

HADLEIGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

WITH MONKS ELEIGH AND WHATFIELD



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Feb 2010

The vision of Hadleigh URC is
to challenge the community to respond to God's love
as shown and taught by Jesus Christ.



www.hadleighurc.org.uk

2010 NEWSLETTER NO: 665

WORSHIP IN HADLEIGH

Services led by Revd. Jim Dalglish unless otherwise noted)

Worship in February

Sun 7th 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Sun 14th 10.30 Morning Worship
led by Mrs Milly Dalglish

Sun 21st 10.30 Morning Worship

Sun 28th 10.30 Morning Worship
led by Mr Nigel Crisp

3.30pm Worship at Angel Court
(ecumenical)

WEEKDAY MEETINGS

Tuesday 10 - 11.30 Pause for Prayer - Come in for Coffee

Thursday 9.45 am Toddler Group) Term time
10.00 am Refreshments) only

Monks Eleigh URC

Sun 14th 3pm Rev J Dalglish

Tues 16th 8pm Prayer and Praise

Sun 28th 3pm Mr C Bull

A Thought for Shrove Tuesday

A mother was making pancakes for her sons Kevin (5) and Ryan (3). The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw an opportunity for a moral lesson and said, 'If Jesus was sitting here, he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his little brother, 'Ryan, you be Jesus.'

FROM THE MANSE

HAITI

I am sure, like me, you have been affected by the scenes of devastation and horror that have emerged from the earthquake in Haiti. I hope you have also been encouraged by the love that has been shown by those involved in the rescue and care of those entombed and injured. We should also be greatly uplifted by those stories of people, who have lost just about everything, but continue to praise God in songs and prayers. The shining light of their faith has been so powerful in helping many get through and has much to teach us.

How do you feel, when you see the many appeals for financial aid for this crisis? It is difficult not to feel guilty and to wonder whether you should be giving more. Jesus commands us to love our neighbour and that command is for every day, not just for large crises. Indeed, in this world there is always a neighbour in need.

I would suggest that instead of responding to crisis appeals (though you may feel called to do that also), we should regularly put aside a proportion of our income for the needs of our neighbour. This is simply returning to God, through gifts of love, some of the riches that he gives to us. Each person should prayerfully consider how much of their income they will set aside for God (10% is the Biblical recommendation, though those who earn more may wish to give more) and then give it regularly for the work of the Church and the charities of their choice.

This does not prevent us giving one off gifts for special projects or particular appeals, but it forms a sensible basis for using the money God has given us for his work.

If people ask where God is in Haiti, tell them he is there in the love of those who tend the injured, hold the dying and feed the hungry; he is there in the love that is expressed

in financial aid; he is there in the prayers of all those whose hearts are filled with love for the suffering people of Haiti.

Yours in Christ,

Jim.

NEWS FROM THE ANSELL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Things have been rather quiet over the Christmas and New Year period, though you will probably have noticed that some of our members have been busy removing the large, unsightly bush which used to obscure the view of the Ansell Centre from the road. Thanks to John Cunningham and Tom Tebbutt for all their hard work. I'm sure you will agree that this is a major improvement with the additional benefit of making it less conducive as a place to "hang out" at night and throw away cans and bottles.



December was a busy month with Christmas Luncheon Club on 4th, our Christmas film "Topsy Turvey" on 11th and Christmas Ansell Snacks on 18th. The latter unfortunately happened on the day of the first snows, but those who braved the weather enjoyed a delicious lunch of soup, chicken with all the trimmings and mince pies. Thanks to Biddy Fosdyke for boning 86 chicken thighs and wrapping them in bacon!

We have decided to show two films each month during the winter period. The January films were "Last Chance Harvey" on 15th and "The Reader" which will be on 29th. Our February offerings will be "The Boat that Rocked" (about pirate radio in the 60s) on 12th and "Doubt" (about a nun who accuses a priest of child abuse with no evidence) on 26th. Please note that both "The Reader" and "The Boat that

Rocked” are category 15. For more detailed information about the content of the films please see articles in the Community News or pick up one of our new brochures from the Ansell Centre.

The Ansell Snacks committee met at the beginning of January and decided to make some changes. Instead of a drop in style cafeteria with choices for lunch, the new format will be more like the original Ansell Luncheon Club. It will be open to members only, and will probably take place on the third Wednesday of the month starting on 17th March. A two course lunch followed by tea or coffee will be served for £3. More details will be available in March’s newsletter, but if you are interested in becoming a member or in helping, then please speak to Eve, Jan or Gill (Cort). We need volunteers who will either set the tables and serve the meals or serve the meals and help with clearing up.

Jan and Eve

Elders’ Nominations

At our Annual Church Meeting on 1st March, we will consider the election of new Elders. Joyce Rolfe has completed her 4 year term of service and will not be standing again. The Elders are the spiritual leaders of the congregation and perform many important functions in the life of the church. See Sylvia’s article elsewhere to see more details.

Members are asked to prayerfully consider who might be called to the role of Elder. After you have done this, please fill in a nominations slip and place it in the box provided.

Those Members receiving 3 or more nominations will then be asked whether they are willing to stand for election.

Nominations need to be returned by Sunday 21st February.

Jim.

The good Lord didn’t create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

Bible a month club

Thanks to a few loyal members we raised the amount of ? 146.00 for 2009.

The work of the Bible Society is world wide and sometimes their representatives are living in dangerous conditions. The aim is to spread God's word and to ensure that a Bible, in their own language, is available to people in countries such as Cambodia, Central African Republic and in the Philippines. In the Central African Republic for the first time in more than 40years, the people have been able to read the Bible in their most widely used language of Sango. Illiteracy is still a huge barrier for people who long to read God's word, but the Bible Society has launched literacy classes in the town of Baoli - about 60 miles from the capital Bangui- where two in every three women aged between 25 and 50 cannot read or write. Their enthusiasm is so great that there are far more students than the tutor can cope with. Hopes are to open a second centre as soon as funds are available. Service given in Jesus' name can open many doors.

Should you want to join in this important work, see Barbara Dixon who will be happy to tell you how to make donations. Do look at the notice board in the Ansell Centre where there is more information about the work of the Bible Society.

Membership

If you are a regular worshipper at Hadleigh URC and are committed to the life of this local church, but have not become a Member, then please consider taking this step.

It is a great encouragement to everyone to know all those who have made a declaration of their commitment to the worship and witness of our church.

Please get in touch with me for more information. **Jim.**

BITS and SMALLS

'Out and About'

Jim is at Christchurch, Needham Market on Sunday 14th

Jim is at St Mary's, Hadleigh on Sunday 28th

Remember the
Church Coop
Dividend number:
2295

Please could you let me have all items for the Mar 2009 Newsletter by **Sunday 14th Feb (21st if emailed)?** Email to phil@the-wells.net, post to 11 Jordayn Rise, Hadleigh or use the tray in the Church. Thanks, Phil (827878)

Prayer before Worship

This is a reminder that there is an open invitation to anyone who feels they wish to be involved to join in a brief time of prayer each Sunday morning before the service starts. The idea is to pray for the worship and those taking a leading part.

We will meet from 10am until about 10.20 in the Left Corner Room in the Ansell Centre. Please do not wait for the worship leader and the Elders to assemble – they sometimes get tied up in things that need to be dealt with. They will arrive as soon as they can. Please simply assemble and bring our act of worship to God in prayers, either spoken or silent.

Jim.

Stop complaining about your church. If it was perfect, you wouldn't belong!

Prayer Page

PEOPLE FOR PRAYER

Those in residential care: Ruth Gleed, Dorothy Double, Violet Hines

Those mourning the loss of loved ones: The family of Elizabeth Davidson; George & Pauline Barnes

Those giving thanks: Milly and Jim on the safe arrival of Ada Joy Dalglish, a 3rd granddaughter

For details of others who have asked for our prayers, please consult the blue prayer folder in church.

Prayer Points for February

This month we plan and prepare for our Annual Church Meeting, which takes place on the evening of 1st March. Please pray for preparation of Annual Reports, nomination of Elders and election of office bearers. Pray also that the Meeting will be a time of looking back with thanksgiving and looking forward with expectation.

Lent starts on Wednesday 17th. Pray for the work of the ecumenical Lent Study groups, that not only will individuals attend and grow in faith, but that as Christians of different traditions we will grow closer together.

The Elders are spending the morning of the 15th considering the future direction of our church. What is God calling us to in the next few years? Pray for God's guidance.

Pray God's blessing on our work with young people – Toddlers, Holiday Club, Sunday Club and Explorers. Ask God whether you may be called to participate in this work. Pray encouragement for the current leaders and helpers.

What do you think about marriage over a drink?

Is marriage still relevant in today's society? How do you define marriage and does it include Civil Partnerships? Should government provide financial incentives for those who are married? How easy should it be to divorce? If these or any other questions on the subject of marriage are of interest to you, then why not come along?

This is an informal discussion group for men, who want to talk about important issues. Come and enjoy a drink and air your 'Pints of View'! We don't expect to have all the answers, but we do enjoy learning from the different insights that we each bring.

Simply turn up to see what is going on.

Next meeting:

**8.00pm Wednesday 24th February
The George Public House (back room)**

All welcome!

For more information, contact **Jim** (827895).

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

- 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

The Shoe Box Appeal

Have you done a shoe box this year ? I bet you want to now where it goes.....

At the end of November I went to sort out the shoeboxes with my Mum at a barn in Hadleigh, where all the shoeboxes from the Hadleigh area have been taken.

When we first got there we saw all the shoeboxes piled high waiting to be sorted. There were lots of people working at tables and a kind lady showed us what we had to do and then we got started.

First we opened each box to see if there was anything in there that was not allowed. You are not allowed sharp objects such as scissors or liquids like shampoo, if we found any we had to take them out and put them into another box. If there was lots of one thing in the box, like toys but there were no sweets or hats then we swapped them with things from other boxes.

I made sure there was a cuddly toy in every box I checked and a pencil sharpener for their pencils.

Some things we didn't have enough of such as : soap, flannels, toothpaste and scarves. But we had lots of toothbrushes and sweets !!!!

Once we were sure the box looked like a good Christmas present for someone we put the lid and elastic band back on. Then we had to put special sticky tape around the box so they knew it had been checked and sorted.

After a while we were given lunch, which we shared with the other helpers.

If you did give a shoebox this year your shoebox is going to the Street Children of Crimea which is near Russia. A large lorry will collect the boxes on the 5 December and drive them all the way to Crimea..... have a look in an Atlas and see if you can find it.

Written by Ellen Jay



The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity, and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because philosophy is an exalted activity, will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water.

- John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under President Lyndon Johnson (1912-2002)

Guild Report

The final Guild meeting of the Autumn Programme was held at the home of Harold and Diana on Tuesday December 15th 2009. We enjoyed singing Christmas carols accompanied by Diana at the organ and this was followed by a delicious shared supper.

Many thanks to Harold and Diana for their hospitality and for a very enjoyable end to our guild programme.

We were very sorry to postpone both the Guild New Year party and the first Devotional due to icy and snowy weather. We hope that the party will now take place on January 26th from 7-9pm in the Community Room. Please join us for a shared supper, games and competitions.

February Programme

2nd Visit to New Zealand

9th Devotional

16th No meeting

23rd Visit to Canada - Mervyn and Gill Cort

Meetings at 7.30 pm on Tuesday evenings in the Community Room unless otherwise stated.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Any crime against humanity is a crime against God who made humans in God's own image. - Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr

Lent Study Groups

Once again we shall be following the pattern of previous years by running an ecumenical Lent Study. The course is entitled

‘When I survey Christ’s Cross and ours.’

Meetings are in the Salvation Army Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesdays and 12 noon on Thursdays, when the Wednesday evening material is repeated. Here are the dates, titles and leaders for each session:-

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Leader</u>
24 & 25 Feb.	Darkness at Noon	Michael Vulliamy
3 & 4 Mar.	Into Great Silence	Sue Lambert/Eric Fisher
10 & 11 Mar.	The Child on the Cross	Jim Dalgleish
17 & 18 Mar.	Outside a City Wall	Martin Thrower
24 & 25 Mar.	Touching the Rock	Greg Frost

Each session will start will start by listening to a CD of a conversation about the topic.

For Thursday lunchtime sessions, please bring a packed lunch, if you wish (drinks provided). The CD will be started at 12 prompt to allow sufficient time for discussion afterwards. Please, therefore, arrive and sort out drinks and lunch in good time for a prompt start at 12 noon.

For more information, please get in touch. Otherwise just turn up and why not bring a friend?

Jim.

Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Church Finances

The General fund has ended the year at around £2,000 less than when we started. The cash in the buildings project stands at c£17,000. This has mostly been from grants, with some donations from members of the congregation. Offerings are almost unchanged from 2008. Lettings and rents have moved ahead most strongly (up from £23,4000 in 2008 to £27,700 in 2009). I shall transfer most of the £17,000 to our High Interest Account (0.075%) DV very shortly.

More people are giving by direct debit, although the numbers using Gift Aid are essentially the same. We must see what can be done about that.

Excluding the buildings project , we spent c£18,000 on fabric in 2008 and £9,300 in 2009, a most welcome reduction (there had been particular exceptional fabric expenses in 2008.

Heating and Lighting in £2008 were £5,100 and almost unchanged at £5,500 in 2009.

So, then we are roughly as we ended 2008, but with additional cash for the Buildings project.

Lodged with Banks

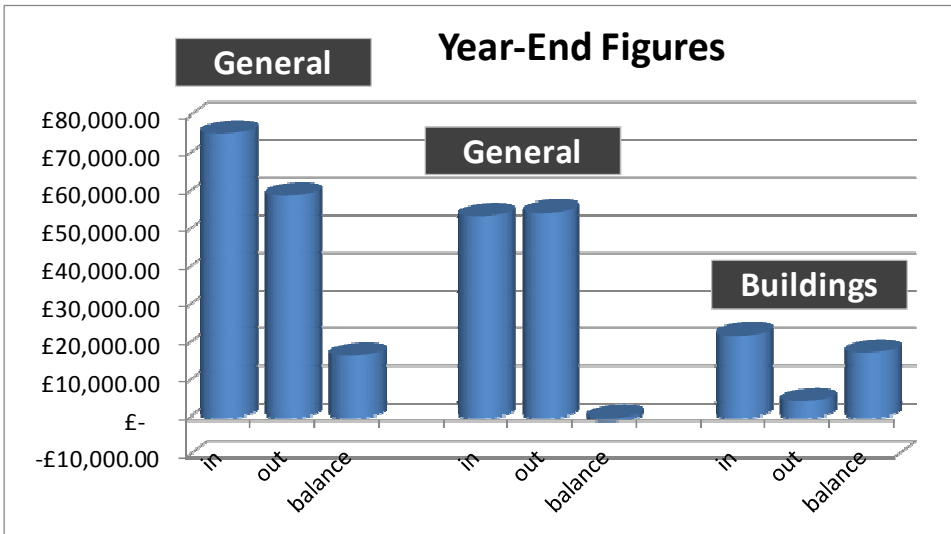
Savings Accounts	£26,150.00
Current Account	<u>£21,358.80</u>
	£47,508.80

Expressed as Funds

Buildings Fund	£38,548.60
Reserved for Buildings	£5,800.00
General Fund	<u>£3,160.28</u>
	£47,508.80

All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord. - Leviticus 27:30

	Year-End	Dec '09
Consolidated		
in	£ 75,673.10	£ 8,085.50
out	£ 59,043.10	£ 7,734.10
balance	£ 16,629.90	£ 351.40
General Fund		
in	£ 53,738.30	£ 4,065.50
out	£ 54,566.50	£ 5,339.00
balance	-£ 828.20	-£ 1,273.50
Buildings Project		
in	£ 21,934.70	£ 4,020.00
out	£ 4,476.70	£ 2,395.20
balance	£ 17,458.10	£ 1,624.90



O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are [God's] judgments and how inscrutable [God's] ways!

Romans 11:33

Testimony at Hadleigh URC Church

Why I wanted to be baptised by Rebecca West

I felt ready to leave a life I once had, and become one in the body of Christ. I decided to make this decision after spending a week at New Day in August 2009, which is a massive Christian event on Norwich show ground. During this time I was able to experience God in a different way. I learnt so much about the Word of God at live seminars, and singing and praying to God with thousands of other Christians was just epic. I was able to confess myself to God in an open and truthful way, making me feel stronger and more dedicated to having this life journey with Him.

I have always known who God is but I think everyone that follows him gets to a point when they realize what their relationship with him is, and how amazing that bond can be. So to really understand what Christianity is, is to discover life with God.

Baptism is taking a stand and promising to commit oneself to a life completely and unconditionally with God. Not to become herded into a life that is hollow and without the purpose of making the world a better place.

To me being a Christian is about being led by God's example through Jesus Christ. For whom alone can

save themselves from the sin that is all around? God can and will be the shepherd that herds us all. This message is strong so everyone should take comfort in this in times of need.

Since being baptised in November 2009 I have learnt how a relationship with God is like any relationship on earth, it has to be worked upon, and it has to be grounded with faith, trust and love. I feel I have been tested a lot since my baptism, but as a result have become wiser in what God wants me to do, and still trusts in me when I fail to be brave. The most amazing thing about being a Christian is knowing what the point of life is, which I think is to strive to be like God and be reborn everyday through Jesus' example.

The following verses embrace the whole reason why I wanted to be baptised (Matt. 6.31-34):

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN FEBRUARY

Mon 1st 7.30pm Elders' Meeting, Community Room
8.00pm Badminton, Ansell Centre

Tues 2nd 10.15am Prayer Service, Church

Wed 3rd 7.30pm Film Discussion Group, (823413)
7.30pm Churches Together Prayer, Salv'n Army

Thur 4th 9.45am Toddler Group, Community Room
7.30pm Thursday Group, Community Room

Fri 5th Ansell Luncheon Club

Sat 6th 2-4pm Scrabble, Community Room

Sun 7th 7.00pm Inspired, Church

Mon 8th 8.00pm Badminton, Ansell Centre

Tues 9th 10.15am Prayer Service, Church

Thur 11th 9.45am Toddler Group, Community Room

Fri 12th 7.30 pm "The Boat that Rocked" Ansell Centre

Sat 13th 2-4pm Scrabble, Community Room

Mon 15th 8.00pm Badminton, Ansell Centre

Tues 16th 10.15am Healing Prayer Service, Church
3.00pm Church Plans Group, 21 Fullers Close
8.00pm Prayer & Praise, Monks Eleigh

Wed 17th 7.30pm Vision4Life, 6 Raven Way

Sat 20th 2-4pm Scrabble, Community Room

Sun 21st 7.00pm Inspired, Church

Mon 22nd 7.30pm A to Z of the OT, 16 Weavers Close
8.00pm Badminton, Ansell Centre

Tues 23rd 10.15am Prayer Service, Church
12 noon Lunch Study Group, 16 Weavers Close

Wed 24th 2.00pm Bible Study, Whatfield Salv'n Army

8.00pm What do you think?, The George
Thur 25th 9.45am Toddler Group, Community Room
7.00pm ACMG, Ansell Centre
Fri 26th 7.30 pm "Doubt" Ansell Centre
Sat 27th 2-4pm Scrabble, Community Room

Bible a month club

Thanks to a few loyal members we raised the amount of £146.00 for 2009.

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Should you want to join in this important work, see Barbara Dixon who will be happy to tell you how to make donations. Do look at the notice board in the Ansell Centre where there is more information about the work of the Bible Society.

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. - Romans 12:18

MINISTER

Rev Jim Dalgleish
6 Raven Way
Hadleigh
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Tel: 01473 827895

ELDERS

Sylvia Jarvis (Secretary)	01473 829166
Mary Boon	01473 824200
Nigel Crisp	01473 822208
Jan Dicks	01473 823413
Barbara Dixon	01473 829945
Ronnie Howson	01473 310169
Pat Langley	01473 823844
Elizabeth Meeks	01473 827318
Sylvia Roberts (Monks Eleigh)	01449 740607
Joyce Rolfe	01473 827297

Please contact any of the above, if you need to get in touch with one of our church family, whose address you do not know.

TREASURER

Ronnie Howson
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