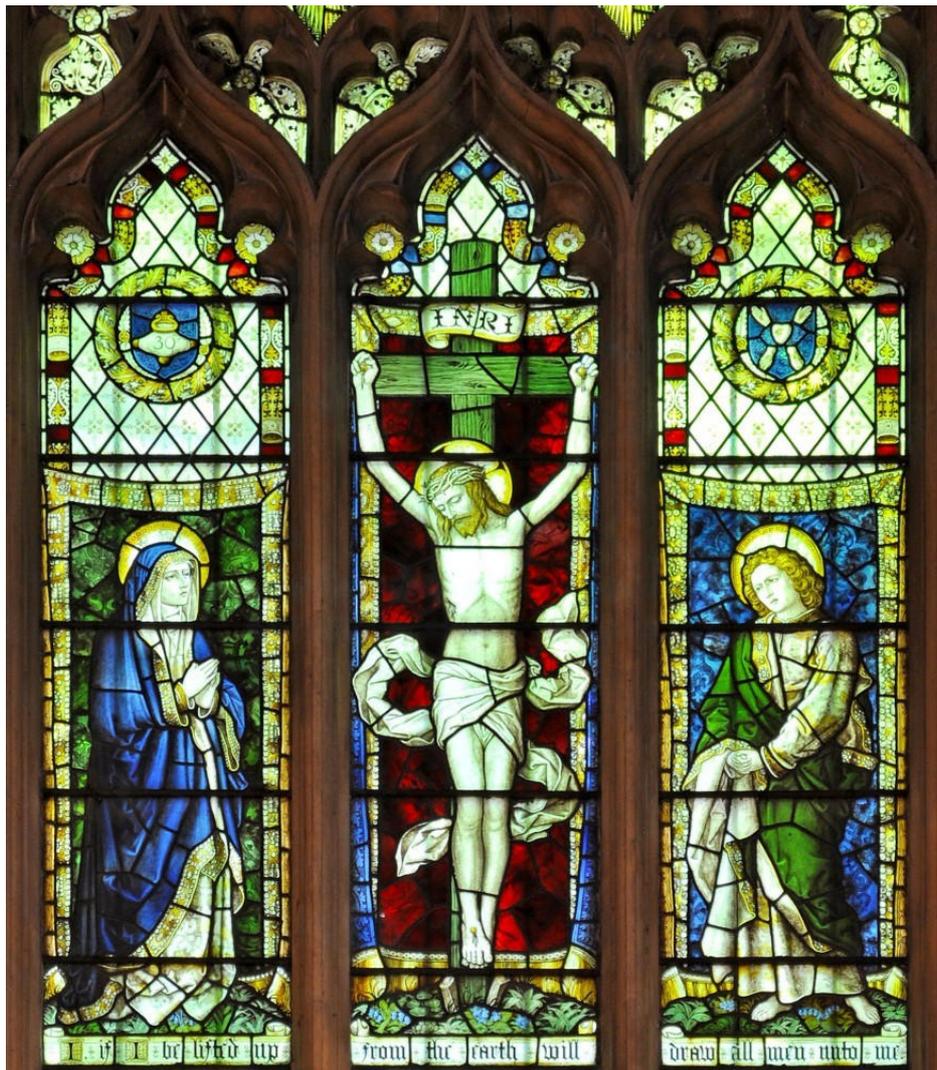


THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

March 2018



Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."
When he had said this, he breathed his last - Luke 23:46 (NIV)

The Magazine of the
United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARCH 2018

Sun 4 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr John Amos
	6.30pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion	Mr Jim Clubb with Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 11 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Jim Clubb
Sun 18 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Mrs Joyce Berry
Thu 22 nd Mar	10.30am	Midweek Service	Mr Jim Clubb
Sun 25 th Mar	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr Dave Bigmore

SUNDAY MORNING DUTY ROTAS FOR MARCH 2018

	ELDER	STEWARD	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 4 th Mar	Heather Brown	Marion Fidell	Marion Fidell
Sun 11 th Mar	Malcolm Brown	Ann Purkiss	Jean Reeve
Sun 18 th Mar	Jean Reeve [Holy Communion]	June Gargrave	Kay Watson
Sun 25 th Mar	Heather Brown	Janet Wimbleton	Janet Wimbleton

FLOWER ROTA FOR MARCH 2018

Sun 4 th Mar	Jean Reeve - in memory of her mother's birthday
Sun 11 th Mar	
Sun 18 th Mar	
Sun 25 th Mar	

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 14th Mar 7.30pm

CHURCH AGM

Thu 22nd Mar 12.30pm

HADLEIGH URC OFFICERS

Minister:

Vacancy

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

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.

Approaching Easter

It is easily forgotten that at the death of Jesus the disciples lost a friend as well as a master. Our lord anticipated their sense of loss and tried to prepare for this happening. Jesus said to his disciples: 'let not your heart be troubled;' we might put it in modern terms as, 'do not be afraid'.

We talk about the hereafter as the mystery of our faith and so it is in that we would like to know a great deal about it and yet we know very little. He saw it all; he knew what was beyond; he saw it, he heard it, but he also knew we would not be able to do that.

But the disciples were in the same situation as we are. They did not understand where Jesus was going and what kind of future condition he would be in, any more than we do. But he did not leave it there. He knew they did not understand. He knew they would not be able to understand but, instead, he asked for their trust and he asks for our trust.

Instead of trying to explain it to them he left them with something else. He said: 'In my father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you.' This was not an explanation but it was instead a Promise. Jesus

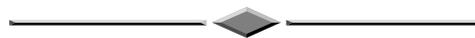
asks us to trust him. Jesus was saying that he would not deceive them.

If there was not to be a future state then he would be honest about it and tell them. But, instead, he assured them that there was a future state. All of the followers of Jesus are given this promise. The mystery is still there but it is accompanied by a promise. A future life exists.

When we are faced with death, especially of those we know well, there is always a terrible sense of separation. Christ understands this. He said to his mother from the cross: 'woman there is your son,' and to his favourite disciple: 'son there is your mother.' But Christ has given us a promise that the separation that comes with death, terrible though it is, it will not be final.

What should guide us all in such times is that in the heart of the Son of God there is a sincerity which cannot be doubted: 'If it were not so I would have told you.' From the heart of the Son of God comes a promise that death is not the end and in such a heart there is found total and complete sincerity. That is our comfort in times of bereavement.

Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant



From the Bible

Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, 'We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!'

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him. 'What is it you want?' he asked.

She said, 'Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.'

'You don't know what you are asking,' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?'

'We can,' they answered.

Jesus said to them, 'You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Matthew 20:17-28 (NIV)

From the Editor

Welcome to the March edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

This is a slimmer edition than usual owing to a lack of sizeable contributions but I have finally got round to creating an article based on reports in the Southend Standard about the beginnings of Hadleigh Congregational Church, as our church was known then. Marion Fidell occasionally gives me items that she has saved from other publications and I have used one such item below. I am also grateful to Rev. Jim Tarrant for kindly offering to contribute occasional articles, including a reflection in this month's magazine entitled 'Approaching Easter'.

It is evident from the list of preachers in March just how much Jim Clubb does for our church. He is preaching on three occasions this month – the evening service on the first Sunday, a Sunday morning service a week later and then at the

Midweek Service. I don't wish to embarrass him but words cannot really express our gratitude for his support and for all he does for us in the name of the Lord, particularly at a time when we have no minister.

Thank you to all who have given me a donation towards the cost of producing this year's magazines since I mentioned it in last month's magazine. The donations help to ensure that we can continue without adverts, unlike many magazines and newsletters.

For those who like to know such things, the stained glass image on the front of the magazine comes from St. Aldhelm's Church in Branksome, Poole. It depicts Jesus on the Cross with the Virgin Mary and St John. The window was made by Burlison and Grylls in 1911.

Malcolm Brown



A sandwich for supper

There is a story of a man who went to the office every day in his expensive car. He made important decisions and signed big contracts. Often this important man would enjoy business lunches with his clients, and would sit in an area where he wouldn't be distracted by the beggars on the streets of the city he was so proud of.

Every evening after a hard day at the office making lots of money, he would pack his briefcase to go home, where a lovely supper would be waiting for him. As he was locking his desk drawer for the night, he noticed a stale sandwich that he had forgotten about. It smelt a bit and had mould forming around the crust of the bread. Without much thought he placed it in his jacket pocket and thought I'll dispose of it later.

On the way to his expensive car he saw a street beggar huddled in an old blanket who asked him for a few coins for something to eat. Here my friend he said and handed him the stale sandwich from his pocket.

That night the man had a dream. He was away on business trip and was having a meal with his fellow directors in an expensive restaurant. Everyone gave their orders and settled down for a lovely meal together. The orders arrived. The dishes brought gasps of delight at the exquisite meal that was spread before them. The man waited in anticipation for his meal. A waitress set a small plate before him on which was served a stale sandwich.

"What kind of service is this" the man demanded with rage. "This is not what I ordered he said, I thought this was the best restaurant in town" The waitress replied, "Oh sir you have been misinformed. This isn't a restaurant at all, this is heaven. We are only able to serve you what you sent on ahead when you were alive. I'm very sorry sir, but when we looked under your name, the best we could and to serve you was this little stale sandwich"

Philippians 2:4 - To look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Wives' Fellowship Programme for Mar 2018

Date	Time	Meeting
Tue 13 th Mar	2.30pm	Annual General Meeting followed by Members' Afternoon. Please bring a poem, story etc. to share.
Tue 27 th Mar	2.30pm	Easter Meditation & Communion to be led by Rev. Jack Roche MA.

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

Easter events

Thu 29th March (Maundy Thursday) – 'Remembering The Passover'

Hadleigh Methodist Church has invited members of our congregation to a Passover meal on Maundy Thursday at 7.00pm. It will include a dramatic presentation of a Passover meal featuring a Jewish family and Jesus and his disciples. The cast will feature main speaking roles of Jesus, a bible reader, a Jewish father, and a master of ceremonies plus minor speaking roles of a Jewish child, Peter and John. Non-speaking roles include the rest of Jewish family, other disciples, servants and guests. There will be light meal of roast lamb, potatoes, vegetables and salad. Food may not be 'strictly Kosher'.

Please let Roger Kingston know by Palm Sunday if you would like to attend and also whether you would be willing to participate in the presentation – there is no dressing up involved and all readings are from a script. Roger may be contacted on mobile 07818 201030 or by e-mail at rogerjtkingston@yahoo.co.uk.

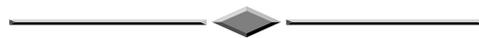
Fri 30th March (Good Friday) – United Service followed by Walk of Witness

The traditional United Service will be held at Hadleigh Methodist Church starting at 10.15am. There will be a retiring offertory for Christian Aid. The service will be led by Rev. Ruth Cartwright, Priest in Charge of St James the Less Church and St Barnabas Church.

At 11.00am, there will be a silent Walk of Witness along the pavement to our church where refreshments, including hot cross buns, will be served. Help with moving tables and chairs during or after the coffee morning on Maundy Thursday would be welcomed.

Sun 1st April (Easter Day) – Sunrise Service

The traditional Sunrise Service will take place at Hadleigh Castle starting at 6.30am. The service will be led by the Salvation Army and members of the Temple Band will provide music for the hymns. Breakfast will be available in the SA Tea Room after the service.



An Easter message

“Jesus no longer belongs to the past but lives in the present and is projected toward the future; Jesus is the everlasting “today” of God. This is how the newness of God appears to the women, the disciples, and all of us: as victory over sin, evil, and death - over everything that crushes life and makes it seem less human. And this is a message meant for me and for you, dear sister, you, dear brother. How often does Love have to tell us, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness...and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive!” – Pope Francis, *The Church of Mercy*

WHAT'S ON

A round-up of future events in the area

-
- Sat 10 Mar 2018 - Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00 to 12 noon.
-
- ditto - Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-In at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon. Bring along old documents and photos for scanning, have a chat, view the Community Archive website.
-
- ditto - Hadleigh & Thundersley Archive Illustrated Talks at Hadleigh Old Fire Station starting at 7.00pm. Talks by Janet Haworth (about Solby's House) and Bob Delderfield (A Thundersley House). Free admission, donations welcome.
-
- Tue 13 Mar 2018 - Coffee Morning & Book Sale at St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. With cakes (70p) and savouries (30p to 70p) and unlimited tea/coffee (£1.10). Books 50p each.
-
- Wed 14 Mar 2018 - Coffee Morning with home-made cakes at St Michael's Church Community Room, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath from 10.00am to 11.45am. £2.00 for cake and as much coffee/tea as you wish.
-
- Thu 15 Mar 2018 - Poetry Reading Group at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. This month - Percy Bysshe Shelley. Meetings on 3rd Thursday of month.
-
- ditto - Hadleigh Gardening Association Talk 'This Plant. Why is it called That?' by Julia Tetley at Hadleigh Old Fire Station. Starts at 8.00pm. Non-members £2.00.
-
- Fri 16 Mar 2018 - Castle Crafters Meeting at Hadleigh Library from 1.00pm to 2.30pm (every Friday). If you enjoy having a chat and crafting, come along.
-
- Sat 17 Mar 2018 - Games Club at Hadleigh Library from 1.00pm to 5.00pm. Play modern board games. Share your knowledge and enthusiasm. (Every 3rd Sat.)
-
- ditto - CDOT concert at Hadleigh Baptist Church starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50 incl. refreshments - to book, phone 07899 913670. An evening filled with music and song by the Churches Drama and Opera in Thurrock Choir. Raising funds for the Suryet Orphanage in India.
-
- Sat 24 Mar 2018 - Hadleigh Gardening Association Spring Show at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Viewing of entries from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Admission £1.00. Raffle & refreshments.
-
- ditto - Hadleigh Heritage Talk by Terry Barclay about 'The Poor of Hadleigh' at St James the Less Church. Refreshments served from 10.30am with talk starting at 11.00am.
-
- Mon 26 Mar 2018 - Jesus Light Of The World Presentation at St Michael's Church, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath. A multimedia presentation of prophesy and fulfilment, Creation to Resurrection. Starts at 2.00pm.
-
- Sat 31 Mar 2018 - 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.
-
- Sun 15 Apr 2018 - Spring Garden Fete at Hadleigh Old Fire Station for 10.00am to 4.00pm. Organised by Hadleigh Community Group to raise funds for flower baskets in Hadleigh town centre.
-

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

All-female leadership team makes history at URC Youth Assembly

For the first time in its history, the United Reformed Church Youth Assembly (YA) has an all-female leadership team. URC YA 2018 took place from 19th to 21st January at Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas, Staffordshire, where Hannah Jones was welcomed as its Moderator, succeeding Dan Morrell. Helping Hannah to make URC history were Natalie Gibbs and Katie Henderson, who are both Assembly Moderators-elect.



L to R: Katie Henderson, Hannah Jones & Natalie Gibbs

‘I really am looking forward to my year as Moderator,’ Hannah said. ‘We have a lot of work ahead of us. Not only is 2018 a General Assembly year, but we have ‘What Do You Think?’ and the youth presence (The Big Speak Out) at GA to think about.

Many great resolutions came out of YA, which will lead to a lot of work for the URC youth executive. We created a new role – the Equality and Diversity Representative – whose job will be

to act as an ambassador for minority groups and ensure they are not excluded in any way.’

Discussions also included the age of people attending YA, and this issue was agreed to be included in the Children and Youth Work review. A resolution was also passed for synods to be asked to contribute to the URC work at Greenbelt, particularly for youth.

The weekend provided young people with the opportunity to focus on Jesus, share in community with others, and explore what it means to be Church together. Dr Sam Richards, Head of Children and Youth, said the event saw a 30% increase on last year’s attendance.

The weekend was a full-on mix of business, worship, seminars, workshops, group sessions and keynote speeches as well as some well-earned down time in the late-night programme of games, karaoke, open mic and much more.’ Hannah continued: ‘It was a fantastic weekend with lots of great discussions and ideas shared. Thanks were expressed to our Immediate Past Moderator Dan Morrell for all his work.’

YA used to be called Fellowship of United Reformed Youth (FURY) before it underwent a restructure to become the URC Youth Executive. Under FURY, there have been several periods where all-female leadership teams have led the assembly.



Billy Graham



The well-know American evangelist, Billy Graham, passed away on 21st February at the age of 99. Born William Franklin Graham, on 7th November 1918, he was one of the most significant evangelical Christian figures of the 20th century. He was an ordained Southern Baptist minister who became well known internationally in the late 1940s. He held large indoor and outdoor rallies with sermons broadcast on radio and television. In his six decades of television, Graham hosted annual Billy Graham Crusades, which ran from 1947 until his retirement in 2005. According to his website, Graham preached to live audiences of 210 million people in more than 185 countries and territories. More than 3.2 million people have responded to the invitation at Billy Graham Crusades to “accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour”. Graham was a spiritual adviser to American presidents and provided spiritual counsel for every president from Harry Truman to Barack Obama. He insisted on racial integration for his revivals and crusades, starting in 1953, and invited Martin Luther King Jr. to preach jointly at a revival in New York City in 1957. Because of his crusades, Graham preached the gospel to more people in person than anyone in the history of Christianity.

Editor’s note: I wonder if any reader who attended a Billy Graham rally, might like to write about it.

The Early History of Hadleigh Congregational Church as reported in the Southend Standard

Thursday 13th August 1903 – Page 5

HADLEIGH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A splendid site for this church, Assembly Rooms, and Schoolroom having been presented to the Trustees by Mr. T. Dowsett, J.P., of Southend, the Managers have determined to begin building operations at once, proposing to begin with Section 1 of the scheme, viz., an infants' class room, 17 feet by 27, which will be available for the formation of a Church to commence public worship. The prospect of a good assembly hall is welcomed in Hadleigh and the whole scheme has evoked very warm sympathy. The estimated cost of Section 1 is £200.

Thursday 14th January 1904 – Page 3

HADLEIGH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The opening services in connection with this New Church will (D.V.) take place on Wednesday next, January 20th. At three o'clock, solemn formation of the church, signing of the Church Roll, and observance of the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper. At six o'clock the New Church will be dedicated to the service of God; the address will be given by the Rev. J. E. Flower, M.A., of London. The Rev. Ed. Hamilton, of Cliff Town Church, Southend, will preside at both services.

Contributions will be taken and it is earnestly hoped that, by generous gifts, the Church may be opened free of debt. On Sunday next, sermons will be preached at 11 and 6-30 by the Rev. B. T. Butcher, of London. Contributions received by Messrs. T. Dowsett, W. Keer, T. Hart, A. H. Smith, or H. J. Mitchell, hon. secretary, Dalwood, Hadleigh.

Thursday 28th July 1904 – Page 3

HADLEIGH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

In January of this year the smallest section (viz., the infants' class room) of the Congregational Church was formally dedicated and opened free of debt. The seating of this room being about 100, it was soon manifest that larger accommodation would have to be provided, as it has been impossible to seat all who have attended the services. During the past seven months the preachers have been students from New College, whose services have been greatly enjoyed and

real spiritual work is being done. The Rev. N. Richards has been appointed to superintend this work, and local help is accorded from all quarters.

A Sunday School has been started, also a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, and adult Bible class for young men and women, which is proving to be an attractive feature of the village, and its numbers are well maintained. It is realised by the trustees that unless larger accommodation is provided the good work started will be crippled, and they have decided that No. 2 section of the building, which will consist of the lecture hall, providing seating for about 250 adults, three class rooms, kitchen, etc., be now proceeded with.

At a trustees' meeting, held on Friday last, it was decided that the building be commenced at once so that it may be completed and ready for the coming winter's work. The tender accepted for this No. 2 section is £511 7s. 6d., and the estimated cost of furniture is another £50. Towards this amount £100 has been generously given by Mr. T. Dowsett J.P., who but a short time since purchased the site and gave it over to trust and who further gave most liberally towards the erection of Section 1, which was thus enabled to be opened free of debt.

The local inhabitants have also contributed most generously towards this endeavour. The Rev. E. Hamilton and many friends from Cliff Town Congregational Church have also shown practical support, also others from various parts. That Hadleigh and the surrounding neighbourhood is a growing place all South East Essex known, and by opening up a religious centre in such a place shows that Congregationalism is a denomination moving with the times and endeavouring to supply the wants of not a few who have lived in large towns and cities for years, and who, with local residents, desire a church real in its teaching and active in its operation.

Thursday 24th November 1904 – Page 5

STONE-LAYING AT HADLEIGH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LECTURE HALL

On Wednesday afternoon, the stone-laying ceremony in connection with the extension of Hadleigh Congregational Church was performed. The addition is a Lecture Hall, which has a seating capacity for over two hundred.

A goodly number drove over from Southend; among them being the Mayor and Mayoress of Southend-on-Sea (Coun. A. C. and Mrs Loury), Rev. E. Hamilton, Mr. T. Dowsett J.P., Messrs. A. H. Smith, W. Keer, etc.

Mr. T. Dowsett introduced the Mayor and asked little Miss Mitchell to present a beautiful bouquet to the Mayoress. The Rev. N. Richards offered up a prayer. The Mayor hoped the work at the Church would prosper. He referred in eulogistic terms to the work which the Salvation Army was doing in Hadleigh and all over the world. The Salvation Army reached the hearts of those whom the clergy could not reach.

The stones were then laid by the Rev. N. Richards, on behalf of Mr. Talbot Hart, Mr. H. J. Mitchell, on behalf of the P.S.A. of which he was the President, Mr. T. Dowsett, J.P., and Mr. Arthur Bentall.

The party then adjourned inside the Lecture Hall where a dedication service was conducted by the Rev. T. Robinson, B.A. The Rev. E. Hamilton offered prayer. Mr Robinson took the text from the First Book of Kings, vii chap, xii. to xxii. verses. He spoke of the relation between Art

and Religion. That was the first lesson he had drawn from the pillars of Jachin and Boaz in the Temple of Solomon at Jerusalem. Art must be the servant and not the mistress of religion. Art had always been recognised as the handmaid of Christian worship, but when Art ceased to be that, it corrupted Religion. The right place of Art in respect to Religion was to carry the soul up to God.

A collection was taken on behalf of the Building Fund. The Rev. E. Hamilton moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress and also to Rev. T. Robinson. He had special pleasure in proposing the vote as he was the Mayor's chaplain during his year in office. The Mayor would have a lot of engagements to fill and many difficulties would arise, but God would always be ready to help him. The Mayor replied briefly on behalf of the Mayoress and himself.

Before the meeting terminated, Mr. Keer announced that the collection that afternoon had amounted to £48 6s. 7d. (Applause.)

Tea was afterwards served and a public meeting was held in the evening. There was a large attendance.



Hadleigh Congregational Church circa 1905

Malcolm Brown

Postscript: Unfortunately, I have not yet come across a detailed report of the opening services in January 1904. However, a framed order of service for those services hangs at the back of the church near the double doors. Those who visit the church nowadays will probably be surprised that the infants' class room – now the Small Hall – was designed to hold 100 people and the lecture hall – now the central part of the church (without the south annexe) – was expected to hold over 200 people. The seats must have been very small and close together!

You may have gathered from the above that the church proper was never built. It would have been built on the land in front of the current buildings but the plan was finally dropped in the 1930s after many years of fundraising. In a future article I will publish an architect's drawing of a proposed design for the church, drawn up in 1933.

Mr. T. Dowsett JP, who initiated the building of a Congregational church in Hadleigh, was Thomas Dowsett. He ran an emporium in Southend selling a variety of goods and was also involved in building development. Thomas Dowsett was Southend's first Mayor in 1892-93 and was very influential in the town's affairs. He is buried in the graveyard of St John the Baptist Church in Southend but there are also memorials to him in Prittlewell Priory and St Mary's Church in Prittlewell.

Family News



Resurrection Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for the victory and power in your Name. Thank you that you hold the keys over death, that by your might, Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have new life with you. Thank you that you had plan, that you made a way.

We confess our need for you... fresh... new... again. We ask that you renew our hearts, minds, and lives, for the days ahead. We pray for your refreshing over us.

Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to your word. And when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing his lies and attacking our way, we trust that your voice will speak louder and stronger, reminding us we are safe with you and that your purposes and plans will not fail. We ask that you will be our defence and rearguard, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls. Lord, lead us on your level ground.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. May we reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

Thanks be to you God, for your indescribable gift!

To you be glory and honour, on this Resurrection Day, and forever.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Debbie McDaniel



Good Friday

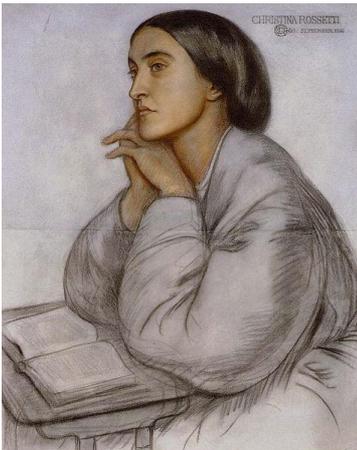
Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter, weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon -
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

Christina Rossetti



Christina Georgina Rossetti was an English poet who wrote a variety of romantic, devotional, and children's poems. She also wrote the words of the Christmas carols 'In the Bleak Midwinter', set to a tune by Gustav Holst, and 'Love Came Down at Christmas'.

The poem 'Good Friday' was published in Rossetti's 1866 collection 'The Prince's Progress and Other Poems'. The poem is about her struggle to feel close to Christ and the teachings of Christianity, and to weep for the sacrifice he made.

Christina Rossetti was born on 5th December 1830 in Charlotte Street (now 105 Hallam Street), London, to Gabriele Rossetti, a poet and a political exile from Vasto, Abruzzo, and Frances Polidori, the sister of Lord Byron's friend and physician, John William Polidori. She had two brothers and a sister:

Dante Gabriel became a poet and influential artist (founding the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in 1848 with William Holman Hunt and John Everett Millais), and William Michael and Maria both became writers. The painting of Christina to the left is by her brother Dante Gabriel.

Rossetti began writing down and dating her poems from 1842, mostly imitating her favoured poets. From 1847 she began experimenting with verse forms such as sonnets, hymns and ballads; drawing narratives from the Bible, folk tales and the lives of the saints. Her most famous collection, *Goblin Market and Other Poems*, appeared in 1862, when she was 31. It received widespread critical praise, establishing her as the foremost female poet of the time. Rossetti maintained a very large circle of friends and correspondents and continued to write and publish for the rest of her life, primarily focusing on devotional writing and children's poetry. In 1892, Rossetti wrote 'The Face of the Deep', a book of devotional prose, and oversaw the production of a new and enlarged edition of *Sing-Song*, published in 1893.

In the later decades of her life, Rossetti suffered from Graves' Disease, diagnosed in 1872 suffering a nearly fatal attack in the early 1870s. In 1893, she developed breast cancer and though the tumour was removed, she suffered a recurrence in September 1894. She died in Bloomsbury on 29 December 1894 and was buried in Highgate Cemetery. The place where she died, in Torrington Square, is marked with a stone tablet.

From the Moderator's Blog

'TRUTH at Last'

Here I am again, frustrated of Wakefield, but with a Truth to share. In all my disappointments and doubts, there is Truth staring me in the face. It is as though Jesus is alongside me.

"Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'" (John 18:37, NRSV)

At last I can see those amazing Christians who belong to the Truth and witness to the Truth by listening to Jesus' voice. Of course, we have always had the testimonies of saints, whether in history, or living in horrendous situations today – stories of humbling Faith and commitment to the Kingdom of God, often involving miracles and wonders. Amazing as they are, they can depress me even more, as I look at my life, and my pathetic response to the Gospel, feeding off a world of affluence and freedoms. But let me share one or two encouragements of the Church around us working together as the body of Christ – very ordinary, almost mundane, yet spiritually powerful and a witness to Truth

A recent meeting of Northerly Synods was one of the best I have ever attended in the URC! Five different groups – Buildings, Lay Leadership, Deployment, Children and Young People and IT, met over three days to explore how better we can work together, organise our resources and develop common plans and training all for the sake of God's mission in our local churches and communities.

Here were people, who each had specialist experience and wisdom in the area we were looking at, but more than this – they all believed Jesus Christ is working among us, were all determined to find His way forward, came away with definite plans, with each person responsible for some aspect of its delivery.

It wasn't long ago that there were walls between the synods, a sense of parochial independence, with suspicion, maybe even rivalry between the synods. If they were there, these barriers have broken down and we are sharing our vulnerability and our strengths for God's sake.

I have seen this in Yorkshire, as churches discover, not only the realities of deployment and decline, but also the real possibilities of working in new

ways together. Many ways this has meant letting go of private agendas and history of hurts, but here it has happened there is a discovery of new Life.

As General Assembly Moderator I have been thrilled to meet so many people who are following Jesus in amazing ways. Some belong to churches which are struggling to survive, and yet find the time and commitment to serve their communities week in and week out. But there is a growing need to release these from buildings or money-worries or a local church no longer able to continue. Others have found new and exciting ways to be Church, engaging with their communities in life-giving ways. These need the support and resources of the wider Church to encourage and develop this local mission. Yet others are discovering local ways of working with other churches, denominations and partners to serve their communities. Here we need to remove any denominational restrictions to set the people free for their context.

Apologies but I love mnemonics – so here is mine for seeing TRUTH standing in front of me

T for the amazing TRUST I have seen – trust in God to seek God's will, and discern God's provision for us to live out God's purposes. But also TRUST among each other, as sisters and brothers, to be open to share our weaknesses as well as our strengths so that we can support, and build up each other.

R for the REALISM and RELEVANCE in the way I have seen Christians working through their challenges – with ways forward that are do-able using what resources they have. Therefore they become so encouraging when they are achieved and you can see the differences in people's lives.

U for the UNITY as I see folk pulling together. It is when people recognise we may be in a mess, but we are in it together, and together includes God!

T for the TEAM as I know that we may be called by God individually, but we are discipled together- as the Holy Spirit builds the body of Christ, this amazing partnership – in modern parlance – TEAM JESUS!

H for the HUMILITY I have witnessed, and no more need be said, and let the glory be God's!

Kevin Watson

Posted on 22nd February 2018

Computer Corner

Perpetual calendar

Interesting site

A date comprises four pieces of information – weekday, day, month and year. If you know three, you can find the fourth. This calendar will allow you to find out such things as which years had or will have a Thursday 4th July or what day of the week did a particular date fall on.

URL: <http://www.koshko.com/calendar/perpetual-400year.shtml>

TED Talk - Why people believe they can't draw - and how to prove they can

Interesting video

Why is it that so many people think they can't draw? Where did we learn to believe that? Graham Shaw will shatter this illusion – quite literally - in a very practical way. He'll demonstrate how the simple act of drawing has the power to make a positive difference in the world.

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TXEZ4tP06c>

Paint.NET

Useful free software

Paint.NET is image and photo editing software for PCs that run Windows. It started development as an undergraduate design project mentored by Microsoft, and was originally intended as a replacement for Microsoft Paint (which from 2017 is no longer being developed). It features an intuitive and innovative user interface with support for layers, unlimited undo, special effects, and a wide variety of useful and powerful tools.

URL: <https://www.getpaint.net>

Word Search – Winter

The recent wintery weather is reflected in the theme of this month's Word Search.

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

ARCTIC
BLANKET
BLIZZARD
CHILLY
FROSTBITE
FLURRIES
FROZEN
GLACIER
GLOVES
HYPOTHERMIA
ICICLE
INSULATION
POLAR
SCARF
SIBERIA
SLUSH
SNOWMAN
THAW
TOBOGGAN
WINTER

Words may appear in any direction including diagonally, back to front and upside down.

CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH 2018

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 1 st	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 4 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service – Mr John Amos Evening Service with Holy Communion – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 5 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 6 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 8 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Jim Clubb
Monday 12 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 13 th	9.30am - 11.00am 2.30pm	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots Wives' Fellowship AGM & Members' Meeting
Wednesday 14 th	7.30pm	ELDERS' MEETING
Thursday 15 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion – Mrs Joyce Berry
Monday 19 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 20 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 22 nd	10.30am 12.30pm	Midweek Service – Mr Jim Clubb Church AGM
Sunday 25 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Mr Dave Bigmore
Monday 26 th	8.00pm	Ladies Recreation Group
Tuesday 27 th	9.30am - 11.00am	Alphabet Club for Parents/Carers & Tots
Thursday 29 th	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning

March (from Wikipedia)



The name of March comes from Martius, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, and an ancestor of the Roman people through his sons Romulus and Remus. His month Martius was the beginning of the season for warfare, and the festivals held in his honour during the month were mirrored by others in October, when the season for these activities came to a close.

Martius remained the first month of the Roman calendar year perhaps as late as 153 BC, and several religious observances in the first half of the month were originally new year's celebrations. Even in late antiquity, Roman mosaics picturing the months sometimes still placed March first.

March 1st began the numbered year in Russia until the end of the 15th century. Great Britain and its colonies continued to use March 25th until 1752, when they finally adopted the Gregorian calendar. (The fiscal year in the UK continues to begin on the April 6th, initially identical to March 25th in the former Julian calendar.) Many other cultures and religions still celebrate the beginning of the New Year in March.

Note: The image is a wall painting from St Michael & All Angels' Church, Garton on the Wolds, East Yorkshire.