

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

March 2023



The Magazine of the
United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning service starts at 10.30am

For more information about services,
please phone 01702 557678

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARCH 2023

Sun 5 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Adrian Tinning
Sun 12 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 19 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Andrew Birch
Sun 26 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr John Amos

FLOWERS

Sun 5 th Mar	Jean Reeve - in memory of her mother's birthday
Sun 19 th Mar	Jean Reeve - for Mothering Sunday

ELDERS' MEETING	CHURCH AGM
Thu 9 th Mar 12.45pm	Thu 23 rd Mar 12.45pm

Prayer Reflection: Lent ~ Journey towards the Cross

Contemplate the courage, perseverance and love of Jesus as he 'set his face steadfastly towards Jerusalem'. He knew he faced opposition there. As God's Son he knew he faced a painful death but was promised resurrection and salvation for humanity. Being fully human, he couldn't be sure but had to travel in faith just as we do. However well we prepare ourselves, there are many circumstances in life which are still unimaginable. Giving birth, for example, has to be experienced before it can be fully understood. Give thanks for Jesus' love for us in continuing his mission despite the consequences. May we too, follow our calling out of our love for God and those around us.

Consider your calling as an individual and our collective calling as the people of God. Are you called to spend time seeking God's will for yourself and the church, to initiate action, to follow through on the proposals or maybe all three? Recognise that we are all called to serve in one way or another and our gifts are designed to work together so that all the bases are covered if we all do our bit. Pray for guidance about your calling and ask for grace to respond well.

Confirm your desire to serve the Lord and spend this Lent seeking his will for you. Reflect on past tasks and consider your abilities in relation to current situations in the church, the local community and beyond. Do they point the way forward for you? Thank God for his patience, guidance and support.

Prayer – Loving Lord, thank you for persisting with your mission to save us. May we be serious in our commitment to serve you well. Grant us the grace to know and do your will for us. *Amen*

Beryl Hunt

<p>HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS</p> <p>Minister: Rev. Andrew Birch (01 702 338674)</p> <p>Acting Secretary: Mrs Heather Brown (01 702 557678)</p> <p>Acting Hon. Treasurer: Mr Royston Brackin (01 702 558862)</p> <p>Serving Elders: Mr Malcolm Brown (01 702 557678) Miss Jean Reeve (01 702 554907)</p>	<p>Useful information Address: 1 Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, SS7 2DQ Website: www.hadleighessexurc.org.uk</p> <p>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.</p>
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From the Minister

Dear Friends,

In small ways, in our busy lives we confess that sometimes we close our ears to the voices of the many and we close our eyes to the evidence of injustice all around us. We close our mouths when we should speak up or speak out.

Unthinkingly, we flick to a less disturbing channel, drowning out the anthems of the dispossessed, ignoring the cries for justice sprayed on freshly-painted walls.

Sincerely, we resolve to do more, do better, be better, to listen more intently, speak patiently, give generously of our gifts and time.

Ruefully, we confess we've once again got wrapped up in our smaller worlds, ignored the bigger picture; just not got around to it, again and again we're sorry, again we repent. And again, we are forgiven.

We lay down the burden of things undone. We let go of the times we've taken short cuts, treated

earth as an infinite warehouse of resources; when we've settled for being less than we can be, when we've lived for the moment, not in it. We forgive each other. We forgive ourselves. And, again we are forgiven.

This is our Christian Pilgrimage and our Sorrowful Way and this is our Easter Day: that what was broken is made whole, that what was spilled, overflows. Amen

Please forgive my taking up space in this letter for the above, (words which I have adapted, but originally written by Bronwyn Angela White), but I thought it summed up our lives and our journeying with Jesus and the Disciples, as they experienced the darkest moments of their lives on Good Friday, so that we might come to know the joy of the empty tomb on Easter Day. He is risen! Hallelujah!

With all good wishes and every blessing,

Andrew

Churches Together in Hadleigh Lent Course

This year's Lent course has now commenced and continues until the end of March. It is based on the York Course 'Superstar'. The course booklet is written by David Wilbourne, former vicar of Helmsley, Yorkshire, who worked with three Archbishops of York and later served as Assistant Bishop of Llandaff.

Back in 1970, the show *Jesus Christ Superstar* asked daring questions. Over half a century on, its message remains just as relevant, and we explore themes from its iconic lyrics in this 5-session course. The course audio is produced by Simon Stanley, co-founder of York Courses, Canon Emeritus of York Minster and a former BBC producer/presenter. Simon puts questions to the participants on the course audio who comprise: Carmody Grey (Assistant Professor of Catholic Theology at Durham Cathedral), Steve Chalke (A Baptist minister and author, and a leading Christian thinker), Catherine Fox (author of seven novels, with a degree in English and a PhD in Theology) and Stephen Wigley (Chair of the Welsh Synod of the Methodist Church).

The course is being hosted by our church on Thursday evenings from 2nd March to 30th March. The dates, leaders, subjects and bible references for the five sessions are as follows:

Date	Leader	Subject – Bible reference
Thu 2 nd Mar	Major Marian Fripp	Who is Jesus? – John 8:1-11
Thu 9 th Mar	Tom Pender	Miracles – Matthew 19:26
Thu 16 th Mar	Rev. Sue Croucher	The Psalms – Psalm 27:1
Thu 23 rd Mar	Rev. Ruth Cartwright	The Church – 1 Peter 2:9-10
Thu 30 th Mar	Rev. Andrew Birch	Cross Purposes – John 12:27-36

The sessions start at 7.30pm with refreshments served from 7.15pm. All are welcome to attend.

Malcolm Brown

From the Editor

Welcome to the much-delayed March 2023 edition of the *Hadleigh Messenger*.

For those who are not aware, our Church Secretary, Royston Brackin, has decided to stand down and Heather Brown is now Acting Church Secretary. Royston will also be standing down as Treasurer and so I am attempting to learn the ropes and deal with the current year's finances whilst Royston finalises past accounts. Preparing for the imminent Annual General Meeting and several days when I felt below par due to a painful throat infection, meant that the magazine took a backseat.

I gather that at least one person found last month's word search puzzle too difficult, in fact impossible. That's not surprising because it appears that I forgot to overwrite the January grid with the grid for February. I apologise for the error, which at least proves that I'm human. I was rather disappointed that I was only told about the error a few days ago. If I had known about it, I would have corrected the error before printing more copies of the magazine and I could have revised the version available through the church website. Please do let me know of any errors.

Malcolm Brown



Jesus walks beside us

Sometimes life's hard going;
The way can seem so tough;
Yet our Saviour promises,
He'll give us strength enough.
Though the road ahead is hidden,
The good Lord knows the way;
He guides us and directs us
Through each brand-new day.
So remember as we journey,
We don't journey on our own;
Jesus walks beside us,
So we will never walk alone.

Unknown

Submitted by Jean Reeve



Internet humour

- The chap next to me on the bus is going through all the 'S' words in the dictionary app on his phone. I think he's up to something.
- No one runs faster than a toddler who knows they shouldn't have what they're holding.
- Marriage tip: When you wife's mowing the lawn, that's not a good time to ask her when dinner will be ready.

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.

Partner in Mission – Melanie Smith

From Reform magazine March 2023 – Ann Gobledale meets Rev. Melanie Smith, one of the URC's partners in international mission. Melanie was formerly the minister of Kings Road URC, Westcliff-on-Sea.

In her first hour working as Director of the Women's Centre at Pacific Theological College in Fiji – a coordinating, fundraising and development



role – Rev. Melanie Smith heard a knock at the door. Four women stood before her asking when the 'Women and theology' course would start? Thrilled by their interest, she investigated who on the faculty would teach this course. 'It soon became obvious', says Melanie, 'that it is to be me!'

'I had confirmed, prior to our arrival in Fiji,' she says, 'that members of the teaching faculty deliver the academic units. As a minister in pastoral charge in the UK, I enjoy leading Bible studies, training days and short courses. But formal adult education is new to me.'

God's call to international mission work presents surprises and challenges. There is a new culture, which often includes a new language. There is a new job with new responsibilities – and a common surprise for international church workers is the changing nature of the work set before them, the expanding of expectations, the new frontiers.

Melanie tracked down material for the course and started teaching. Her faithful attempts met with unexpected surprises. 'The unbridled joy of reading familiar Bible stories together and seeing how Jesus respected and included women in his ministry, will never leave me,' she says.

'My attempts at trying to explain terms like "patriarchy" were met with enthusiasm. One woman, from a church that does not yet ordain women, explained in tears how glad she was to discover women were included by Jesus and in the early Church, and how difficult her life will be when she returns home, knowing this.'

Melanie's willingness to meet the challenges set before her in this new place with these women of Fiji results in the broadening of hearts and minds, including her own. This is a fundamental goal of international mission today – sharing together, growing together, meeting challenges together, standing in faith together.

Melanie says, 'I am still not convinced that I have fully processed the impact of that course on any of us. Yet in and through those tears, I am sure that the Spirit was working, and will not abandon us. To God be the glory.'

The Council for World Mission (CWM) sent Melanie Smith and her husband, the Revd Mark Meatcher, as Partners in Mission to walk and work among God's people in the South Pacific Island of Fiji. The couple arrived in April 2022 to start a four-year term of service at Pacific Theological College, an ecumenical venture owned by 20 Churches from 16 countries in the Pasifika region.

Missionaries of old prepared foreign lands for the arrival of new ideas, new values, new ways. Of many consequences we repent – including the oppressive patriarchy of the Church. When my husband Tod and I travelled through Fiji in 1984, sent from the Church in the United States to serve in South Africa, I refused to use the term 'missionary'. I wanted to separate myself and my call from the history of mission, from the movement that spread capitalism, racism and nationalism around the globe, opening up channels for trade in human beings and natural resources.

Yet nothing can separate me from my colour and my access to empire. I had to learn not to be the source of grand gifts, learn to sit quietly rather than offer advice, learn generosity of spirit rather than generosity of pocketbook, solidarity rather than solutions.

The challenge to avoid empire-building confronts those international church workers who are white and have power. Unconscious attitudes of superiority can lead to self-righteous and demeaning acts of charity. Sources of power – finances, race, nationality, even education – sometimes need to be laid aside if true solidarity is to be found. To sit at their table with the people who have received us, to eat what is set before us (without complaint), to live out our apology for the missionaries of old, this is the call of partners in international mission today.

Ana Gobledale is Convenor for the URC International Exchange Reference Group. The Council for World Mission is a worldwide partnership of 32 denominations including the URC.

Family News

Carol Williams

Sadly, Carol passed away on 10th February. Carol worshipped at Thundersley Congregational Church but was known to some of our fellowship through the Hadleigh Lighthouse Prayer Group, led by Carol and her husband Stan. The group met fortnightly for many years in their home until recently. For a time, Carol helped Heather at the mums and tots Alphabet Club at our church and both Stan and Carol helped at the Thursday Club, an after-school children's club.

Carol's funeral service will take place on Thursday 16th March at 12.15pm at Thundersley Congregational Church. This will be followed by a committal service at Pitsea Crematorium.

We send our deepest condolences to Stan and his family at this very sad time. May Stan's trust in the Lord help him through the coming weeks and months. We give thanks for all that Carol did in the Lord's name. May she rest in eternal peace.

Major Geoff Ashdown

Geoff, who has preached at our church on many occasions, is seriously ill in Southend Hospital. Please remember Geoff in your prayers.

Rev. Bill Graham

Sadly, Bill passed away on 4th February. Some readers may remember him as minister of Cliff Town and Southchurch Park URCs from 1992-1999. He lived in retirement in Rayleigh.

Bill's funeral will be held on Tuesday 21st March at 11.00am at Christ Church URC Rayleigh.

Please pray for Bill's family, especially his wife Beth, who first met Bill 72 years ago, and their three daughters.

Birthdays in March & early April



Thy Kingdom Come 2023



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. This year it runs from 18th to 28th May.

Whilst Thy Kingdom Come will always focus on prayer for people to know Jesus, this year they are inviting participants to go the extra mile – and to practically 'love and serve your neighbour' or those being prayed for, as an intentional part of their involvement. This will also be reflected in the additional ways churches, families and individuals are invited to pray this year.

Since it began in May 2016, Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) has developed into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions – so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the eleven days in their own way.

TKC really is for everyone, everyone can pray. It doesn't need to be complicated and it can take many, many, forms. So whichever denomination you are part of you can get involved and we can all pray for others to know more of Christ. Our witness is more powerful when we pray together.



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



50th Anniversary of Uniting Assembly of the URC at Westminster Central Hall

In the February edition of *The Hadleigh Messenger*, Malcolm referred to the 50th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate



the five decades of the United Reformed Church. This mention of the time when many Congregational Churches came together with English Presbyterian churches in a Uniting Assembly at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, to form the URC, brought back some happy memories for me.

Keith and I went to this special occasion. We arrived very early at Methodist Central Hall because we weren't sure where it was, and there weren't many visitors there. We were immediately asked whether we would act as "welcomers" to all the arrivals, whilst standing at the top of the very large stone staircase which stretched from the lower entrance to the top of the staircase and then into the Great Hall.



We both enjoyed this and met missionaries from all over the world.

We had hoped that our former missionaries at Fetter Lane Congregational Church, Rev. Brian Ranford and his wife Peggy, a trained nurse, would be there. They had both gone out to work in the Ellice Islands in the Pacific. (The Ellice Islands became independent with a new name of Tuvalu in 1978.)

Brian and Peggy were at Funafuti in Tuvalu. Brian was involved in helping to translate the New Testament into Ellice. Although we didn't meet Brian and Peggy, we did meet one of the church members from Funafuti.

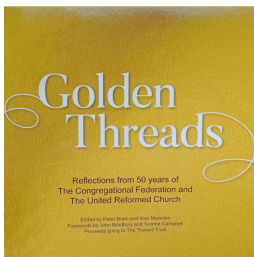
There were also many retired staff from abroad and members of the other churches which were joining the United Reformed Church. (I bought a green necklace from a lady from an African Group who had brought things to sell to raise funds.)

We found it a very interesting time and returned home very tired but happy.

June Gargrave

Golden Threads: Reflections from 50 years of The Congregational Federation and The United Reformed Church

'My prayer for this publication is that it fills your heart with hope and sparks your heart to action,' writes the Congregational Federation General Secretary, Yvonne Campbell, in the forward of this new book.



Published by both the United Reformed Church (URC) and the Congregational Federation,

the book gathers together reflections from eyewitnesses across the 50 years from 1972, when both churches were formed, to the recent pandemic.

Many of these reflections are personal stories of where the contributors were as the churches went their separate ways. They also include examples of how enriching the experience of working together has been.

'Working with others often means we have to stretch our minds and precepts somewhat; this can be difficult but also brings a joy in collaboration when it simply seems right. Surely that, in turn, would be joyous to God.' – Mark Tubby, Weoley, Dovercourt, URC.

Not all the reflections look backwards. 'We are at a crossroads as a people, as a church and in our life on the planet. We have an opportunity to be the reformation in which we believe.' – Heather Whyte, Rodborough & Painswick, URC.

Proceeds from the book will go to the Trussell Trust, whose network of foodbank provides emergency food and support to people in crisis.

Golden Threads can be purchased from the URC Bookshop website at:
<https://urcshop.co.uk/golden-threads-reflections-from-50-years>.

URC News

URC urges Home Office to drop Illegal Migration Bill

The United Reformed Church (URC) has joined with the Baptist Union and the Methodist Church in calling for the UK government's plans on tackling immigration across the English Channel to be abandoned.

The URC affirms that those fleeing persecution should have safe access to the UK asylum process. In a statement, Rev. Fiona Bennett, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, joined with leaders of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Methodist Church in Great Britain, in saying:

“We are appalled by the proposals in the government's ‘Illegal Migration Bill’ to detain, punish and reject thousands of people seeking safety. They are completely incompatible with our Christian conviction that all human beings are made in the image of God and are therefore inherently worthy of treatment which honours their dignity. Instead of dignity, these plans will foster discrimination and distrust, and cause immeasurable harm to people already made vulnerable by conflict and persecution. If ever there was a contemporary example of ignoring our neighbour and walking by on the other side, this is it.

“When two in three people who cross the channel to seek sanctuary in the UK are granted asylum following rigorous checks, it seems unthinkable to reject them before they have even had a chance to have their claim for asylum heard. Many people fleeing war and persecution in countries such as Iraq, Iran, Syria, Eritrea and Sudan have been left with no safe and accessible routes to claim asylum in the UK, forcing people to make difficult and dangerous decisions.

“The UK falls far behind our global neighbours in welcoming people seeking sanctuary into our communities, and yet these plans essentially put a ban on claiming asylum and reject the UK's responsibility to play our part in responding to global inequalities and conflict.

“We all agree that we cannot continue to see thousands of people risk their lives to reach safety in the UK, but the solution cannot be deterrence and punishment. As Christians, we believe that we should be amongst the first to welcome the stranger with open arms. We urge the government to withdraw this legislation, to

honour our moral and international obligations and to behave with compassion and fairness by establishing safe and accessible routes to enable the UK to play its part in welcoming people in need of safety.”

Signed by Rev. Fiona Bennett, URC General Assembly Moderator, Rev. Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union, Rev. Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference and Anthony Boateng, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference.

Milton Keynes URC church welcomes King Charles

Church of Christ the Cornerstone, in the East Midlands Synod, and its Minister, Rev. George Mwaura, welcomed His Majesty King Charles III on a visit last month.



The church was the venue for the ceremony in which The King formally conferred city status on Milton Keynes, following its successful bid as part of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The ceremony also included the singing of the Olney hymn to mark 250 years of Amazing Grace.

Members of the bid team were among the guests, alongside representatives of the city's communities and charities and Ukrainian refugees with their host families. Rev. Mwaura was joined as host by the Mayor, Cllr Amanda Marlow, and other dignitaries.

In his speech, King Charles recognised that although Milton Keynes may be known as a “new town”, it has been a settled community as long ago as the Bronze Age.

Before proceeding to visit the city's foodbank, King Charles unveiled a commemorative plaque and added his autograph to the church book, which was previously signed by the late Queen Elizabeth II when she conducted the official opening of the newly built Church of Christ the Cornerstone back in 1992.

Gosport URC's answered prayer

An answered prayer is boasting fruitful results at Gosport URC. Just as the country was coming out of the first lockdown, the church decided to engage a children's and family's worker.



With a grant and help from Wessex Synod the church appointed Stephen Pethick as its Children's and Youth Worker. Nearly 18 months on, God has been truly at work in Gosport.

Stephen says: "Little Tugboats Friday morning stay and play group for toddlers and their carers has been going from strength to strength. "We've seen amazing answers to prayer and now regularly have 20 families attending. The relationships and conversations within this group are becoming a real source of joy. We have also seen families from this group transition to attending 'dad and kids breakfast' and Messy Church."

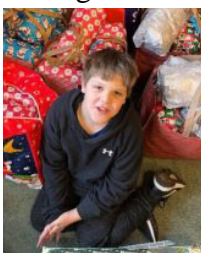
Twelve young people now regularly attend Gosport's Pilots' group on Tuesday evenings. Stephen calls this a "highlight" of his week.

Ten young people from a range of backgrounds also attend Trailblazers, an evening youth group for those in senior school. A good number of dads and their kids meet for breakfast and around 50 people attend Messy Church.

Lundie Memorial Award winners: January to March

Each month, a recipient of the Lundie Memorial Award will receive a medal, certificate, and a gift of £100 to be spent on the benefit of children and/or young people in their church, synod or local community.

Throughout the year Castle Hill URC, in



Northampton, provides food hampers for those in the community who are in need. The church's minister, Rev. Liz Adams nominated 12-year-old Tommy Smith who became the March recipient of the Lundie

Memorial Award for his participation in the church's community outreach.

At Christmas, the church provided small gifts for children and food, allowing families to have all that's needed for a traditional dinner. In the past, the church has donated scarves, hats and pyjamas. This year Tommy suggested, due to the energy crisis, that blankets would be useful to keep the children warm and reduce the need for the heating to be turned on. This was deemed an excellent suggestion and so the church applied for a grant and managed to purchase 210 blankets. Tommy took it upon himself, with his mum's help, to wrap all 210 blankets.

Sixteen-year-old Jemimah White, from Southern Synod, is February's Lundie Memorial Award recipient. Jemimah was nominated by Lorraine Webb, Children's and Youth Work Programme Officer.



Jemimah has always had a passion for helping others. Long before she could remember, she started challenging herself to focus on at least one project a year. One recent project saw Jemimah knit 253 hats for premature babies, all within a year. Another such project involved making and selling jam at local coffee mornings, the proceeds going to an Alzheimer charity, Jemimah had seen first-hand the consequence of this condition and felt compelled to help.

Fifteen-year-old Joel Wood, from the URC Eastern Synod, is January's recipient.



Joel became involved with the tech side of Linton Free Church in

Cambridgeshire, which, like so many others, turned to digital services during lockdown. Joel's varied skills ensured that services could be livestreamed and were as dynamic as possible, often including video, projection, and seamless continuity. Once out of lockdown, Joel continued to donate his time from setting up and tidying away equipment, to volunteering as a cameraman and creating and uploading content from the service to YouTube.

Joel's skills have gained him recognition outside the church. A video he created of his church's Light Party, an alternative to Halloween featured on Scripture Union's website, clocked up nearly 200 views. Last July, while participating in New Wine's youth event, Luminosity, Joel's skills were noticed by the media team and he gained a place with them, along with a media pass and was hailed the "best photographer on the team".

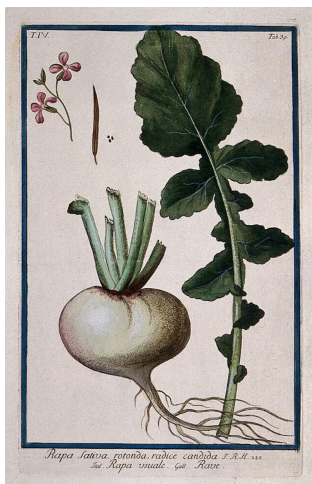
Turnips: how Britain fell out of love with the much-maligned vegetable

Environment secretary Thérèse Coffey's recent suggestion that Britons should turn to turnips following tomato shortages did not go down as she might have hoped. In trying to revive interest in local produce, Coffey could not have chosen a less glamorous root vegetable. But why do we now look down on the faithful turnip – was it always so unloved?

It's not clear when turnips were first eaten in Britain, but they didn't always have a bad reputation. The Old English word *neep* – a name now only seen in Scotland alongside tatties and haggis – goes back to at least the 10th century, but turnip ("turn-neep") is only about 500 years old.

Historically, the word "turnip" didn't only refer to the round purple root, but root vegetables of various shapes, colours and sizes. Sixteenth-century botanist John Gerard was particularly keen on "small turneps", which he said were much sweeter than the large kind and grown in a village called Hackney outside London.

Around the same time, physician Thomas Moffett was eager to write about the blood red turnips he had eaten in Prague, which were so "delicate" that the emperor himself grew them.



Coloured etching of a turnip by Magdalena Bouchard (1772).
Courtesy of the Wellcome Collection

Importing new kinds of fruit and vegetables from Europe was all the rage with the early modern rich, who loved to show off their connections and turnips were no exception. Writers of the time weren't much interested in where their "ordinary" or "garden" turnips came from, but they were still happy to eat them.

Another botanist, John Parkinson, wrote in 1629 that thanks to their sweetness, turnips were:

"much esteemed, and often seen as a dish at good men's tables". In response to Coffey, chef Thomasina Miers' suggested caramelising turnips in butter. This is just the sort of sweet dish turnips were once appreciated for.

Early modern authors also praised their medical uses. Turnips were considered nourishing, restorative and generally good for the body – even if they did sometimes cause wind.

From human to animal fodder

So what took the turnip off "good men's tables"? Historians Frances Dolan and Mark Overton point to animal feed and crop rotations. Turnips have been used to feed animals since antiquity, although Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder stressed that they were just as good for human consumption.

Even as Gerard praised his Hackney turnips, he also noted that "poore people in Wales" were forced to eat them raw in times of hardship. Up to this point, the root could be both the food of the rich and the poor.

But from the end of the 17th century, growing winter turnips to feed livestock became more common and systematic crop rotations started to take off, which used turnips as one of the main nutrient providing plants.

Rotting turnips could feed animals and make great compost, but this didn't exactly endear them to aristocrats. At the same time, new root vegetables were coming in from the Americas, with potatoes and sweet potatoes proving very popular.



Lithograph showing hares enjoying turnips after being hunted, by WBT (1859).
Courtesy of the Wellcome Collection

Other now obscure but once favoured root vegetables – skirrets and eryngoos (see below) – gradually fell out of British diets and parsnips and carrots were used less in sweet dishes partially thanks to the rapid increase in sugar production.

The global food chains that are at the heart of our current salad shortages mean that British consumers no longer need to eat (or individually produce) crops like turnips out of necessity.

It's not surprising turnips couldn't quite stand up to the huge changes in agriculture and food choice over the last three centuries. What their history does show, however, is that they have managed to



survive despite it all, even if today's consumers today aren't really sure what to do with them.

Serin Quinn

PhD candidate, Department of History, University of Warwick

Published on The Conversation website at www.theconversation.com on 2 March, 2023

Skirrets & eryngoes

	<p>Skirret (<i>Sium sisarum</i>) is a perennial plant of the family Apiaceae sometimes grown as a root vegetable. The English name skirret is derived from the Middle English 'skirwhit' or 'skirwort', meaning 'white root'. In Scotland it is known as crummock.</p>
	<p>The roots of Eryngo (<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>), commonly known as Sea holly, are slightly sweet and smell of carrots and can be cooked or candied. Roasted roots are said to resemble parsnips or chestnuts in flavour. Young shoots are blanched by excluding light from the growing plant and can then be cooked and used as an asparagus substitute.</p>

Walter Brown, turnip farmer



Walter Brown (left) with a representative from Hadfields,

My father, William Brown, was from a farming family and one of my favourite family photos is of his father, Walter Brown, posing with some turnips that he had grown. For many years, the photo intrigued me as it appeared to have been taken for a reason, not just for the family album. It was only in 2012 that I discovered that reason. I was searching eBay looking for postcards of interest when I came across the one shown to the left that was advertising Hadfields Special Turnip Fertiliser and there was my grandfather proudly showing off his turnips. Unfortunately, the postcard sold for more than I was willing to pay for a postcard at the time, but, of course, I now wish that I had splashed out and acquired it.



Sadly, I never knew Walter as he died before I was born but my father is buried in the same graveyard as him at Ellerker in East Yorkshire so I'm able to pay my respects whenever I travel up to God's own county.

Malcolm Brown

“From the Archives”

The Promise of Spring

Jesus said, “Behold I will make all things new”.
With the promise of Spring we know this to be true.
Just as nature wakes from its long winter sleep,
With Him in our hearts His promise He’ll keep.

Each day’s dawning is a chance to change
Things in our lives we need to re-arrange.
It’s never too late to step forward and say,
“Today is the day when I’ll not say nay”.

Take up a challenge, be strong in His strength
Knowing He’s with you to go the next length.
So often we waiver and think we’ll do it tomorrow
Then it’s too late and often brings sorrow.

Things that seem hard and there’s no easy way
Will become simple if about them we pray.
Many times I’ve been tempted to take the easy way out
But praying to Jesus has dispelled fear and doubt.

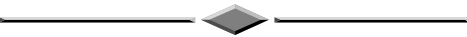
As Easter approaches we recall His ordeal,
The pain and the suffering He had to feel
To bring us salvation and save us from sin
He knew He must endure the agony it would bring.

But in order to bring redemption that we might be reborn
Triumph was achieved on that Easter morn.
How wonderful that we have proof of His return
And can share the joy when to Him we turn.

They say it’s always darkest just before the dawn
That’s how they must have felt when they thought He was gone.
With what joy the news of His return was soon spread
And how many lives have been saved when His story’s been read.

Dora Dadswell

Originally published in the April 1984 edition of the Hadleigh Messenger



Easter arrangements

Good Friday (7th April 2023) – A united service will be held at Hadleigh Methodist Church starting at 10.15am. This will be followed by a Walk of Witness around the town centre ending back at the Methodist Church, where refreshments, including hot cross buns, will be served.

Easter Day (9th April 2023) – The traditional Easter Day Sunrise Service, organised by the Salvation Army, will be held at Hadleigh Castle, starting at 6.15am.

Computer Corner

The Mathematical Life of Sir Christopher Wren

Interesting Video

Christopher Wren is famed as the architect of St Paul's Cathedral but he was also a Professor of Astronomy, and one of the founders of a society which became the Royal Society. This lecture explores some of Wren's mathematical work on curves and his most impressive architectural achievement – the dome of St Paul's.

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oDQSZ9sdgk>

Jigsaw Explorer

Fun website

For anyone who likes to spend time doing jigsaws, this website allows you to do it online. The website claims that it "provides jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts with a great selection of high quality, family friendly online jigsaw puzzles. We have thousands of hand picked puzzles available and new puzzles being added every day".

URL: <https://www.jigsawexplorer.com>

Friends of Friendless Churches

Interesting website

This charity rescues historic buildings by undertaking gentle repairs, sensitive restoration, and careful conservation. It champions traditional methods and supports local communities by employing local crafts and trades-people wherever possible. The churches under its control are open seven days a week.

URL: <https://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk>

Word Search – Things that fly (again)

Inspired by the rogue Chinese weather balloon...

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

AIRSHIP
 ARROW
 BALLOON
 BLIMP
 BROOMSTICK
 BULLET
 DRONE
 FLY
 GLIDER
 HELICOPTER
 JET
 KITE
 MISSILE
 ORNITHOPTER
 PIGS
 ROCKET
 SPARKS
 SQUIRREL
 SUPERMAN
 TIME

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 16 Mar 2023 - Poetry Reading Group at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Held 3rd Thu of every month. All welcome.
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- Fri 17 Mar 2023 - 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 18 Mar 2023 - Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-In at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon. An opportunity to share memories, bring photos and documents for scanning, buy history books and cards.
-
- Mon 20 Feb 2023 - Art Ministry Cosy Crafts Session in hall next to Hadleigh URC from 11.00am to 1.00pm. Free, for all ages. To book, phone 07582 025163.
-
- ditto - 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.
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- ditto - Afternoon Chat & Tea at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.
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- Tue 21 Mar 2023 - Kettle's On Coffee Morning at St Barnabas Church, Hadleigh, from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. Held every Tue.
-
- Wed 22 Mar 2023 - Coffee Morning at St Michael's Church, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath, from 10.00am to 11.45am. Held every Wed.
-
- Sat 25 Mar 2023 - Hadleigh Heritage talk 'Wells of Hadleigh & Daws Heath' by Terry Barclay at St James the Less Church. Starts at 11.00am with refreshments served from 10.30am. Admission at the door £3.00.
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- ditto - Great British Spring Clean Hadleigh - meet at Hadleigh Cricket Club in John Burrows Park from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.
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- Sat 1 Apr 2023 - Hadleigh Farm Rare Breeds Centre re-opens. 10.00am to 4.30pm every day (last entry 3.30pm). Adults £5.50. children 3-16 £4.50, U3s free.
-
- ditto - Great Hadleigh Hymn Sing with the Tuesday Players brass band. At SA Hadleigh Temple. Advance tickets £5.00 via 01702 552668. £7.00 atd.
-
- Fri 7 Apr 2023 - Churches Together Good Friday United Service at Hadleigh Methodist Church at 10.15am followed by Walk of Witness around town centre.
-
- Sat 8 Apr 2023 - Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00am to 12 noon with drinks, cakes and bric-a-brac stall. Held 2nd Sat of month.
-
- ditto - Beat and Beans Café at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Live music from Pete Dunhill and Mike Blant with coffee, tea and snacks. Free admission. Held 2nd Sat of every month.
-
- ditto - Coffee Morning & Book Sale at St Peter's Church Thundersley from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Held 2nd Sat of every month.
-
- Sun 9 Apr 2023 - Easter Day Sunrise Service at Hadleigh Castle starting at 6.15am.
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- Sat 15 Apr 2023 - Jumble Sale at St Michael's Church Hall at 1.00pm. Admission 50p.
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- Sat 22 Apr 2023 - Earth Day at St Michael's Church Hall with guided walks in Pound Wood, wooden products for sale, refreshments. From 11.30am to 3.30pm.
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More events listed on the HELIX website at <http://www.hadleighessex.info>