

# HADLEIGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

WITH MONKS ELEIGH AND WHATFIELD



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Jan 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](http://www.hadleighurc.org.uk)

# 2009 NEWSLETTER NO: 664

## WORSHIP IN HADLEIGH

*Services led by Revd. Jim Dalglish unless otherwise noted)*

### Worship in January

Sun 3rd 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Sun 10th 10.30 Morning Worship

Sun 17th 10.30 Morning Worship led by Mr Nigel Crisp

Sun 24th 10.30 Morning Worship

3.30pm Worship at Friars Hall (ecumenical)

6.30pm Ecumenical Service at Elmsett Methodist

Sun 31st 10.30 Morning Worship (Cafe Service)

### 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 10th 3pm Rev Jim Dalglish

Tues 19th 7.30 Service for Week of Prayer for Christian  
Unity

Sun 24th 3pm TBA

*Even as we use experimental science and mathematical logic to reveal the laws and structure of the physical universe, a series of important questions will always remain, including the sources of those laws and the reason for there being a universe in the first place.*

**- Kenneth Miller, from his book Finding Darwin's God**

## FROM THE MANSE

### **A New Decade!**

What were you doing 10 years ago? I remember that Churches Together had a midnight service to mark the new millennium. It was a strange experience worshipping, while fireworks went off around. What have we all done since then?

We are certainly all 10 years older and some may be struggling with health concerns. Some will be grieving the loss of loved ones. Some will be giving thanks for new life – children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren. There will have been new schools, university, new jobs, redundancy and retirement.

But what do we think about the coming decade? We don't know what lies ahead anymore than we knew what the past 10 years had in store as we celebrated the millennium. So how do we deal with a world that is full of so much uncertainty?

The only answer that I know is 'faith' – faith that the God, who created this world and gave us life, has his hand upon it and loves us always. That is what enables me to face tomorrow with any degree of equanimity.

So what does that mean in practical terms? It means that we need to receive each day, giving thanks to God for the gift. It means that we need to look each day for the opportunities that are presented for us to make a positive difference to the lives of those around. If every Christian simply attempted to do that each day, the world would be transformed. It means that at the end of each day we should give thanks that Jesus has been at work in our lives and through them he has touched the lives of others. May God bless you in 2010 as you take each day he gives you and use it to transform the world in Christ's name.

Yours in Christ,

**Jim**

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

## SHOEBOX UPDATE

Our filled shoeboxes along with 1,000's of others left the depot of Vauxhall Farm, Great Wenham on Sat the 5th December to their destination of Romania & Serbia where they will be gratefully received.

This is the last consignment to leave Ivan & Mary Fenning's farm. Meg & Phil Pearson who have headed up the project faithfully for at least 10 years, with such devotion & care in our local area, are retiring. Our thanks go to them & Ivan & Mary, for their outreach in ministry with Samaritans Purse & the ministry they have also given alongside.

What will happen now? There is to be a special meeting & reunion of volunteers at the farm on Fri 12th March 2010 at 7pm with Samaritan's Purse to put us in the picture about the 2010 campaign. Hopefully we will find out what changes may take place. A new leadership & venue is sort. Maybe the project can be split into smaller local groups.

Please give this some prayer, that a solution will be found to continue the Operation Christmas Child project in our own local area.

We would like to reassure you that we shall still be enthusiastically continuing the project from

our church, even if the boxes have to travel a little further for sorting & dispatching. The boxes really do make a difference to each child in need. Please keep on saving your items for the children ready for Christmas 2010..... it will come round sooner than you think!

Happy new year & blessings, from Doreen & Hilary

## **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN**

Since the end of August the shops have been filling up with Christmas cards ,wrappings, decorations and various baubles with which our society greets the birth of Christ.

Now, many weeks later it is time for us to think about sending messages of good will and maybe a little hope to some of the world's people whose freedom and rights have been taken away .

Amnesty International's booklets are to be found at the back of the Ansell hall. They contain 32 stories about people around the world who have suffered human rights abuses and would benefit from a card with a friendly greeting. All the information you need is contained in the booklets.

Please borrow one to browse through at your leisure, and return it as soon as possible, so that others may borrow it.

Joyce and Jan

When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry).

- Colossians 3:4-5

## **FLOWERS IN CHURCH**

I would like to thank everyone who has bought and arranged flowers in the church over the last year. There is a two weekly rota in the vestibule if anyone ever wants to add their name to it. If you find that you do not have time to come into Church during the week to do flower arranging but would like to make a contribution, please contact me (tell 824200) and I would be very pleased to purchase and arrange the flowers for you. It is a tradition that was carried out for many years by Joyce Rolfe, and what a wonderful job she did for the Church. It would be sad for it not to be carried on.

I would also like to extend thanks to Wendy Morgan and Sylvia Jarvis for the beautiful silk flower arrangements which decorate our Church window sills

Mary Boon.

## **SUNDAY CLUB AGM 2010**

A reminder & invitation to all who help with the children's work at Great Meeting URC.

Please come along to our Sunday Club AGM on  
**MONDAY JAN 11th 7.30pm.** in the  
Adventurer's room.

*Sitting at the feet of the Divine with an attentive ... heart is a posture we all long to assume, whether we recognize that longing or not.*

- Sue Monk Kidd, American author and memoirist

# BITS and SMALLS

## 'Out and About'

Jim is at Christchurch, Needham Market on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>

Milly is at Christ Church Sudbury on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>

Remember the  
Church Coop  
Dividend  
number: **2295**

## Thank You

To all who made Christmas special through music, readings, decorating the church, providing refreshments and many other ways, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

To all who sent us cards, gifts and good wishes and supported us with love and prayer, we give your our grateful thanks. **Milly & Jim**

GIVE THANKS - for the safe but premature arrival of twin grandsons for Janet Sheldrake. We pray they may soon be home.

CONGRATULATIONS - to Margaret Adams on the birth of her first great grandchild.

Please could you let me have all items for the Jan 2009 Newsletter by **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan?** Email to **phil@the-wells.net**, post to 11 Jordayn Rise, Hadleigh or use the red envelope/wallet in the Church. If items for typing can be in before then, it will help! Thanks, Phil (827878)

Just to say 'thank you' to all the people who attended my 90th birthday party after church on the 6th December. The love and affection I received touched me deeply, so thank you once again and roll on the 100th!!

Yours affectionately, Elizabeth

## Prayer Page

### PEOPLE FOR PRAYER

Dot Chenery's family    Ruth Glead    Betty Beer  
Blanche Ransome    Sheila Baker    Tony Crowe  
Peggy Crabtree    Dorothy Double    Violet Hines  
Jane Legrice    Peter Conboy    Sharon, daughter of Barbara  
Scarfe    (*Updates please to Phil W*)

### Prayer Points for January

As we begin a new year and decade ask God to show you how you can best serve him.

January can be a very difficult month for many people.

Look out for those who need some support and pray that God will show you how.

The Facilities Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> January is looking at the care and maintenance of our buildings. Pray that we will be effectively organised so that the care of our buildings reflects our love for God.

Continue to pray for those whom we have supported through our Christmas offerings, that they may be cared for throughout the year.

Continue to remember our major projects with our buildings and with Hadleigh Youth Ministries and pray that we can make good progress in spite of the amount of work involved.

Sunday Club Leaders and Helpers have their AGM on 11<sup>th</sup>, give thanks for all their dedication to our young people and pray for their vision for the future.

The Elders are spending the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> considering the future direction of our church. Pray for God's guidance.



# **What do you think ... ... about your legacy ... ... over a drink?**

At the start of a new decade, we might look back on the millennium so far and ask what positive impact we have made. Looking forward into the new decade we are challenged to think about the legacy we would like to leave for our children and grandchildren. We could think only in financial terms, but if climate change or war, or terrorism or injustice matter, then perhaps we should be planning to make a positive contribution there also – for the sake of those who follow us. What legacy would we like to leave?

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 27<sup>th</sup> January  
The George Public House (back room)**

All welcome!

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

We must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

- Hebrews 3:9



## commitment for life

### ZIMBABWE - again in political turmoil

Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has stepped aside from the Unity Government and is seeking help from other African countries. He is asking them to put pressure on Robert Mugabe to act on the promises he made when the new Government was formed in February.

#### Increasing need for food aid

Latest UN figures anticipating the number of people who will need food aid in 2010 stand at 2.5 million, which some are seeing as positive in light of the seven million people who this year depended on food aid to survive. But William Anderson, Zimbabwe country manager warns that any optimism should be tempered. 'Yet again the UN are going to be providing food aid, now the eighth year in a row and the numbers will undoubtedly exceed the predictions of 2.5 million people,' he says. 'From the perspective of promoting good governance, the state should be providing social welfare and so this is unacceptable.'



Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. - Isaiah 1:17

With my voice I cry to the Lord; with my voice I make supplication to the Lord ... When my spirit is faint, you know my way. - Psalm 142:1-3

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?

We are a group of people joining together one lunch-time a month to study a chapter of the Bible. We do this quite slowly so that we can really get to know just what is in this great book.

For instance, Peter cutting off an ear belonging to one of the guards is probably well known to us. Impetuous Peter, he was ready to take on the whole retinue who had come to the garden. He even cut off an ear but Jesus said "No Fighting!" Did you know it could have been as many as 400? The Temple police, Roman soldiers, police officers from the Sanhedrin etc.

Jesus confronted them openly stating that he was the one they sought.

Most of the disciples escaped using the darkness as cover. John and Peter went with the crowd. John went into the High Priest's house but Peter stayed in the courtyard. Did you know that whilst Peter was in the courtyard warming himself by one of the fires that the person who said "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off.

Most of us were surprised by this as although we must have heard it many times it had not registered. Its these little known snippets contained in the most familiar of stories that make this study interesting. Its not all serious and solemn, but we have laughter and get to know each other better.

Come along and join us. Just bring your lunch and drinks will be supplied. We start about 12 noon and aim to finish by 1.30 pm. We hope to start again on Tuesday, 26th January at 16 Weavers Close. If interested speak to Barbara Dixon.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. - **Isaiah 11:6**

## **Guild Report**

On Tuesday November 24th we welcomed Mr Philip Mann to the Guild. Philip told us of a wonderful time in his life when as a 10 year old boy he and his sister had enjoyed a two week holiday in the country, away from London where they lived. They had stayed at neighbouring houses with children of similar ages and enjoyed all the pleasures of a country life.

Philip has revisited Elsted in West Sussex this year and has written an article for the village magazine recalling his memories. Many thanks to Philip for sharing those memories with us.

Our Christmas Cheer evening on Tuesday 1st December was led by Mary Boon and Gill Taylor. We enjoyed Christmas readings, poems and Carols and once again it seemed the ideal start to the Christmas season. Many thanks to Mary and Gill for arranging the evening and to all who helped in any way.

On Tuesday December 8th the Guild Christmas Devotional was led by Miss Gill Taylor. Gill read the familiar Bible readings leading up to the nativity and poems and other readings related to Mary, the shepherds and the three kings. We also enjoyed some of the traditional Christmas Carols. Many thanks to Gill for arranging our devotional and to Diana for playing for us.

### **January Programme**

5th New Year Party with shared supper at 59 Ann  
Beaumont Way 7—9 pm. Competition – unusual  
Christmas Card.

12th Devotional led by Rev. Jim Dalgleish

19th No Meeting

26th Beetle Drive + Coffee & Biscuits

Meetings at 7.30 on Tuesday evenings in the Community Room unless otherwise stated All Welcome!

## **Church Meeting took place last month:**

We added SENSE and First Responders to our continuing charities, Commitment for Life and Hadleigh Youth Ministries. 5% of our general income is given to these charities.

Progress on the repairs to the Ansell Centre and the possibility of a Stairlift in the Community Room were reported. We are also in the midst of Listed Building approvals for the church plans.

The Monkey Puzzle tree has dropped another branch so representations on the grounds of safety are to be made to Babergh DC that the tree be felled.

Sunday services will be held in the Ansell Centre from Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>. We will return to Church on Palm Sunday.

Jennifer Bennett was unanimously accepted into Membership.

Vision4Life will be looking at prayer and there are plans for groups and activities throughout the year.

The 'Peace is...' Festival raised £800 for charity.

There are plans for a musical outreach in the late spring. Anyone interested should contact Sarah or Simon.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

God does not wait for us to become perfect and in possession of only high, pure thoughts and unmixed motives before [moving] through us. God waits only for the sign of faith.

- Eugenia Price, novelist and activist (1916-1996)

## Christmas Poem

'Twas the night before  
Christmas,  
he lived all alone,  
in a one bedroom house,  
made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the  
chimney,  
with presents to give,  
and to see just who,  
in this home, did live.

I looked all about,  
a strange sight I did see,  
no tinsel, no presents,  
not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,  
just boots filled with sand,  
on the wall hung pictures,  
of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,  
awards of all kinds,  
a sober thought,  
came through my mind.

For this house was different,  
it was dark and dreary,  
I found the home of a soldier,  
once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,  
silent, and alone,

curled up on the floor,  
in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,  
the room in disorder,  
not how I pictured,  
a British soldier.

Was this the hero,  
of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho,  
the floor for a bed?

I realized the families,  
that I saw this night,  
owed their lives to these  
soldiers,  
who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,  
the children would play,  
and grownups would  
celebrate,  
a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom,  
each month of the year,  
because of the soldiers,  
like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder,  
how many lay alone,  
on a cold Christmas eve,  
in a land far from home.

The very thought brought,  
a tear to my eye,  
i dropped to my knees,  
and started to cry.

I kept watch for hours,  
so silent and still,  
and we both shivered,  
from the cold night's chill.

The soldier awakened,  
and i heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry,  
this life is my choice;

I did not want to leave,  
on that cold, dark, night,  
this guardian of honour,  
so willing to fight.

i fight for freedom,  
i don't ask for more,  
my life is my god,  
my country, my corps."

Then the soldier rolled over,  
with a voice soft and pure,  
whispered, "carry on Santa,  
it's Christmas day, all is  
secure.."

the soldier rolled over,  
and drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it,  
I continued to weep.

one look at my watch,  
and i knew he was right.  
Merry Christmas my friend,  
and to all a good night."

This poem was written by a soldier stationed overseas. The following is his request. I think it is reasonable PLEASE. Would you do me the kind favour of sending this to as many people as you can?

Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to all of the service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities.

Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us.

Please, do your small part to plant this small seed.

Merry Christmas to you all

A soft answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.- Proverbs 15:1

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Please support the following ecumenical activities, as you are able and please pray throughout the week for the unity of all Christians.

### **7.00pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Meditation, St Joseph's Church**

A time to quietly reflect on our Christian unity. Led by Philip Mann.

### **10.15am Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Prayer Time, Hadleigh URC**

A short time of united prayer followed by coffee in the Community Room..

### **8.00pm Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Praise & Bible Study, Monks Eleigh URC**

A time of prayer and praise followed by a Bible Study, led by Jim Dalgleish and Brian Findlay.

### **7.30am Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Eucharist, St Mary's**

Morning Prayer and a Eucharistic service are followed by breakfast together.

### **9.30am Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Communion, Kersey Parish Church**

After a Communion service led by Tim and Trish French, there will be time for coffee together.

### **9.25am Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Morning Prayer & Mass, St Joseph's**

Father Michael will lead this ecumenical service and then there will be time for refreshments.

### **7.45pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Prayer, Praise & Fellowship, SA**

Philip Mann will lead this time of worship, which is followed by a shared supper.

### **6.30pm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Joint Service, Elmsett Methodist**

This is our main ecumenical service of the week.

### **9.00am Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Celtic Prayer, Hadleigh URC**

Eric Fisher will lead this final service of the week. Refreshments will be available after the service.



# A-Z of the Old Testament

## B for Bathsheba

Adulteress, mother of Solomon, ancestor of Jesus..... and much more.

### Come and find out

- how God used her, in spite of her failings
- how God can use us, with all our failings.

**When?** - 7.30pm, Monday 18 January

**Where?** - Contact Milly for venue, (827895)

***New members always welcome.***

## Vision 4 Life - Year of Prayer

This monthly group meets on Wednesday 20 January, 7.30pm at 6 Raven Way.

For anyone interested in sharing ideas, discovering different ways to pray and finding out about planned prayer events.

***All welcome*** - contact Milly (827895) for more details.

## **BANNER MAKING**

It seems to be time for some new banners for church and for the Ansell Centre.

In the past a few of us have got together to reflect on ideas and to use whatever skills we have been given - designing, cutting out, glueing, sewing, making tea etc. etc. (You really don't need to be an expert at sewing)

The aim is to beautify our buildings, to glorify God and to encourage others to reflect on the message the banners portray.

If you feel this could be for you, please get in touch for more details. Solange and Milly (827895)

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN JANUARY**

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.00pm Inspired, Church

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Facilities Meeting, Community Room

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Prayer Service, Church

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Film Discussion Group, 6 Raven Way

Thur 7<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Toddler Group, Community Room

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm Scrabble, Community Room

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> 10am Elders' Half Day, Monks Eleigh

7.30pm Sunday Club AGM, Adventurers' Room

8.00pm Badminton, Ansell Centre

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Prayer Service, Church

10.30am Area Partnership Meeting, Stowupland

3.00pm Church Plans Group, 21 Fullers Close

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Churches Together Prayer, Salv' Army

Thur 14<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Toddler Group, Community Room

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm Scrabble, Community Room

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Inspired, Church

**NB. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

**See details elsewhere in the Newsletter.**

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> 10.00am GEAR Meeting, Ministers' Vestry

7.30pm A to Z of the OT, (827895)

8.00pm Badminton, Ansell Centre

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Healing Prayer Service, Church

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Hadleigh Youth Ministries, Salv' Army

7.30pm Vision4Life, 6 Raven Way

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> 9.45am Toddler Group, Community Room

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> 2-4pm Scrabble, Community Room

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm Pastoral Team, 2 Meadows Way  
7.30pm Worship Team, Community Room  
8.00pm Badminton, Ansell Centre  
Tues 26<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Prayer Service, Church  
12 noon Lunch Study Group, 16 Weavers Close  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Bible Study, Whatfield Salvation Army  
8.00pm What do you think?, The George  
Thur 28<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Toddler Group, Community Room  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm Scrabble, Community Room

You must wait and listen for the sound of the genuine that is within you. When you hear it, that will be your voice and the Voice of God.

- Howard Thurman, American author, civil rights leader, and theologian (1899-1981)

Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. - Romans 13:10

Jesus' example was radical. Over and over he tried to tell people to differentiate between tradition and truth – and he called them to follow the truth, which abolishes prejudice.

- Jill Briscoe, Christian author, lecturer, and founder of the magazine Just Between Us

Owe no one anything, except to love one another.

- Romans 13:8

If our lives demonstrate that we are peaceful, humble and trusted, this is recognized by others. If our lives demonstrate something else, that will be noticed too.

- Rosa Parks, civil rights activist (1913-2005)

## **MINISTER**

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## **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  
4, Ash Grove,  
Capel St Mary  
01473 310169

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