weigh 33 tonnes each; the powerplant behind them generates enough power to run 1000 cars! The ship's flight deck is an enormous four acres, and the ship boasts five gyms, the chapel and a medical centre.

Starting from bottom left and working anticlockwise, the painting depicts Wildcat helicopters arriving aboard the ship and then slowly turning from aircraft into people. The people work their way into the ship. None of the people are human colours, inviting viewers to see who they choose to see.

New minister at Thaxted URC

Rev. Mark Hayes has been ordained and inducted as Minister of Thaxted United Reformed Church.

More than 100 church members, friends and family, and representatives from other local churches gathered to support Mark, who has been a Lay Preacher for 40 years.



The service, held at the end of July, was conducted by the Revd Lythan Nevard, Moderator of Eastern Synod, and the Revd Dr Rick Mearkle, from Westminster College in Cambridge, delivered the sermon.

Mark said: "I have been very well supported in my training by everybody at Westminster College, and members at Thaxted URC have made [my wife] Janet and myself very welcome. We look forward to continuing our work together."

August Lundie Memorial Award

11-year-old Elis Hughes, from the National Synod of Wales, is August's recipient of the Lundie Memorial Award.



From a young age, Elis has regularly stopped and chatted to those he sees from the homeless community, buying them food and hot drinks. Last December despite the cold and wind, Elis and his mum Sian participated in a sponsored sleepout; praying for safety and for God's love to be with them and for those who endure such conditions night after night. In the process, mother and son raised £1,615 for Chester Aid to the Homeless.

Eating insects can be good for the planet

Insects are a nutritious food source that can be produced more sustainably than conventional livestock. While eating insects is common in many world regions, in western cultures it is more likely met with disgust.

The consumption of insects has slowly increased as the benefits become widely discussed. More than 2,000 edible species have been identified. But would incorporating insects into our diets really reduce the environmental footprint of food production, and can this be achieved?

Insects are high in fat, protein and nutrients. This varies between species and lifecycle stage, however the protein content of insects is frequently 40%-60%. Insects also provide all of the essential amino acids required for human nutrition.

Adult crickets are 65% protein by weight, which is higher than both beef (23%) and tofu (8%). Insects are also high in minerals such as copper, iron and magnesium. It is therefore of no surprise that insects are consumed by humans in many world regions today.

Insects are far more efficient at converting their feed into energy than conventional livestock. Adult crickets and mealworm larvae need 5–10 times less feed than cattle to produce the same weight gain.

Insects are also cold-blooded, so do not use their metabolism to heat or cool themselves, further reducing energy and food use.

A larger proportion of the animal can also be eaten compared with conventional livestock. Only 45% of the cattle and 55% of a chicken is consumed on average. For insects, the whole larva and 80% of an adult cricket can be eaten. Insects also reproduce more rapidly than vertebrates, with many generations possible in a year.

To provide the same nutritional value, insect cultivation therefore uses a fraction of the land, energy and water used for conventional livestock farming.

To produce a kilogram of protein, mealworm larvae emit 14kg of CO₂eq, far less than the 500kg of CO₂eq emitted on average in beef production. To produce the same amount of protein, mealworm larvae cultivation uses 70 times less agricultural land than beef.

Plant-based foods should not be ignored

All food production has environmental costs. However, there is substantial variation within this. Beef, for example, produces 100 times more greenhouse gas emissions than pea production.

Insect cultivation typically falls between these extremes. While it can be less environmentally damaging than the production of meat, it has a higher footprint than most plant-based foods. Per kilogram of protein, pea production emits only 4kg of CO₂eq, while tofu requires roughly half the agricultural land needed for insect cultivation.



A swarm of insects being farmed in a large enclosure.

Whether insects are a climate-friendly (or -friendlier) food will depend on what the insect protein replaces. If insect-based foods are used to substitute conventional meat, this could provide important gains. However, large gains could also be achieved if plant-based alternatives are adopted.

Dietary changes can radically alter the environmental footprint of consumers. The average diet in the US uses more than 10 times more land per person than the average Indian diet, primarily due to the types of food consumed.

Using insects in a circular food system

1.3 billion tonnes of food produced for human consumption is wasted each year. Another area in which insects could prove valuable is in the production of food or animal feed from food by-products or food waste. Black soldier flies reared on by-products such as almond hulls can be converted into feed for livestock or farmed seafood.

However, feeding insects organic by-products requires careful management to avoid risks of chemical and microbial contamination. Several insect species are able to digest certain contaminants, but there is potential for harmful bioaccumulation. Manure and catering waste are therefore prohibited as a feed for farmed insects in Europe.

Will Europeans eat more insects?

The market for edible insects in Europe and America is growing. Despite only 10.3% of Europeans stating they would be willing to replace meat with insects, the edible insect market is projected to reach US\$4.63bn (£3.36bn) by 2027.

The acceptability of foods can change over time. Tomatoes were regarded as poisonous in Britain and dismissed for over 200 years. Lobsters, now an expensive delicacy, were formerly so abundant in the US that they were served to workers and prisoners and were commonly used as fertiliser and fish bait.

Lobster only became fashionable to eat after the mid-18th century. Since then its popularity has surged, with the global lobster market expected to reach US\$11.1bn (£9.7bn) by 2027.

Insect consumption in Europe may also become normalised. Western consumers are showing an increasing willingness to consume processed insect-based foods. Incorporating insects into familiar food items such as flour represents one way of improving their acceptance.

Edible insects are not the sole solution to achieve a more sustainable food system. However, they do provide a nutritious and more sustainable substitute to conventional meat. Their production, flexibility and diversity means they are likely to play an increasing part in a more circular food system.

Peter Alexander

Senior lecturer in Global Food Security,
The University of Edinburgh



Floral tribute

Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.
I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.
A promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.
Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.

Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate

Floral Tribute was written by Simon Armitage to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II. It describes the coming of a September evening and the appearance of a Lily-of-the-valley as a “token of thanks” – one of the Queen's favourite flowers. The beautiful white bloom, which featured in Her Majesty's coronation bouquet in 1953, is a permanent feature of the floral displays at Buckingham Palace. Elegant and hardy, it has dark green leaves, bell-shaped, fragrant flowers, and is famed for being relatively easy to grow.

In the poem, Simon employs the form of a double acrostic, using the first letter of each line to spell out Elizabeth.

Computer Corner

Southend (1963) Wall of Death

**Interesting
video**

Southend can boast that in the summer of 1929, the UK's first Wall of Death was unveiled at the Kursaal, one of the world's first amusement parks. The film includes an interview with George 'Tornado' Smith, the owner and creator of the Wall of Death.

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZ5ZVnFwq9w>

Distant Desktop (Windows & Android)

**Useful
free
software**

Distant allows you to connect and work on computers from anywhere in the world. No installation and no registration are required. Just download and run the application on your Windows or Android device. A User ID and Password are required to connect to a remote computer, or you can provide your User ID and password to allow access to your PC. (The password changes each time the program is launched.) Send files and folders securely from your computer to remote host and vice versa. I used it recently when on holiday to access my home PC.

Download from: <https://www.distantdesktop.com>

MoneySavingExpert – Energy price cap information

**Interesting
web page**

This is an informative page on the MoneySavingExpert website about the recently announced energy price cap. I have used the bit.ly website to create a short URL because the original URL is quite long. The energy price cap is based on a unit rate for electricity of 34.00p per kWh (standing charge 46.36p per day) and a unit rate for gas of 10.30p per therm (standing charge 28.49p per day).

URL: <https://bit.ly/3dj7LAG>

Word Search – Gases

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

ACETYLENE
AMMONIA
ARGON
BUTANE
CHLORINE
ETHANE
ETHYLENE
FREON
HELIUM
HYDROGEN
KRYPTON
METHANE
NEON
NITROGEN
OXYGEN
PROPANE
PROPYLENE
RADON
SILANE
XENON

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

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

Thu 15 Sep 2022 - Poetry Reading Group at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm - the poems of Maya Angelou. Every 3rd Thu of month. All welcome.

Fri 16 Jul 2022 - Benfleet Art & Craft Club at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 1.00pm to 3.30pm every Friday. Established 1945. New members welcome.

ditto - Craft & Knitting Club at Hadleigh Library, 12.30pm to 2.30pm every Friday. Meet others who are passionate about craft and enjoy a chat.

Sat 17 Sep 2022 - Hadleigh Heritage presentation - 'Cunning Murrell' by Bob Delderfield at St James the Less Church, High Street, Hadleigh. Doors open for refreshments at 10.30am with prompt start at 11.00am. Admission £3.00. Immediately after the presentation, a purple plaque to mark where Cunning Murrell lived will be unveiled on Endway House.

ditto - Hadleigh Farm Heritage Open Day Event at Hadleigh Farm, Castle Lane, from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Musical entertainment provided by Salvation Army Brass Band from 1.00pm to 2.00pm. Free event. Admission to the Rare Breeds Centre is free on this Open Day (donations welcome).

Sun 18 Sep 2022 - Hadleigh Community Harvest Festival Service & Cunning Murrell Community Day at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. 10.30am to 11.30am: Hadleigh Community Harvest Festival service led by the SA Hadleigh Temple. (Gifts of tinned food, pasta, pulses and vegetables welcomed and will be donated to Castle Point Food Bank.) Brass band, hymn singing, thanksgiving & blessing of harvest, followed by refreshments. If inclement, the Harvest Festival service will take place in the SA Temple. 11.30 to 4.00pm: Cunning Murrell Community Day with Scarecrow Festival, local history, books, gifts, archaeological finds, art exhibition, local produce, bric-a-brac, woodturning, plus refreshments.

Mon 19 Sep 2022 - Smart Minds - A friendly club for people with dementia and their carers/families. Art activities and socialising with tea and biscuits. At Hadleigh United Reformed Church from 1.00pm to 3.00pm every Monday. If interested, phone Sue Lesser on 07889 762172.

Tue 20 Sep 2022 - Kettle's On Coffee Morning at St Barnabas Church, Church Road, Hadleigh, from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. Held every Tue.

ditto - Happy Feet Walking Group - 90-minute circular walk around the Hadleigh Farm estate. Meet at The Hub café, Chapel Lane, Hadleigh. Starts at 1.00pm. Held every Tue. All welcome. No need to book.

Sat 24 Sep 2022 - Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-In at Hadleigh Library. Bring along old photos and documents for scanning, chat about your memories of the area. Books for sale. From 10.30am to 12 noon.

Sat 8 Oct 2022 - Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00am to 12 noon with drinks, cakes and bric-a-brac stall. Every 2nd Sat.

ditto - Beat & Beans All Day Café at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 3.00pm. Live music with coffee, tea and snacks. Free admission.

ditto - Coffee Morning & Book Sale at St Peter's Church Thundersley from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Every 2nd Sat.

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

Queen Elizabeth II – 1926-2022



Tribute from Rev. Dr John Bradbury, URC General Secretary

“Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II lived the most remarkable life of dedicated Christian service. As a devout Anglican and Presbyterian her faith shone from her words and deeds.

Her contribution to the life of our nations, the commonwealth, and beyond will be remembered with gratitude for generations to come.

She inspired respect from across the political spectrum and from monarchists and republicans alike. The United Reformed Church has always been aware that as each General Assembly presents a loyal address to the throne, we have been addressing a fellow baptised sister in Christ.

We give thanks for her life and uphold in prayer all who mourn for her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.”

God of love, we thank you for the Queen’s life. As we reflect on her reign, we pray for her family and our country. Thank you for her 70 years on the throne and for all she has meant to so many people across this nation and worldwide. Thank you for her love for you and her willingness to share her faith. *Amen*