

Hadleigh

United Reformed Church

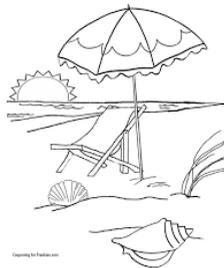
with Monks Eleigh



Monthly Newsletter

August 2017

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



Hadleigh United Reformed Church

2017 Newsletter No. 753

WORSHIP IN HADLEIGH

Sun 6th -- 10:30am – Led by Sara Pells

Sun 13th -- 10:30am – Led Revd Richard Edwards.

Sun 18th -- 10:30am – Led Revd Janice White

Sun 25th -- 10:30am -- Led by Nigel Crisp

Sept 3rd -- 10:30am – Led by Revd Mary Playford

CHURCH MEETING

June's Church Meeting will take the after-church format. So, please come prepared on June 11th to stay on for this important gathering.

MONKS ELEIGH URC

August 27th - 3pm - Speaker TBC

Bryn and the family are away on holiday in Armenia August 7th to 27th. Please pray for safe travels and a refreshing break. Any church concerns should be directed to Nigel (822208) and any pastoral needs to Claire (822850).

Please could you let me have all items for the September 17 Newsletter by **Sunday 20th August**? Email to editor@hadleighurc.org.uk or post to 4 Canterbury Gardens, Hadleigh.



From the Church Secretary

Dear Friends,

As Jesus teaches the people in Matthew's gospel we are told he sent out an invitation saying, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." I was intrigued by how The Message Bible paraphrased Jesus' next statement, "Learn the unforced rhythms of grace." It seemed loaded with possibilities.

Christ Church Sudbury has voted to close in January 2018. So after 300 years or so there will be no longer be an Independent/Congregational/United Reformed Church worshipping presence in that town. There are a number of active denominations in Sudbury and the URC folk there will remain and as Bryn said in Sudbury's July newsletter there is still plenty of 'prophetic' and 'apostolic' ministry ahead for each and everyone your place in God's church is far from over!

But what does that say to us at Hadleigh? Not so much that 25% of Bryn's time becomes unallocated, but more pointing to us to support and make the very best of the precious other 75% apportioned to us at Hadleigh and Monks Eleigh. And as the South Suffolk Area Partnership grapples with the future ministry in Ipswich and East Suffolk, our 75% seems unchallenged at the moment, but remember when the Reverend Jim left in 2013 we did drop from 100%! An ordained URC minister based and living in the town is a tremendous asset that we should cherish and support. The pastoral care open to all spectrums of folk in the pastorate, the prayer opportunities, the Christian ministry as a whole and the being Jesus in the place, are all imperatives for the Minister and the followers of Christ at the URC; each supporting the other. And it is this that should influence the Area Partnership in its recommendations and the Synod in its decision making process. The future relies on you and me!

But what does the voting out of existence of a Church Meeting say, because in the URC that is what church closure is. At Hadleigh we give thanks for our heritage of buildings and recognise our ability to serve the community with them in their secular activities, but then we find ourselves justifying the cause by recognising the financial benefits that allow us to continue to worship and witness without too many money worries. But in turn it is only the existence of us as a worshipping body that allows those community facilities to be there. The salient point is that without the existence of the Hadleigh URC Church Meeting almost certainly our community facilities would be forced to close as the Synod directs the Custodian Trustees to close in.

Now I am not saying we are about to shut up shop, far from it, but what I am saying is that it is our, yours and mine, spiritual vitality, spiritual progression and spiritual whatever, that holds it all together.

I wonder if Jesus' suggestion about learning the unforced rhythms of grace has a secret to hold for us. Grace is that unmerited favour that God give us; we don't have to earn it. But does the term unforced rhythms hold a secret? Does unforced imply relaxing and resting in Jesus, an intimacy to prayer life, a really deep passionate desire to get in personal conversation with God? Find out what he wants from us, perhaps? And does rhythm imply movement, a strong consistent momentum that calls us to respond to grace in a fully committed way; as the rhythm takes us and we are swept along.

And the paraphrase said 'Learn ...'! Does that perhaps say 'go on your ministry with confidence,' supporting each other as you go?

Bryn has been with us two years now, straight from Westminster College and personally I have learnt significantly from him and been challenged in his ministry; ask me and I will tell you how! I hope we have all grown in recent times and I pray we can all continue to grow in the unforced rhythms of God's Grace.

With every blessing. Nigel

Notices

Christmas Child Shoe Box Filling...in AUGUST!

Doreen & Hilary are hoping you can come along & help us to fill shoe-boxes with the various donated items ready for this year's Samaritans Christmas Child Shoebox Project.....yes, in August! We will set up the sorting station at the back of the church on the 7th August in the afternoon ready for folk to get started on packing items into the boxes on **Tuesday 8th August from 10.30am**. Do keep your eyes open for a future date to be announced in a forthcoming newsletter, as we plan on having another opportunity for you to come & join us to fill more boxes. Help us to make the difference to more children of God, who need our support.

Wanted: Master of Cellotape & Wrapping Paper: Are you good at wrapping parcels? Could you help us by covering the empty shoe boxes ready to fill? We would be very delighted! We can provide the wrapping paper for you.

Thank you. Blessings from Doreen 827460 & Hilary 822208

Vision4Life

This is a reminder that there will be no meeting of Vision4Life in August. The meeting on **Thursday 7th September** will include a talk from the Revd. Canon Dr. John Parr on *Imagination in the Gospels*. It will be at 19, The Green at 7.30pm as usual.

Everybody is welcome.

UPDATE ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DISCERNMENT PROCESS

By Revd. Bryn Rickards

What are we voting about?

At the URC's General Assembly in 2016 a resolution was passed that allowed each individual URC congregation to decide whether it wished to register its premises for the marriage of same-sex couples. At our Church Meeting last December, Hadleigh URC with Monks Eleigh decided to take a period of time to discuss, debate and discern God's will for our church on this matter. This was to culminate in a special Church Meeting to vote on the matter.

When and where is it?

Monday 25th September at 7:30pm in the Community Room.

Who can come?

Everybody is welcome to attend the meeting.

What will happen?

There will be an opportunity for people to present their final comments on the matter, a period of prayerful reflection, and the vote itself.

Who can vote?

Although all are welcome to attend and have input into the discussion, only members of Hadleigh URC with Monks Eleigh are eligible to vote.

How will the vote be counted?

Given the sensitivity of the issue, the elders are proposing that the vote be via secret ballot and require a special majority (to be set at the September Church Meeting) in order for a resolution to be passed.

What if a church and minister disagree?

The decision of the church meeting relates to the church premises; it does not create any obligations for a minister either way. Where a church is in favour of same-sex marriage and the minister not, the church can ask another minister to officiate at such a ceremony; where a church is not in favour and the minister is, the minister is free to officiate at such a ceremony on other premises.

What if I disagree with the outcome?

We hope that all would feel able to remain part of the church fellowship at Hadleigh URC with Monks Eleigh regardless of the outcome. One of the strengths of our church is its theological diversity on a range of issues. Where a special majority has been reached, we would ask all to respect the decision and those who made it.

What if a special majority is not reached?

We will take this as a sign that more time and reflection is needed for us to come to a common mind. Another vote will be rescheduled for a future occasion after an appropriate amount of time has elapsed (to be determined by the church meeting).

The elders ask that all church members make every effort to be present at the meeting and take their part in discerning God's will for Hadleigh URC with Monks Eleigh in this matter.

THE GREAT LINE OF 20p PIECES!

We raised £700 towards new curtains for the Ansell Centre!

Thanks to all the groups and individuals who collected 20 pence pieces and brought them to the Ansell Centre on Sunday 25th June. We had enough for a line of coins all the way from the gate in Duke Street to the gate in Market Place – which amounted to £700 in 20 pence coins or 35,000 two pence coins. Thanks also to the TSB bank and their customers for being patient while we paid them in!

The money will go towards the cost of new curtains for the Ansell Centre which is part of a project to upgrade the building. The United Reformed Church (URC) and the Ansell Centre Charity (ACC) are working together to install new lights, ceiling, boiler and curtains. This work will take place during August and we hope all our users will be pleased with the new look when they return in September.



Face to Faith

In this, the fourth article in a regular feature, we ask Jan Dicks, an Elder of Hadleigh United Reformed Church, to share with our fellowship some aspects of her own personal journey of faith.

When did you first encounter the love of God? I was very fortunate to be brought up in a loving, Christian home and I suppose I was aware of God's love surrounding me from birth. I remember one time when I was particularly aware of a "presence" upholding me was when our third child was born and was gravely ill, not expected to survive. I knew that God was surrounding me with his love at that time and, in a way, was suffering alongside me.

What is your favourite OT book and why? I love the Psalms because at a simple level they cover all human emotions. However, they also remind me of my father, who was an Old Testament scholar, and who spent many years studying the Psalms and writing several erudite and (to me) completely incomprehensible books about them. One day I intend to find out more about why he thought the Psalms were so important to our understanding of the New Testament.

What is your favourite NT book and why? I like all the Gospels best, because they tell of the life of Jesus. Of the four gospels, my favourite is Luke. It emphasises Jesus's compassion for the outcasts of society and it is sometimes described as the gospel of the poor and of social justice. It's also the only Gospel to include two of my favourite parables, the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan. In addition, Luke focuses more than the other Gospels on the role women played.

Which saying or action of Jesus resonates most with you and why? This is a hard one! How can I choose just one saying or action as His whole life was such an amazing example of how we should all try to live. However, for the sake of this article I have chosen Matthew 18, vv 21 -22. This is when Jesus tells Peter that he should forgive "seventy times seven times". It is often hard to forgive someone, but I believe it is what we should always try to do – *even if the person who has wronged us does not say sorry*. It took me many years to discover this. I felt resentment towards someone who had hurt me for over ten years telling myself that I need not forgive them as they had not apologised. Then one day for some reason I realised that I did not have to wait for the apology - I could forgive them there and then. That is what I did – and I felt such relief. That is why I believe that to forgive helps the forgiver as much as the forgiven – it frees you from feelings of hurt and anger and gives you peace.

Which painting, novel, film or poetry inspired by Jesus means most to you and why? The poem which means the most to me is "On another's sorrow" by William Blake. It was given to me at the time mentioned above when our youngest daughter nearly died. In it, Blake expresses his belief that God identified with humanity in the person of Jesus Christ and therefore

understands how we feel when we are suffering. Indeed, He suffers alongside us until the grief we feel is eventually overcome.

What is the best aspect of fellowship here at Hadleigh, ME, Sudbury? We are a church which is accepting of a wide variety of theological views where everybody is willing to listen to others and not claim that one interpretation of the Bible is the only correct one.

What aspect are you just itching to see changed and why? I would like to see more passion for social justice, especially by more support for Christian Aid, Commitment for Life and Fair Trade. I would also like us to investigate holding the occasional healing service – not the sort when people come to the front and are supposedly “slain in the spirit”, but a gentle sort of healing service such as the ones which take place at the Iona Community. I think it would be helpful for everyone, especially as life is so hectic these days and we could all benefit from a time of healing prayer.

If you would like to appear in a future Face to Faith, please contact the editor at editor@hadleighurc.org.uk

Prayer Corner

A prayer by Doug Chaplin, used at a recent Pastoral Group Meeting in which we were talking about caring for those with dementia:

God of hope and resurrection,
you know us better than we know ourselves,
and draw us to peace and wholeness in your love.
We remember before you those who are unable
to remember their own lives.
Guard and treasure their lost memories for them,
and hold their past in your safe hands, that when
the death of the body comes, you may bring them to
the full life of the resurrection, restore and heal the memories

of their lives, and give them back to themselves,
that we with them may rejoice in your love, and find the
fullness of life in your presence,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Group thought it would be good if we could all pray this *every Thursday* morning in support of the ACC Memories Cafe.

A Prayer of St Anselm (1093-1109)

O Lord, we bring before you
the distress and dangers of peoples and nations
the pleas of the imprisoned and the captive,
the sorrows of the grief-stricken,
the needs of the refugee,
the impotence of the weak,
the weariness of the despondent,
and the diminishments of the ageing.
O Lord, stay close to all of them. Amen

A Prayer for the Ansell Centre

And here is a prayer you might like to pray through *the month of August* as the renovations to the Ansell Centre take place:

Heavenly Father,
we thank you that the funds have now been gathered together
to enable the Ansell Centre Hall to be refurbished.
We thank you for the skills of those who will be carrying out the work.
We ask you to bless them and the work:
May the work be carried out safely and without injury.
May the user groups be better served once the work has been
completed.
May they grow in fellowship one with another and know your living
presence on our campus. Amen

Scriptural thoughts from a different perspective

Some of our fellowship may subscribe the URC Daily Devotion email service. I've been asked to write a reflection and prayer on **John 7 V1 -13** and I thought folks might care to see my thoughts. For my part, I'd be really interested in your responses

Reflections

As a communist, I and my comrades are frequently criticised by ultra-leftists for being too timid, too reformist and not sounding the rallying cry of immediate revolution at every opportunity.

We answer that we must respond to the material realities of what is happening and what we might be expected to do to move events forward. Heroic defeats are of no use to the working class.

At first reading, this Scriptural passage suggests a similar and major hesitation on the part of Jesus. It sits in the middle of an extended wave of market research conducted by Him as to who folks think He is. In chapter 6, his self-description as the bread of life polarises opinions; Peter gets it but the gospel also reports that many disciples have had enough and walk away.

In the rest of chapter 7, His references to the promise of living water and His references to being the Messiah again produces acceptance, ridicule and anger in equal measure. So it is probably not surprising, from a purely human perspective, that Jesus appears reluctant to go the Temple to celebrate the festival as his followers had urged him.

More baffling, is His subsequent decision to travel to Judea incognito, seemingly sneakily listening in to what the people were saying about His claims. I think what we see here is different concepts of time and hence the Kingdom.

For Jesus' remaining disciples, locked into chronological time, it was all about the now and making great statements in the present, however unprepared people might be to really hear them – and so respond.

For Jesus, divinely inspired, time was measured in terms of creation's proximity to and readiness for the Kingdom. In John 7, we see Jesus acutely aware that his audiences' hearts are by and large far away from the Kingdom and who He really is. More work and words are needed to bring them closer.

We, therefore, must temper our impatience with how slowly God's will seems to us to be working out.

But we mustn't just sit back. Indeed, Jesus's followers continued with their determination to go to the Temple. As VI Lenin wrote "there are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen." All will be fine in God's own time.

Prayer

Lord

Give us the certainty to trust You

When the Kingdom seems as far off as ever

Give us the patience that comes with faith

When others want to charge into Heaven now

Give us the courage to witness to You

When others question Your vaulting love for us

Give us the alacrity of action and thought

When the Kingdom is revealed for an instant!

Paul Simon

Ansell Centre

HOLLYWOOD IN HADLEIGH AT THE ANSELL CENTRE

QUEEN OF KATWE (PG)

Friday 18th August at 7.30 pm

A rags to riches Disney made film – warm hearted and true that traces a Ugandan girl who discovers she has an aptitude for chess and in the film becomes Chess Champion of Katwe. Her life is covered in this true story from her days selling corn on the streets, to the time when she is crowned Chess Queen of Katwe. As feel good stories go, the film has a ring of authenticity that makes this Disney film rather special. Here is a main-stream film set in Arica that is not about conflict, has an entirely black speaking cast and majors on the intellectual achievement of the cast. We hope you will enjoy Queen of Katwe.



Entry to the film is £3.50 and £ 2.50 for an accompanied child. Refreshments will be on sale as usual - coffee, tea, fruit juice and choc ices during a suitable interval.

Services at Care Homes and Sheltered Housing:

Place	Link Person	Usual Monthly Worship
Sydney Brown Court	Jean Herring (823320)	1st.Thursday, 10.30am
Canterbury House	Hilary Griffen (823100)	
Waterfield House	Barbara Robinson ((823261)	
Magdalen House	Jackie Cork (823739) residents	
	David Atkins (822535) day centre	various

Please check day/times with the link person, helpers always welcome.

HADLEIGH - CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

ORGANISATION	TEL	ISSUE
AA National Line	01206 298724 0845 769755	Alcoholics Anonymous
Disability Bureau	231270	Local Support and Claims
Leading Lives	07860798362	Support for Learning disability
Wednesday Lunch Club	01473 823719	Lunches
Friday Lunch Club	01473 808835	Lunches
Samaritans National Line	01473 287727 08457 909090	Life support concerns
Sue Ryder	01787 314200	Hospice/Synergy Cafe
Hadleigh DAA	07979189081	Local dementia support
Alzheimer's Society	0300 222 1122	National Helpline
Benefit Enquiry Line	0800 882 200	Direct Gov UK
Age UK	0800 1696565	Support, advice
Frank National Line	0800 77 66 00	Info about drugs
Parentline	0808 800 2222	Parenting Issues
Domestic Violence	0808 2000 247	Women's Aid
Police Suffolk	101	Non -Emergency Number
Sensing Change	01473 260030	Support for independent living.
Hadleigh Health Centre	01473 822961	Health
NHS 111	111	Non-emergency health issues
Child Helpline	0800 111	Support for children
NSPCC	0808 8005000	Child neglect
Waterfield House	01473 829103	Care Home
Friars Hall	01473 822159	Care Home
Magdalen House	01473 829411	Care Home
Canterbury House	0808 1634680	Care Home
Babergh District Council	01473 826622	Local issues
Disability Living All'nce	0845 7123456	Direct Gov UK benefits
Child Death Helpline	0800 282 986	Support
Gam Care	0845 6000 133	Gambling Issues
National Debt Helpline	0808 808 4000	Debt Issues
Missing People	0500700 700	Missing relative
Cruse Bereavement	0844 4779400	Bereaved People helpline
Elder Abuse Helpline	080 8808 8141	Abuse of older people

Contacts

Minister

Bryn Rickards

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Elders

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Elizabeth Meeks	01473 827318
George Barnes	01787 211716
Jan Dicks	01473 823413
Karen Harman (Asst. Sec)	01473 824765
Linda Stratford	01473 823975
Mervyn Cort	01473 822149
Nigel Crisp (Church Secretary)	01473 822208
Sammy Apraku Mensah	01473 823118
Paul Simon	01473 829171
Ann Swallow	01473 827229
Tom Gordon	07825 641154

Please feel free to contact any of the above at any time of day (or night in case of emergency), if you have any problem that the church may be able to help with.

Sylvia Roberts (Monks Eleigh) 01449 740607

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