THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

April 2024



The Magazine of the United Reformed Church, Hadleigh, Essex

SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning service starts at 10.30am For more information about services, please phone 01702 557678

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR APRIL 2024

Sun 7 th Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Heather Brown
Sun 14 th Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 21st Apr	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Andrew Birch
Sun 28th Apr	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr John Amos

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAY 2024

Sun 5 th May	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 12 th May	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr John Amos
Sun 19 th May	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Andrew Birch (Pentecost)
Sun 26th May	10.30am	Morning Service	Clive Lewis & Mike Mircic

ELDERS' MEETING

Wed 24th Apr 1.30pm

CHURCH AGM

Thu 9th May 2024 12.45pm

Note: Church Meetings are now joint Church and Elders' Meetings. Any sensitive business that needs to be discussed solely by the Elders will be dealt with at the end of the joint meetings.

BIBLE STUDY

Living the Sayings of Jesus

Do you know what I have done for you?

Thu 25^h Apr 12.30pm

FLOWERS

Sun 7th Apr Doreen Churchill - for her birthday (on 9th Apr)



Note: If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the church flowers on a particular Sunday, perhaps to celebrate a special event or remember a loved one, please speak to Jean Reeve. Jean's phone number is 01702 554907.

Prayer Reflection: Easter - Vindication and Repatriation

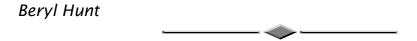
Consider the humiliation Jesus endured throughout his life not just in Holy Week. Imagine a bird, able to fly free, becoming a worm, wriggling through the dark eating dirt, but remembering his former ability to fly. The difference in God becoming human in Jesus was much greater. Praise God for showing us his love for us through Jesus.

Contemplate what the Resurrection was like for Jesus. He had believed it would happen but, being human, there would still have been a smidgeon of doubt. Now he is vindicated and what he taught and demonstrated proved true. Also he is repatriated to his eternal home with the Father. Thank him for his willingness to die for us and rejoice with him as he is restored to his rightful position in the Godhead.

Confess the weaknesses we all display but realise that, through Jesus, we too can be reunited with our Father God and become his beloved children. Whilst that doesn't mean we can avoid all troubles and disappointments it does mean we can be sure of Jesus' presence with us and God's support and guidance in good times and more difficult ones. Thank God for his consistent care and love for us.

Prayer

Loving Father God, we so often fail you. Thank you that you do not fail us but rather forgive us and restore us so that we become better disciples of Jesus and promotors of your kingdom. *Amen*



From the Bible

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are 'out of our mind,' as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

From the Editor

Editor

Welcome to the April 2024 edition of the Hadleigh Messenger. It's another slim edition but hopefully future editions will be boosted by a few contributions from readers. If you haven't got a computer, I will happily type the text!

Easter is now a recent memory but I've written a short piece about events on Good Friday and Easter Sunday with a few photos.

Our new bible study, led by our Minister, got off to a good start last month but there's room for others. We are looking at the sayings of Jesus.

Christian Aid Week is approaching – it runs from 12-18 May. I've used information from the URC website for the article below. I hope to run a bric-a-brac table at one of the coffee mornings in May to raise funds for the charity.

Malcolm Brown

Christian Aid Week - 12-18 May

Every Christian Aid Week people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal runs from 12-18 May and is focusing on the charity's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.

Thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay.

Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop.



With a small startup loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally. She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own

plot of land where she's building a home for her family. In the next five years she hopes to expand, so one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.

"I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep," Aline said. "I could never have dreamed I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe my children. This is a plan and I will do it; I am a woman who is an achiever."

There's so many ways to make a difference over the seven days of Christian Aid Week – whether that's church services, special collections, Christian Aid Big Brekkies, or even a Bible readathon.

For more information visit: https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/keyappeals/christian-aid-week

"An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics." – Plutarch

Easter events in Hadleigh

On Good Friday, on 29th March, the traditional united service was held at Hadleigh Methodist Church, starting at 10.30am. The service was led for the first time by Tom Pender, Student Minister at Hadleigh Baptist Church.

I was one of a number of people from local churches who read bible passages from the Easter story. There was a good congregation, which included our minister, Rev. Andrew, and his wife Hilary. A retiring collection for Christian Aid was held.

Our thanks are owed to Tom for preparing and leading the service and to those involved with bible reading, playing music, stewarding or in any other way involved.

The Walk of Witness followed the service, as usual. This year we crossed the London Road near Cleves Court flats and walked along the north side of the road past Morrisons. We also returned along the same route. Turning around was achieved by walking into Rectory Road, through the car park, re-emerging onto London Road through the 'snicket' between the shops (alongside the shop

formerly occupied by Pattens the Jewellers, for those with good memories).

The Walk had a few more participants this year, which was good news. The bright, sunny weather possibly helped! On our return to the Methodist Church, tea, coffee and hot cross buns were served in the big hall.

The Good Friday service and the Walk of Witness are our main acts of united witness during the year and the events help to foster our unity in Christ. We thank the Methodist Church once again for providing the platform for this to happen.

Easter Day, Sunday 31st March, saw the usual Sunrise Service at Hadleigh Castle, starting at 6.15am. Unfortunately, I was just too tired this year, the first time I have missed the event for some years. The service was led for the first time by Capt. Mark Cozens from the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple whilst several members of the Hadleigh Temple Band provided musical accompaniment. Claire Gunn kindly sent me some photos from the Sunrise Service. One of which appears below.



Walk of Witness



Refreshments after the Walk



Sunrise service

Malcolm Brown

The final paragraph from Mere Christianity

Keep nothing back.

Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours.

Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead.

Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay.

But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him, everything else thrown in.

Personal saviour?

From Reform, the magazine of the United Reformed Church, April 2024

Trevor Jamison asks why Mary Magdalene did not - and then did - recognise the risen Jesus.

What prevented Mary Magdalene from recognising Jesus on the first Easter morning, when, the Gospel of John tells us, she took him for the gardener?

Maybe it was the tears in her eyes. The two angels in the tomb asked her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' Maybe it was as simple as Mary not being able to focus through her tears on the figure before her in the gloom of an early morning.



From 'Christ Appearing to Mary Magdalene as a Gardener'
- Peniarth Manuscripts c.1503/4 (Wikimedia Commons)

Or perhaps it was about her expectations. Who expects the person standing before you to be someone that you know has died? As Luke's account says, she had come to the tomb to place spices on the body of Jesus. Before that, on the Friday, she had been one of the small group of followers who stood near the cross, as Jesus died upon it. She had seen Jesus dead. So when she found that the tomb was empty she believed that someone had removed the body, not that Jesus was risen from the dead.

Or maybe it wasn't so much to do with Mary as it was to do with Jesus. Perhaps the way he looked was different from before. An account of a later appearance to disciples in a locked room mentions the wounds on his body; but his ability to appear in such a way hints that his body might be different from – or more than – the form it had taken before his death.

But then Mary does recognise Jesus. She did not recognise him on sight. Nor did she recognise him by the sound of his voice. Jesus asked, 'Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?', and even then Mary was still taking Jesus for the cemetery gardener. It's when Jesus said her name that light dawned. 'Rabbi!' she replied, recognising the teacher that she had accompanied from the days of his early ministry in Galilee.

Now Mary's eyes are opened to see and recognise who it is that stands before her. Now the gloom has

lifted. Jesus who had died on the cross and who had been buried; Jesus, who had been lost to Mary and to the other disciples, was back with her; alive; risen from the dead. She could touch him, but she could not hold on to him. Instead, Mary was to go to the other disciples and share her experience with them. A stunning experience for Mary, and a shocking message for the other disciples. What should we make of all that today?

Recognising the risen Jesus Christ is strongly linked with having a relationship with Jesus. For years, I assumed that Mary recognised her risen Lord when she heard his voice, but that's not what it says. Jesus spoke to her and she still did not realise who he was. It was when Jesus said her name that she realised that he was alive.

Growing up in a 1960s and 70s evangelical church there was a big emphasis on your own relationship with Jesus. People asked 'Do you have personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour?' so often, with pressure to respond with the 'right answer', that I pushed back against it. I became almost allergic to talk about my 'personal relationship' with Jesus.

But Mary Magdalene's experience reminds us there's something important in this talk about personal relationship. The personal teacher/disciple relationship that Jesus and Mary enjoyed enabled her to see that Christ had been raised from the dead. To know the risen Jesus Christ is a personal encounter. God, in Jesus, is meeting with you.

But as well as being an intensely personal event, the resurrection of Jesus is part of a bigger, cosmic story. Yes, this is Mary's moment, but that is not the whole story. Mary wants to hang on to Jesus, but Jesus says, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.' Jesus has business elsewhere.

The resurrection is a stunning, pivotal moment, full of joy for followers of Jesus. But, amazing as it is in itself, Mary and we have to fit it into the bigger story of God's plans for the whole of God's creation.

We need to fit the resurrection into what went before and what is to come after. The resurrection could only occur because Jesus had come into the world. He was born in Bethlehem, grew up, became a prophet and teacher, one so challenging to the powers that be that they executed him. And this terrible response to God incarnate was representative of humankind, a people deeply, tragically flawed, out of relationship with the God who made us, in need of rescue, redemption, radical change.

With resurrection, God affirms Jesus' life and teaching; and the worst that humankind can do is swept aside by the power of God's love.

A new era has begun. The whole of reality moves in the direction of reconciliation with God. But we're not there yet. Christ is risen, but the world is still far from having arrived where we should be.

And so Jesus cannot stay with Mary and will not be staying here on earth. He will return whence he came, and we are left to share the story, to play a part in moving the world towards that time when all things are finally reconciled with God, and everything enjoys the abundant life that is God's intention for us.

That's what happens with Jesus and Mary. The next step was not that Jesus would stay around for ever but that Mary, then others, then we, would share our experience of meeting with Jesus.

Easter Day is the day of resurrection. We celebrate that Jesus is risen from the dead. He is risen for each one of us – personally. He is risen – a joyful, pivotal, needful moment in God's greater plan to be reconciled with the whole of creation. And now it's our turn to take our place among the followers of Jesus Christ, telling others what we have seen and heard concerning our teacher and Lord; and that he is risen indeed, alleluia!

Trevor Jamison

Trevor Jamison is Minister of Saint Columba's URC, North Shields, and Northern Synod Clerk. This article is edited from a sermon preached in at Easter 2023.

Family News

Vera Knapton

Vera was re-admitted to Southend Hospital on 22nd March and, sadly, never came home. She passed away on the afternoon of Monday 1st April with her sister, Ruth, and other members of her family with her.

We give thanks to God for Vera's life of service to others and send our condolences to Ruth and other members of Vera's family, at this sad time. A lady with many friends, Vera will be sadly missed by all.

Mary Milne

For those who remember her, Mary lives in Catherine Miller House care home in Leigh-on-Sea, across the road from Chalkwell Park.

Although she suffers from dementia, she is very settled and quite happy in her surroundings and is still is able to get about using a Zimmer frame. I (Malcolm) was able to visit her recently and I showed her items from the latest two magazines.

We ask God's continued blessing on Mary who is now a remarkable 97 years old.

Please remember those associated with our fellowship in need of prayer...

URC News

Jenny Mills appointed as next URC Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

Rev. Jenny Mills, the United Reformed Church's (URC) Secretary for Education and Learning, has been appointed to serve as its Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship), taking up the role after Rev. Adrian Bulley retires in August.



Jenny was a teacher at Lumbertubs Primary School, Northampton, before accepting the call into ministry. After training at Mansfield

College, Oxford, she was ordained in 2008 and inducted into the Milton Keynes Mission Partnership, Newport Pagnell.

From 2016-2020, Jenny continued to serve at Newport Pagnell URC, where she helped to develop The Mead Centre, a welcoming space for individuals, clubs, families, businesses and other community groups, and at West End United Church in Wolverton.

In 2020, Jenny became the URC's Secretary for Education and Learning. While serving in local ministry, Jenny also served as Convenor of the Children's and Youth Work Committee.

"I am grateful to all who have supported me in my journey so far and for those who have believed in me and seen things in me I could not see in myself. I thank God and the Church for this new opportunity, and I will seek to give of my best, as I am able, and working closely with those alongside whom I serve."

Jenny has been married to Aldam for 35 years and they have three adult children, Harriet, Abby and AJ. She will be inducted at the URC's General Assembly which meets from 12-15 July at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.

Michael Hopkins inducted as Wessex Synod Moderator

On Saturday 23 March, 2024, Rev. Dr Michael Hopkins was inducted as Moderator of the URC Wessex Synod during an act of worship at London Street United Reformed Church in Basingstoke.

Michael was appointed following the move by Rev. Clare Downing to be Moderator of the North Western Synod. Introduced by Rev. Josh Thomas, acting Minister at the church, himself the grandson of the late George Thomas, who served Wessex Synod as Clerk for many years, the service was led by Rev. Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of the URC General Assembly 2023-2024.



The packed church listened to the choir, which came together especially for the service, led by Rev. Michael Hodgson, which began with the South African traditional hymn Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho, transcribed by John Bell.

Hymns and anthems included O for a thousand tongues to sing, Not far beyond the sea, nor high; Brother, Sister, Let me serve you; Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart; Take this moment, sign and space; finishing with And can it be that I should gain.

In his sermon, Rev. Dr John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, used Jeremiah 29 as the principal text.

In his personal statement to the congregation, Michael Hopkins described a Moderator as "a Minister to Ministers and a friend of churches." He also discovered that there was Wessex Gin and Wessex black pudding, so his appointment "was meant to be."

Siblings on South African adventure gain Lundie award

Four members of the same family have been named Lundie Memorial Award winners.



Siblings Phoebe, 15, Zoey, 12, Elon, eight, and four-year-old Gideon Leung were all nominated by Rev. Angela Rigby, Minister of Christ Church

URC in Tonbridge. Although, Christ Church is the family's home church they are currently living in iKhethelo Children's Village in Kwazulu-Natal South Africa.

iKhethelo Children's Village is a registered nonprofit organisation which provides care for orphans and vulnerable children deemed by South African courts as children at risk of high levels of poverty, crime, unemployment, substance abuse, sexual and physical abuse, HIV and AIDS.

Phoebe, Zoey, Elon and Gideon, along with their parents, are involved with the care of the 50 children who live at iKhethelo, with the four siblings being mostly involved during school holidays.

Angela said: "We enjoy hearing about the things they are up to, and we are encouraged by their stories of how they have shared God's love to children who have experienced trauma in their lives. We nominated all four siblings as they work together as a team."

Elon and Gideon have made many friends at iKhethelo, spending time playing and searching for insects which has helped widen the imagination skills of the other. During the school year, Phoebe and Zoey help with the homework club each day by sitting and reading with the children. During the school holidays they also help with the under-fives doing crafts and with games with the older children.

Each recipient of the Lundie award receives £100 to be used wherever the young people feel it is best used. Phoebe explained they will likely share it between their home Christ Church in Tonbridge and the children's village where they currently live.

Welcome to the URC Training Day

A group of synod and head office staff recently gathered at Church House for a 'Welcome to the URC' training day.



The gathering of 17 included staff from head office and from a number of synods. Andy Braunston and senior staff explained the way the

United Reformed Church's structures work, how they reflect its values and priorities, and exactly what makes the URC unique.

Even participants who have already worked for the Church for some time left the day with many new insights, and a vivid sense of the breadth of mission and discipleship that the denomination has grown over the last century.

Immanuel Church weekend away

Members of Immanuel Church in Southbourne recently gathered for their second weekend away. Blessed with a nearby Christian centre, the group enjoyed a selection of workshops, including making mocktails, entertainment, guided walks, and Bible studies. They also enjoyed meals together and time getting to know one another better.



Roz Bradbury, a member of the congregation, said: "The weekend away was instigated by wanting to truly get to know one another more, especially those working or who might not be about during the week at other times."

"We had a lovely time seeking time out with God in a relaxed environment away from distraction. It was a huge benefit to all who attended, and we encourage churches, if they're able, to organise their own day or weekend away."

Stainbeck URC new youth pod

In Yorkshire, Stainbeck URC's new youth pod has now been installed in the grounds of the church. The pod is a joint venture between Stainbeck URC, InterACT and Thrive Leeds, two locally based youth organisations.



The pod will serve as a safe place for the church's young people as well as being made available for local community use.

Local elections on Thursday 2nd May 2024

Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) elections

Unusually, every CPBC council seat will be up for election in 2024. Hitherto, in Castle Point, only one third of the seats have been elected each year. After 2024, elections will only be held in Castle Point every four years and all seats will be up for election each time.

The decision to move to 'whole council' elections beyond 2024 was made at a Special Meeting on 31 January 2024 following a public consultation between 16 October 2023 and 18 December 2023. A total of 257 consultation responses were received of which 154 (60%) favoured a change to whole council elections with 103 (40%) indicating a wish to retain the 'election by thirds' system. The change will result in savings of £240,000 every four years.

The reason for every seat being up for election this year lies in the recent review of ward boundaries by the Local Government Boundary Commission. The Commission is an independent body that reviews boundaries to ensure that each councillor represents about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements will help the council work effectively. The Commission concluded that Castle Point should have 39 councillors, two fewer than the current arrangements, and 13 wards, one fewer than previously. Each ward will be represented by three councillors.

The boundaries of all wards have changed and some of the names have changed. The names of the 2024 wards are as follows: Appleton, Canvey Island Central, Canvey Island East, Canvey Island North, Canvey Island South, Canvey Island Winter Gardens, Hadleigh St James, St George's, St Mary's, St Michael's, Tarpots, Thundersley North and Thundersley South. The house where I live in Conifers (off Scrub Lane) will now fall under St Michael's Ward – the new name for Victoria Ward – rather than St James.

With all seats up for election and with three seats in each ward, you will be able to vote for up to three candidates, not just one as in the past. However, those hoping to vote for Conservative candidates may be unlucky because the nomination forms for 13 prospective Conservative candidates were ruled as invalid after submission and there was no time to re-submit them. As a result, the party will field 22 candidates instead of 35 for the 39 seats on the council. In my ward, St Michael's, there will be no Conservative candidates.

Election for Essex Police, Fire, Crime & Commissioner

An election to choose the next Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Essex will also take place on 2nd May. The PFCC's role is to hold the local police and fire services to account, setting budgets and deciding how much council tax precept to charge.

There are four candidates – Adam Fox (Labour), Kieron Franks (Liberal Democrat), Roger Hirst (Conservative – the current PFCC) and Robin Tilbrook (English Democrat).

Other information

Don't forget that you need photo ID to vote. This can be in the form of:

- a passport, driving licence or Blue badge;
- one of various local travel passes, including an Older Person's Bus Pass;
- an identity card bearing a Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card);
- various other government issued documents, e.g. a Voter Authority Certificate or Anonymous Elector's Document.

If you don't have suitable photo ID then you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate but the deadline is 24th April. You must already be registered to vote. If you need help applying then contact the council or you can call the Electoral Commission helpline on 0800 328 0280 if you have any questions.

If your photo ID is out of date, you can still use it provided you still look like the photo.

Polling stations are open from 7.00am to 10.00pm.

Computer Corner

FastStone Image Viewer

free software

Useful As the name suggests, this is a very useful program for viewing photos. I also use it for transferring photos from my camera to the computer and I have even used it in the past for preparing slideshows. One of my latest uses for the program is to reduce scans of some colour documents to 256 colours to save disk space.

Download from: http://www.faststone.org/FSViewerDetail.htm

Ben Maton - The Salisbury Organist

Interesting YouTube channel

Ben grew up in Salisbury, learning the organ firstly at St Martin's Church and later Salisbury Cathedral. He went to Oxford University to read Music, and was Organ Scholar at St Peter's College, playing for weekly Evensong services in the college chapel, and assisting in the running of the choir. After graduation in 2018, he returned to Salisbury where he has been a full time musician ever since, working mainly as a musical consultant for funerals and wedding services, a performer for private events and concerts, and a YouTuber. In his YouTube videos, he tours old churches in the Wiltshire area, playing organs of all shapes and sizes and condition!

URL: https://www.youtube.com/@SalisburyOrganist/videos

Explore Essex

Useful website

Learn about all the parks and heritage places on your doorstep and plan your day out. Discover the Essex Explorer magazine, a seasonal magazine with fascinating features, spotlight articles, inspirational lifestyle ideas, competitions and all of the latest news.

URL: https://www.explore-essex.com

Word Search - Running and walking verbs

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

WHAT'S ON A round-up of future events in the area

Mon 22 Apr 2024 -	Smart Minds - A friendly club for people with dementia & their carers. Art activities and socialising with tea & biscuits. At Hadleigh URC from 1.00pm to 3.00pm every Mon. Phone Sue on 07889 762172.
ditto -	Afternoon Chat & Tea at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.
Tue 23 Apr 2024 -	Kettle's On Coffee Morning at St Barnabas Church, Hadleigh, from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. Held every Tue.
ditto -	Knit & Natter group at Hadleigh Library 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Every Tue.
Wed 24 Apr 2024 -	Westwood Art Group Meeting at the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple Hall from 9.30am to 12 noon, every Wednesday - new members welcome. Subscriptions are £20 for 3 months. Contact 07768 871875.
Wed 24 Apr 2024 -	Coffee Morning at St Michael's Church, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath, from 10.00am to 11.45am. Held every Wed.
Thu 25 Apr 2024 -	Coffee Morning at the church from 10.30am to 12 noon. Free refills.
Fri 26 Apr 2024 -	Craft & Knitting Club at Hadleigh Library from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. Held every Fri.
ditto -	Benfleet Art & Crafts Club from 2.00pm to 3.30pm at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Held every Friday. Phone 01702 554358 for info.
Sat 27 Apr 2024 -	Table Top Sale at St Michael's Church, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath, from 11.00am to 2.00pm. Refreshments available. Car parking 50p.
ditto -	Southend Choral Society & Southend Festival Chorus present St Matthew Passion by JS Bach at Kings Road URC, Westcliff-on-Sea. Starts at 7.00pm. Tickets: £12.00 - phone 01702 465460.
Thu 2 May 2024 -	Local council elections & PFCC Commissioner election from 7.00am to 10.00pm. All council seats are up for election owing to new boundaries.
Sun 5 May 2024 -	Sunday Social at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 12 noon to 2.00pm with games, quizzes, chat plus tea/coffee, sandwiches & cake. £2.50.
Sat 11 May 2024 -	Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00am to 12 noon with drinks, cakes and bric-a-brac stall. Held 2 nd Sat of month.
ditto -	Beat and Beans Café at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Free live music by Lynda Jiggens & Blue coffee, tea & snacks.
ditto -	Coffee Morning & Book Sale at St Peter's Church Thundersley from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Held 2 nd Sat of every month.
Thu 16 May 2024 -	Poetry Reading Group meeting - Poems of Charles Causley - at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm, every 3rd Thu of month. All welcome.
Fri 17 May 2024 <i>-</i>	Gary Ryan (Guitar) Concert at Southend Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6ER. Starts 8.00pm. £10, phone 01702 215011.
Wed 22 May 2024 -	Whirlwind (woodwind quintet) lunchtime concert at Southend Civic Centre. From 12.15pm to 1.00pm. Retiring collection.
Sat 25 May 2024 -	Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive Drop-in at Hadleigh Library from 10.30am to 12 noon.
Sun 2 Jun 2024 -	Benfleet Community Fayre at Woodside Park, Thundersley from 12 noon to 5.00pm. Admission 50p