

# THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

March 2017



The Magazine of the  
United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

## SUNDAY SERVICES

at 10.30am (every Sunday) & 6.30pm (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
with Holy Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evening  
and on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning of each month

Monthly Midweek Service  
at 10.30am on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

## PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARCH 2017

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Jack Roche MA
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Major Alan Bennett
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Jack Roche MA
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	10.30am	Midweek Service	Rev. Jack Roche
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Robert Dart

## SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR MARCH 2017

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Jean Reeve	Marion Fidell	Marion Fidell
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Heather Brown	Malcolm Brown	Jean Reeve
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Malcolm Brown [Holy Communion]	Ann Purkiss	Kay Watson
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Heather Brown	<i>Volunteer</i>	Janet Wimbledon

## FLOWER ROTA FOR MARCH 2017

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Jean Reeve - in memory of her mother's birthday
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	

### ELDERS' MEETING

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Mar 7.30pm

### CHURCH AGM

Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 12.30pm

### HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS

**Minister:**

Rev. Jack Roche (01268 455194)

**Hon. Secretary:**

Mr Royston Brackin (01702 558862)

**Acting Hon. Treasurer:**

Mr Royston Brackin

**Serving Elders:**

Mr Royston Brackin

Mrs Heather Brown (01702 557678)

Mr Malcolm Brown (01702 557678)

Miss Jean Reeve (01702 554907)

### Useful information

Address: Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, SS7 2DQ  
Website: [www.hadleighessexurc.org.uk](http://www.hadleighessexurc.org.uk)

### An invitation

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

## From the Minister

*“And now he can help those who are tempted (tested) because he, himself, was tempted (tested) and suffered.”*

Hebrews 2:18 (GNB)

Dear friends,

My ‘Holy Land Tour’ was a long time ago now, 1988 to be exact, and the resulting photographs, both my own and bought ones, are colour slides, (ancient technology!) but, like Wordsworth’s Daffodils, I have some ever fresh mental images.

One of these is ‘The Mount of the Temptation’ that overlooks the excavated ruins of ancient Jericho, which is the traditional location of Jesus’ baptism, just before the River Jordan flows into the Dead Sea. There we watched a French Greek Orthodox party conducting baptisms before driving through the modern city, passing on the way a huge, ancient sycamore tree, which may, or may not, be the very one climbed by Zacchaeus.

Finally, standing by the ruins of a large city with massive walls, we had a dramatic view of a barren, rocky mountain, where the only sign of life was a Greek Orthodox monastery that has clung to its summit for many centuries. Even this evidence of human habitation is deceptive; a façade in front of caves that accommodate the resident monks whose endurance and self-denial forms an all embracing, lifelong commemoration of Jesus’ temptation.

I had always imagined the location of the Temptations as some remote, desert place, an assumption that was immediately challenged by the close proximity of the mountain to ‘civilisation’ in the form of the fertile plains of the Jordan, which gave Jericho its ancient title ‘City of palms’. Then it occurred to me that temptation is that much harder to resist when the ‘forbidden fruit’ is there, within easy reach.

The little luxury that might represent our self-denial ‘for Lent’ may be challenged at every turn

in the shops, on the advertising posters and in every TV commercial break. So why bother with Lent, who notices, what difference does it make?

One answer is solidarity – with the hungry, deprived millions of our world. The amount of deprivation that we impose on ourselves is a matter of personal choice but it is an acknowledgement of our comparative opulence that we can do it without significant effect on our well being.

Then it can be a positive health benefit – if we drop something that we are really better off without and the temporary deprivation becomes a permanent lifestyle choice.

Finally, it introduces the highly unfashionable idea of discipline! Anything in our lives to which we can’t say “no” needs to be brought to heel. Just the fact of thinking “I can, so why shouldn’t I” and capping it with “because I won’t” is a very significant personal victory.

But Lent is far more than an exercise in willpower or a self-improvement course; it is a Spiritual journey which we can pursue in our own private way, or in fellowship with others in the usual Churches Together Lent Course.

Lent is following Jesus; through the temptation of a safe, easy life, fame and popularity and on the lonely road to Jerusalem and the Cross. He died for us so that we could live for him and it isn’t asking much of us in the intervening weeks to put ourselves out a little in recognition of it!

Your friend and Minister,

*Jack*



## From the Bible

‘Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?’

Matthew 14:25-33 (NIV)

## From the Editor

Welcome to the March 2017 edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

I have spent more time in February at the Echo newspaper offices in Basildon retrieving photos and cuttings relating to Hadleigh and Thundersley from their archive room. As mentioned last month, the Echo are about to move out of their existing offices and no longer require their archive of printed photos and cuttings. I will be showing a few of the photos that I have retrieved in a slideshow after the Wives' Fellowship AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation towards the cost of printing the magazine in 2017. The suggested donation is £5.00 plus any

postage (55p for 2<sup>nd</sup> class) and donations can be given to either me or Heather.

I would also like to thank all the kind folk who have been donating items over recent months to sell on the bric-a-brac table in aid of Christian Aid at the coffee morning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. More donations would be welcomed but it would also be nice to see a few more people at the coffee morning.

We are one of the few churches in the local area to have a weekly coffee morning, which provides a regular opportunity to have a cuppa and a chat with friendly natives. Do tell your friends and neighbours about it.

*Malcolm Brown*

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## Signs you're getting on a bit

- Your back hurts;
- You eat food past its sell-by date;
- Your carpet is patterned;
- You can spell;
- You hang your clothes on padded coat hangers;
- You save the hearing aid flyer that falls out of the colour supplement;
- You try to get electrical gadgets repaired when they go wrong;
- You save the little packets of sugar from cafés;
- You have worn a knitted swimsuit;
- When you watch black and white films you spend the whole time pointing at the screen saying, 'He's dead... She's dead...';
- Your car stereo is tuned to Radio 2.

*Colin Slater*

Editor's note: I wonder if readers can come up with some other signs?

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## Bible Incomplete puzzle

Fill in the missing letters to complete the passage from the bible. The solution will be revealed in next month's magazine.

R\_j\_i\_e \_v\_r\_o\_e. \_r\_y w\_t\_o\_t \_e\_s\_n\_. I\_  
e\_e\_y\_h\_n\_g\_v\_ t\_a\_k\_: f\_r \_h\_s \_s \_h\_  
w\_l\_ o\_ G\_d \_n\_ h\_i\_t \_e\_u\_ c\_n\_e\_n\_n\_ y\_u.

From [www.bible-puzzles.com](http://www.bible-puzzles.com)

## Wives' Fellowship Programme for March 2017

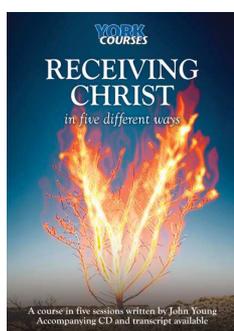
Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.30pm	Annual General Meeting followed by a slideshow of 'Images from the Echo archive' by Malcolm Brown

Meetings are held in the Small Hall with refreshments served at the end.

Entrance £2.00 – first time free

Small coins collected for Rayleigh, Rochford & Castle Point  
Talking Newspapers for the Blind

## Churches Together Lent Course



The Churches Together Lent Course for 2017 will comprise five sessions based on the York Course 'Receiving Christ', written by Canon John Young.

'To all who received him ... he gave power to become children of God.' (John 1.12.)

This raises big questions. Aren't we all children of God anyway? Just how can we receive Christ? And what does it mean to have 'a relationship with God'?

Canon Young teases out from the New Testament different ways in which we receive Christ. The course booklet is supplemented by a CD with contributions by four leading Christians, from a variety of backgrounds; together they demonstrate that St John's theology has very practical implications for our day-to-day lives. The participants on the course CD are the Rt Rev. Nick Baines (Bishop of Leeds), Margaret Sentamu, Rev. Dr Ken Howcroft (former President of Methodist Conference) and Theodora Hawksley (Roman Catholic theologian).

The dates, locations, titles and bible references for the five sessions are as follows:

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Mar – Methodist Church – As Children of God – John 1: 1-14**

**Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Mar – SA Hadleigh Temple – In the Stranger and the Needy – James 2:1-4; 14-17**

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Mar – URC – In Holy Communion – 1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

**Thu 30<sup>th</sup> Mar – SA Hadleigh Temple – Through Prayer and Fellowship – 1 Peter 5:1-11**

**Tue 4<sup>th</sup> Apr – St James the Less Church – 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' – Revelation 21:1-5**

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

*Malcolm Brown*

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## 'Chanteuses' In Concert – Sat 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

'Chanteuses' are a recently formed female choir who will be holding a concert at the church on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Their musical director is Pauline Curtis and their accompanist is none other than Kay Duell.

Kay will be known to many readers as the musical director and accompanist for the Ever Green Singers, who practice at our church on Monday mornings and give occasional performances here. (Pauline was also associated with the Ever Green Singers at one time.). Kay is a very popular lady as she has also recently been appointed as the accompanist for the Leigh Orpheus Choir!

Tickets for the concert are priced at £8.00 (concessions £6.00) and may be ordered in advance by phoning 01702 5489931 or you can pay at the door if seats are available.

*Malcolm Brown*

# WHAT'S ON

## A round-up of future events in the area

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Mon 6 Mar 2017	- Benfleet & District Historical Society Illustrated Talk on 'The 17 <sup>th</sup> Century Housewife' by Ann Hardy. At Richmond Hall, off Richmond Avenue, Benfleet. Starts at 8.00pm. Visitors welcome - admission £2.00.
Wed 8 Mar 2017	- Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath from 10.00am to 11.45am.
Fri 10 Mar 2017	- Do you enjoy having a chat and crafting? If so, come and join Castle Crafters at Hadleigh Library from 1.00pm to 2.30pm (every Fri).
Sat 11 Mar 2017	- Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church. 10.00am to 12 noon
	ditto - Local Councillors Surgery at Hadleigh Old Fire Station from 10.00am to 12 noon. Ask questions of Hadleigh and Daws Heath councillors.
	ditto - Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-In at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon.
	ditto - Slideshow and Talk on 'Thundersley & Daws Heath' by Bob Delderfield at St Michael's Church Hall, Daws Heath from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Tickets £5.00, incl. tea and biscuits. To book, phone 01702 555573.
	ditto - Last Night Of The Proms Concert in aid of Castle Point Mayor's Charity at Hadleigh SA Temple. Doors open 5.30pm for 6.00pm start. Tickets £5.00, available from the Temple reception. Refreshments available.
Thu 16 Mar 2017	- Poetry Reading Group Meeting (subject John Betjeman) at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome.
	ditto - Hadleigh Gardening Association Talk on 'Hyde Hall - Past, Present & Future' by Robert Brett (RHS) at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Meet from 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Members £1.50, Non-members £2.00.
Sat 18 Mar 2017	- Hadleigh Heritage Centre Talk on 'The Salvation Army Hadleigh Farm' by Graham Cook at St James the Less Church. From 10.30am - 12 noon.
Mon 20 Mar 2017	- CAVS Ways To Wellness drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Aims to improve your health and wellbeing by linking you to community activities and opportunities. No appointment necessary.
Sat 25 Mar 2017	- Chess at St James the Less in St James the Less Church Vestry from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. Chess Master or Beginner? Come along to the Chess Club at St James the Less. Tuition available.
	ditto - 'Chanteuses' In Concert here at Hadleigh URC. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £8.00 (conc. £6.00) incl. refreshments. To book, phone 01702 548931 or pay atd. Leader ~ Pauline Curtis. Accompanist: ~ Kay Duell.
Sat 1 Apr 2017	- Hadleigh Gardening Association Spring Show at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Viewing from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Admission £1.00.
Sat 15 Apr 2017	- Hadleigh Heritage Centre Coffee Morning at St James the Less Church with the theme of 'Wartime Hadleigh'. From 10.30am to 12 noon. If you have any memorabilia that could be displayed at the coffee morning then please contact Beryl Haisman-Baker on 01702 553879.
Sat 29 Apr 2017	- Variety Concert with Fish & Chips Supper at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Starts at 6.30pm. Tickets £10.00 - phone 01702 551786.

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

# Castle Point Bible Society Action Group



**Bible  
Society**

Members of the Castle Point Bible Society Action Group held their annual committee meeting in February. Our Secretary/Treasurer, Mrs Janice Phillips, reported that she had sent £570 to the Bible Society as a result of fundraising over the past year.

A delightful, young lady named Rachel, travelled from Reading to represent Bible Society headquarters and we were very pleased to welcome her. Rachel reported that the Bible Society's latest project in Africa is to confront the problem of witchcraft. She also explained the six ways in which the Bible Society is helping young people in Africa to build their future.

**1. Teaching about love and compassion** – We're using the parable of the Good Samaritan to teach children about love, respect and compassion. Vulnerable and lacking in opportunities many young people join gangs but through this parable they're discovering a different way to live.

**2. Setting up Sunday schools** – Child-headed households are common — and on the rise in Swaziland. We're helping churches run Sunday schools, providing children with the care and guidance they need, and chance to hear the good news of the Bible.

**3. Inspiring confidence through creative arts** – Unemployment is devastating the hopes of young people in Malawi so we're inspiring them through discipleship training and drama groups, giving them more confidence and skills for their future and deepening their passion for the Bible.

**4. Fighting the isolation of deaf children** – In Swaziland, deaf children are often marginalised and miss out on access to services other children enjoy. We're standing alongside these children, teaching churches to better minister to deaf children and providing Bible stories in sign language.

**5. Challenging the shame over blindness** – Blindness is seen as a curse in Uganda where many blind children are kept at home out of shame. We're providing libraries and schools with braille Bibles so that these children don't miss out on an education or reading the Bible.

**6. Giving Bibles** – The Bible is a luxury which few can afford so we're giving them out to young people across Africa and helping them discover what the Bible says about truth, justice, reconciliation and hope.

Please continue to support the vital work undertaken by the Bible Society. Details of future events will appear in the Hadleigh Messenger

*Vera Knapton*

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## Bible quotes

- “Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face.” – *Ronald Reagan*
- “I look upon all four Gospels as thoroughly genuine, for there shines forth from them the reflected splendour of a sublimity proceeding from Jesus Christ.” – *Goethe*
- “A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.” – *Charles Haddon Spurgeon*
- “All Scripture is God-breathed and He doesn't waste His breath.” – *Jim McCotter*
- “Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.” – *Mark Twain*
- “You may as well quit reading and hearing the Word of God, and give it to the devil, if you do not desire to live according to it.” – *Martin Luther*
- “I think the greatest weakness in the church today is that almost no one believes that God invests His power in the Bible. Everyone is looking for power in a program, in a methodology, in a technique, in anything and everything but that in which God has placed it – His Word. He alone has the power to change lives for eternity, and that power is focused on the Scriptures.” – *R.C. Sproul, The Prayer of the Lord*

## 'Stella's Birthday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 1727'

Jonathan Swift (1667 – 1745), author of *Gulliver's Travels*, wrote birthday letters in the form of poems to his friend, Esther Johnson, whom he called Stella, whose birthday was on 13<sup>th</sup> March. (Some believe that he may have secretly married Stella.) This was the last such poem, written a few weeks before he left Ireland for a visit to England. Stella's health, already poor, continued to deteriorate during Swift's absence. When he returned to Dublin in October, she was clearly dying. This moving tribute was published two month's after Stella's death on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1728.

This day, whate'er the Fates decree,  
Shall still be kept with joy by me:  
This day then let us not be told,  
That you are sick, and I grown old;  
Nor think on our approaching ills,  
And talk of spectacles and pills.  
To-morrow will be time enough  
To hear such mortifying stuff.  
Yet, since from reason may be brought  
A better and more pleasing thought,  
Which can, in spite of all decays,  
Support a few remaining days:  
From not the gravest of divines  
Accept for once some serious lines.

Although we now can form no more  
Long schemes of life, as heretofore;  
Yet you, while time is running fast,  
Can look with joy on what is past.

Were future happiness and pain  
A mere contrivance of the brain,  
As atheists argue, to entice  
And fit their proselytes for vice;  
(The only comfort they propose,  
To have companions in their woes;)   
Grant this the case; yet sure 'tis hard  
That virtue, styl'd its own reward,  
And by all sages understood  
To be the chief of human good,  
Should, acting, die, nor leave behind  
Some lasting pleasure in the mind;  
Which by remembrance will assuage  
Grief, sickness, poverty, and age;  
And strongly shoot a radiant dart  
To shine through life's declining part.

Say, Stella, feel you no content,  
Reflecting on a life well spent?  
Your skilful hand employ'd to save  
Despairing wretches from the grave;  
And then supporting with your store  
Those whom you dragg'd from death before?  
So Providence on mortals waits,  
Preserving what it first creates.  
Your gen'rous boldness to defend  
An innocent and absent friend;

That courage which can make you just  
To merit humbled in the dust;  
The detestation you express  
For vice in all its glitt'ring dress;  
That patience under torturing pain,  
Where stubborn stoics would complain;  
Must these like empty shadows pass,  
Or forms reflected from a glass?  
Or mere chimæras in the mind,  
That fly, and leave no marks behind?  
Does not the body thrive and grow  
By food of twenty years ago?  
And, had it not been still supplied,  
It must a thousand times have died.  
Then who with reason can maintain  
That no effects of food remain?  
And is not virtue in mankind  
The nutriment that feeds the mind;  
Upheld by each good action past,  
And still continued by the last?  
Then, who with reason can pretend  
That all effects of virtue end?

Believe me, Stella, when you show  
That true contempt for things below,  
Nor prize your life for other ends,  
Than merely to oblige your friends;  
Your former actions claim their part,  
And join to fortify your heart.  
For Virtue, in her daily race,  
Like Janus, bears a double face;  
Looks back with joy where she has gone  
And therefore goes with courage on:  
She at your sickly couch will wait,  
And guide you to a better state.

O then, whatever Heav'n intends,  
Take pity on your pitying friends!  
Nor let your ills affect your mind,  
To fancy they can be unkind.  
Me, surely me, you ought to spare,  
Who gladly would your suff'rings share;  
Or give my scrap of life to you,  
And think it far beneath your due;  
You, to whose care so oft I owe  
That I'm alive to tell you so.

*Jonathon Swift*

## Visit by the Princess Royal to Southend Citizens' Advice

Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne visited Chelmsford, Basildon and Southend on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February in her role as Patron of Citizens' Advice (previously known as the Citizens' Advice Bureau).

Princess Anne last came to the Southend office on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2003 to view the premises – at 1 Church Road (near The Royals shopping centre) – and to present Colin with a scroll commemorating his 30 years of service with the organisation.

On this visit, Her Royal Highness first went to Chelmsford and then Basildon to see their premises, and she then came on to the Southend office to formally open the recently refurbished Reception Area, which is now a much lighter, open and more user friendly place for everyone. Unfortunately, due to it being a bit breezy (prior to Storm "Doris"), she could not come by helicopter so a 'Blue Run' by car with police escort was the solution.

The manager of Southend Citizens' Advice office, Trish Carpenter, kindly invited me to be present, together with more than 60 people, including staff, volunteers, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, The Mayor of Southend, and local MP, David Amess.

It was a lovely, friendly occasion and everyone was presented to Princess Anne in groups. She shook hands with all and spoke to them in some detail in a very relaxing and open way; she really seemed to be interested in what we were all doing. I mentioned to her that it was 14 years since we had last met and I have to say that she did seem to remember that occasion – not surprisingly, knowing Colin and his somewhat unique personality.

The afternoon ended with Princess Anne cutting the special cake to mark the formal opening of the Reception Area and she was presented with a lovely posy of flowers in the Citizens' Advice colours, which she quickly noted and appreciated.

*Pamela George*

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## Word Search – In the Kitchen

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

Find the following words:

SINK  
GRILL  
REFRIDGERATOR  
BOWL  
KNIFE  
KETTLE  
BIN  
WASHING MACHINE  
OVEN  
FRYING PAN  
CUP  
SPOON  
TEAPOT  
DISHWASHER  
MICROWAVE  
SAUCEPAN  
MUG  
TEA TOWEL  
CUPBOARD  
COOKER  
FREEZER  
PLATE  
FORK  
TOASTER  
LARDER

## Prayer Reflection

Lent is a period in which the idea of Temptation is prominent, recalling that immediately after Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, he was led by (Luke 4:1) – driven by (Mark 1:12) – the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. Note: led by the Holy Spirit to BE tempted, not tempted BY the Holy Spirit. In the Lords Prayer, we are asking God to spare us from being so led. We are assured that God tempts no one (James 1:13).

In modern usage, 'temptation' is entirely understood as an urge to do something that we know to be wrong or against our professed principles and, as a product brand name, suggests something exciting and therefore enjoyable.

As often, meanings are determined by the 17<sup>th</sup> Century understanding of the King James Bible. 'Temptation' is a translation of a word that is more accurately represented by 'testing' and derived from the word for 'fire'. Accordingly, some more modern translations go for 'hard

testing' even 'fiery ordeal' (RSV), as precious metal is tested by fire (1 Peter 1:7 and 4:12 GNB). A far cry from the casual, somewhat jokey current sense!

We can only read with awe of what that meant for Christians at that time and find it difficult to take in that it is still the experience of many Christians today. Barnabas Fund constantly reminds us of this and of the fact that special Christian occasions such as Christmas, Holy Week and Easter often attract specific hostility and risk of actual violence. This Lent, remember them in prayer and be humbled by the depth and strength of their faith.

As part of a monthly prayer rota for our congregation and wider fellowship, please pray for Colin Melliush and family, Jean Imbush, Irene Harrington and Ann, Nichola and Adam Purkiss.

*Rev. Jack Roche*

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## Prayer for Lent

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
and a generosity of service  
that gives without counting cost.  
A life overflowing with Grace  
poured out from the One  
who gave everything,  
that we might show  
the power of love  
to a broken world,  
and share the truth  
from a living Word.

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,  
and a yearning to share it. *Amen*

From [www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)

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## From the Moderator's Blog

**“For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful”**

An anonymous moderator of southerly disposition was overheard saying this prayer before breakfast. I asked if this was a prayer for the food to be eaten or for the day ahead to be lived in. As she selected the latter, this got me thinking whether we begin each day in thankful spirit for what lies before us, and do we offer those thanks to God in prayer. And does it depend whether we are looking forward to recreation and reflection, or just think we might escape the day without pain or struggle. But what if we know we face hard and testing hours, or our health is failing us?

For some weeks now I have suffered from ear infections. I find it embarrassing even to mention them, as they certainly haven't been life and death illness, nor have they been totally debilitating – so I am certainly not seeking any sympathy. But they have got me down – I suppose normally I am like a bouncy castle full of energy and enthusiasm. Well that castle has been breached and then deflated! The constant ear-ache, totally frustrating loss of hearing and the triggering of labyrinthitis has tired me out. However, I feel as though God has given me a glimpse, just a glimpse of what it must feel like to live with a chronic illness. It has given me deeper empathy and understanding, but I still cannot appreciate the level of incapacity and the anguish of spirit there must be, when senses are impaired, mobility limited, or being in constant

pain, the mind befuddled and forever tired. Yet how many people I know who have a diagnosed chronic illness, and yet have managed to find strategies of coping, and ways of overcoming pain, despair and weakness, to make amazing contributions to their families and world. Should this shame me and make me feel guilty or plain pathetic, when I am not coping with minor complaints. I don't think so, because that would lead me ever deeper into the cave of solitude to escape. No, I am inspired by these folk, everyday heroes, inspired to find that same inner strength.

And where does my help come from? Hear the echo of the psalmist, even in the valley of the deepest shadow – “my help comes from the Lord” (Psalm 121). And how can we pull upon that strength? Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (New Revised Standard Version) – “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I think my colleague was living that promise with her simple breakfast prayer:

**“For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful”**

In Christ's love,

*Kevin Watson*

Posted on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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### Haverhill 1640-1890 (extract)



Adrift on Time's returnless tide,  
As waves that follow waves, we glide.  
God grant we leave upon the shore  
Some waif of good it lacked before;  
Some seed, or flower, or plant of worth,  
Some added beauty to the earth;  
Some larger hope, some thought to make  
The sad world happier for its sake.

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)*

Submitted by Jean Hodges

# Family News

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## Computer Corner

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### **Windows 10 delete confirmation**

#### **Useful tip**

Having moved to a new Windows 10 computer in December, I realised recently that Irfanview - my preferred image viewing program – was no longer displaying a delete file confirmation dialogue when I deleted an image. A quick Google search revealed that, by default, Windows 10 does not display this dialogue.

To enable the display of the delete confirmation dialogue, right-click on the Recycle Bin desktop icon and select 'Properties'. The last item in the Properties box is a check box for 'Display delete confirmation dialog'. I would recommend that this check box is selected to prevent inadvertent deletion of files.

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### **University of Adelaide e-books**

#### **Interesting website**

The University of Adelaide has an interesting collection of e-books that may be downloaded for reading on a Kindle or other e-reader or viewed online. The content may be hosted on the university website or on a third-party website such as the Project Gutenberg site. The collection can be searched in the usual way or browsed by title, author or category. All the books are in the public domain (out of copyright) so do not include modern books.

URL: <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au>

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### **Mp3tag**

#### **Free software**

I last recommended Mp3tag in December 2008 so I think it's worth mentioning again! Mp3tag is a powerful and easy-to-use tool to edit metadata (tags) in audio files. It supports batch tag-editing of tags for multiple files at once covering a variety of audio formats. You can rename files based on the tag information, replace characters or words in tags and filenames, import/export tag information, create playlists and more.

Download from: <http://www.mp3tag.de/en>

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## Appreciating Church

How can local churches, congregations and communities use their strengths to spark transformation and growth? That is the question



at the heart of a new Appreciating Church website and book written by Fiona Thomas, URC Secretary of Education and Learning, and Tim Slack, founder and co-director of the Appreciating People organisation. They worked

as part of a group of Appreciative Inquiry (AI) practitioners drawn from ecumenical partners, advised and supported by Appreciating People.)

Launched in London (9<sup>th</sup> February) and Liverpool (20<sup>th</sup> February), the resources draw together – for the first time – the ways in which a range of denominations are using the process of AI to draw on the strengths and energies of local church communities as the catalyst for transformation.

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) begins by identifying the positive core of an organisation and builds from there. Appreciating Church is designed to be a user-friendly, accessible and practical resource with theological underpinning and pointers for worship, integrated with AI theory and practice. It includes case studies from UK churches which have used AI, among them the United Reformed Church, Methodist Church, Quakers, Congregational Federation and the Liverpool Diocese of the Church of England.

Speaking at the London launch in the chapel at Methodist Central Hall, Fiona Thomas said, ‘All churches do something really well, and they all

have great strengths, however small; Appreciating Church starts by discovering these and building from there. It also takes seriously the life-giving force of the Holy Spirit and the possibility of newness coming from surprising places when a church draws on its strengths.’

Tim Slack – the son of the Revd Kenneth Slack, an early leader within the United Reformed Church – added, ‘The aim is to create a self-sustaining community of AI practice across the Churches and so much has already happened. The Quakers have been using AI for about 10 years, and the Methodists and the Congregational Federation have also made a particular impact in supporting this. The book and website are part of that ongoing story and training process.’

Appreciating Church, and its accompanying website offering supplementary exercises and content, come as a resource for existing and aspiring AI practitioners within churches and the communities connected with them. Appreciating Church will be applicable throughout the UK and there has already been interest from churches and church-based organisations in other English speaking countries. The practical examples in the book include community involvement by a Pentecostal church in Manchester, and the work of St Bride’s, Liverpool with its commitment to being creative, progressive and inclusive.

Published by Wordscapes, the 120-page book features Appreciative Inquiry practitioners from a wide variety of churches drawing from diverse theological sources. It is available now (£16) from the URC bookstore.

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## Have your say on the future of General Assembly

The General Assembly task group has been asked to bring to General Assembly 2018 proposals for running the General Assembly from 2020 to 2030. To do this it needs to consult widely and so it has devised a short online survey. The direct link to the survey, which closes at 12 noon on 28<sup>th</sup> April, is here: <http://bit.ly/gasurvey2017>.

Rev. John Proctor, URC General Secretary says: ‘General Assembly is the URC’s main governing body. We want to run it as helpfully as possible. Sometimes we ask too much of it: to meet frequently, with a lot of people present and plenty of time to do business properly, in a good venue with modern presentation facilities, and all without our having to spend too much money on it all. There is no perfect solution. But we ought to make the best plans we can – and we are seeking your help to shape General Assembly for the next ten years.’

## CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH 2017

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning - refreshments served until 11.45am
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Rev. Jack Roche MA Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon 12 noon - 1.30pm	Coffee Morning - refreshments served until 11.45am LifeBuilders and prayer time - starting with packed lunch
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING (postponed two days)
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service – Major Alan Bennett
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am - 11.00am 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives Fellowship AGM & Slideshow of 'Images from the Echo archive' by Malcolm Brown
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac table for Christian Aid CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Jack Roche MA
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Monthly Midweek Service – Rev. Jack Roche
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Robert Dart
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning - refreshments served until 11.45am

### The Ides of March (from Wikipedia)

The Ides of March is a day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to 15<sup>th</sup> March. It was marked by religious observances and became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC.

Although March (*Martius*) was the third month of the Julian calendar, in the oldest Roman calendar it was the first month of the year. The Romans didn't number days of a month sequentially from the first through to the last. Instead, they counted back from three fixed points of the month: the Nones (5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>, depending on the length of the month), the Ides (13<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>), and the Kalends (1<sup>st</sup> of the following month). The Ides occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup> for most months, but on the 15<sup>th</sup> for March, May, July, and October. The Ides were supposed to be determined by the full moon, reflecting the lunar origin of the Roman calendar. On the earliest calendar, the Ides of March would have been the first full moon of the new year.

The Ides of each month were sacred to Jupiter, the Romans' supreme deity. Jupiter's high priest, the *Flamen Dialis*, led the 'Ides sheep' in procession along the Via Sacra to the arx, where it was sacrificed. The Ides of March was also the occasion of the Feast of Anna Perenna, a goddess of the year whose festival originally concluded the ceremonies of the new year. The day was enthusiastically celebrated among the common people with picnics, drinking, and revelry.