

THE HADLEIGH MESSENGER

June 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 JUNE 2024

Sun 2 nd Jun	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Dan Pratt
Sun 9 th Jun	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Jack Roche MA
Sun 16 th Jun	6.00pm	Anniversary Service preceded by Tea at 4.30pm	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 23 rd Jun	10.30am	Morning Service	Keith & Joyce Berry
Sun 30 th Jun	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Peter Nicholson

PREACHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JULY 2024

Sun 7 th Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Mrs Heather Brown
Sun 14 th Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Mr John Amos
Sun 21 st Jul	10.30am	Morning Service with Holy Communion	Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant MA MTh
Sun 28 th Jul	10.30am	Morning Service	Rev. Peter Nicholson (TBC)

ELDERS' MEETING

Thu 13th Jun 12.45pm - CANCELLED

JOINT CHURCH & ELDERS' MEETING

Thu 11th Jul 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.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sun 2 nd Jun	Pamela George - for her wedding anniversary (4 th)
Sun 9 th Jun	Jean Reeve - in memory of her father Reg
Sun 16 th Jun	Marion Fidell - for daughter Elaine's birthday



Note: If you'd 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, then please speak to Jean Reeve. Jean's phone number is 01702 554907.

URC Daily Devotion for 31st May 2024

Matthew 9:35-38 (NRSV)

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

Reflection

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

I don't know what you think about witnessing to the good news or more particularly who you think is open and wanting to listen? If you were asked what the harvest field is like where you are, what would you reply?

The “Talking Jesus” research was commissioned to find the answer to this question. It was first conducted in 2015 and then again in 2022. Some findings were astonishing and inspired a new vision for witness and evangelism. One in particular, which asked whether people in the UK believed in the resurrection of Jesus and 44% said yes in 2015 and 45% said yes in 2022. Of that 45%, 16% believe word for word and 29% believe with some questions.

You might be asking now how can this many people really believe in the resurrection? Where are they and who are they? They are of all ages, and they are right across the UK. This means that there are many more people who believe in the resurrection than who are part of our churches. Wouldn't it be great to meet them and invite them to find out more about the resurrected Jesus for their own lives. Doesn't this make the task of witnessing so much easier?

Who do you know who might be open to finding out more about the resurrection and how knowing the resurrected Jesus could change their lives?

Our prayers then as Jesus suggested can focus not on the harvest but on us the harvesters.

The harvest is plentiful – the workers are ... a bit busy, distracted, a little British or not overly interested. Pray for a renewed vision and passion for witnessing because the harvest is plentiful.

Prayer

Dear Lord,
thank you that you are still
the Lord of the harvest
and that by the power of your Holy Spirit
you are at work in the lives of those around us.
Help us to be bolder and braver
and to find those who are already close to you.
Give us the words to say
and the eyes to see who is open to finding out more about you.

Amen

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolf

Executive Director, Hope Together

Footnote: Each morning the URC sends out a reading, reflection and prayer which helps us to focus on our journeys of Christian discipleship. The reflections are written by over 100 people with differing perspectives and from different places. The Devotions are available by email, URC social media and at <https://devotions.unc.org.uk>. A Sunday service is also produced and sent out by email and social media.

From the Editor Welcome to the June 2024 edition of the Hadleigh Messenger.

We celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the founding of the church this month. Although the first service took place in January 1904, we prefer to celebrate in a warmer month!

After having had an Anniversary Lunch for the past two years, we are returning to the usual Anniversary Tea followed by an evening service on Sunday 16th June. This date was chosen because it is the 3rd Sunday of the month, when our minister usually preaches. With Rev. Andrew stepping down at short notice for health reasons,

Rev. Jim Tarrant is standing in and will lead the evening service. Unfortunately, the third Sunday in June happens to be Father's Day so several people who would otherwise have joined us have given their apologies.

Rev. Jim also kindly stood in at very short notice at the Communion service on the third Sunday in May. The service was special as it included the ordination of Doreen Churchill as an Elder. Doreen has been a faithful member of the church and there was strong support for her nomination to undertake this new role. There are photos below taken after the service.

Malcolm Brown

Doreen Churchill ordained as Elder

At the Church AGM on 9th May, Doreen Churchill was nominated and elected as an Elder. She was ordained as an Elder of the United Reformed Church and inducted to the Eldership of Hadleigh URC at the Communion service on 19th May (Pentecost). The service was led by Rev. Jim Tarrant.



**Doreen holding her
Certification of Ordination**



**Rev. Jim Tarrant with Doreen
and the other serving Elders**

We welcomed Doreen to the Eldership and prayed for her. Although she doesn't like having her photograph taken, I was able to persuade her that it was necessary for a report in the magazine so, thank you, Doreen.

Malcolm Brown

**Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct,
rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.**

2 Timothy 4:2

Articles for the magazine can be e-mailed to the Editor, Malcolm Brown, at mgbrownmail@yahoo.co.uk.
Opinions expressed in any published articles do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editor or the policy of
the United Reformed Church, either locally or nationally.

URC News

Staff changes to boost URC's commitment to mission and discipleship

A series of proactive changes have been made within the Mission and Discipleship teams at Church House to broaden the United Reformed Church's commitment to evangelism, ecumenism and social and community action. In recognition of the close working relationship of the two departments, the changes follow the departure of Simeon Mitchell to the Methodist Church where he continues his role as Team Leader for the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT).

The changes are as follows:

Roo Stewart will take on a new role as the URC's Head of Public Issues, bringing the considerable skills he has developed during his time as Programme Officer for Church and Society.

Drawing on his long and valuable experience in overseeing the URC's Church Related Community Worker (CRCW) network, Steve Summers will become the URC's Head of Community Engagement with Samara Andrews providing administrative support to both Roo and Steve. Samara and Steve will continue to support and promote CRCW and its accredited projects throughout the URC.

In addition, Lindsey Brown who began a two-year contract with the URC as Mission Support Officer in October 2022 now becomes a permanent member of Church House staff as the denomination's Evangelism and Ecumenical Officer. The new title reflects the concentration of her role on these two areas of mission.

The changes come into effect on 3rd June.

Wroxham member features on BBC Songs of Praise for Carers Week

For Carers Week 2024, presenter Rev. Kate Bottley and the Songs of Praise team visited Elizabeth Grint, a member of Wroxham &



Hoveton United Reformed Church in Norfolk to explore the important role that faith plays for those caring for loved ones.

In the episode, broadcast on 9th June, Liz, who cares for her husband and son, shares with the

presenter how prayer sustains her during the joys and challenges of life.

Liz and her husband Carl have been married for 52 years. Carl suffered his first heart attack aged 47 and since then has had another two. He also lives with the severest form of sleep apnoea, when your breathing stops and starts while asleep, and diabetes and vascular dementia.

The couple used to run a cafe, which became impossible for Liz to manage with Carl's health needs. As they don't drive, they're limited as to how far away they can be away from home.

As well as caring for her husband, Liz also cares for their son, Carl Junior, who has multiple chronic health needs meaning life can be incredibly difficult at times.

In the film Liz says: "The first thing I do in the morning is make sure that they're still alive overnight."

"I'll admit that there are times when I really am a mess and I just say, you have it Lord," said Liz.

Liz gets through by writing a daily morning prayer which she shares with others and continues to do every day. She wakes up at 5.30 and lights two candles on her mantelpiece and then sends the prayer that she's written along with a Bible quote and a photograph to 150 people.

Ever generous with her time, Liz also supports members of her church community with advice. For example, as a carer she has learnt to fill out lots of paperwork and to sit and listen.

At the end of the interview, Liz tells the presenter that her favourite hymn is Be Still And Know That I Am God. "I've sat beside their beds so many times and I've needed to just sit quietly. Being still in all the turmoil and knowing that God is there and always is there.

In aid of Carers Week, which runs from 10-16 June, Liz shares this prayer:

Father God, Carers Week celebrates and gives time to all unpaid carers who diligently work, tiredly at times, to support their loved ones with various health problems, quietly most of the time, without thought for time for themselves.

Father God, put your loving arms around them all to lift them from the strain most find themselves under. In Jesus name I ask and thank you, Amen.

Family News



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



An Anniversary Prayer

Lord God,

We offer our prayers to you today for our church here in Hadleigh;
that your Holy Spirit may inspire our worship and lead us into deeper fellowship;
that we may continue to pass on our faith, hope and love to succeeding generations;
that we may serve the community in which we live with commitment, vision and enthusiasm;
that within our fellowship there may be found comfort for the sorrowful, strength for the anxious,
compassion for the sick, and concern and love for all.
We pray for the minister and elders of this church; and for each member with their particular gifts;
that together we may fulfil our calling eagerly, conscientiously, and with imagination,
strengthened by your Spirit and upheld by one another's prayers.

Amen



Prayer Reflection – Trinity of Love

Wonder at the complexity and variety of the natural world. Marvel at our ability to appreciate it. Our eyes can detect the smallest differences in colour, shape and texture. Also we can discern differences in distances and speed. Similarly all our senses can assimilate a huge range of, often subtle, information. Praise God for his wonderful provision for us and rejoice in his attention to detail so we can enjoy the little things in life whatever our circumstances.

Worship at the foot of the cross and recognise that, whatever pain or difficulty you face, God, in Christ, has suffered more. He understands and offers his support and love to each one of us. Ask that we may be able to offer the same support to those around us, Thank God for the opportunity and privilege of sharing in his mission.

Welcome the Holy Spirit sent to guide us on our journey of faith. Pause to hear his reminders of Jesus' teaching and actions. Wait for his pointer to the way forward for you and make time to consult him regularly. Learn to recognise the way he communicates – through Scripture, within a sermon or perhaps a comment made in conversation with a friend. Pray that we might know and do God's will for us. May we offer his welcome to those around us.

Prayer – Thank you Lord for loving us so completely. Grant us the grace to offer your love and welcome to those around us. Thank you Lord. *Amen.*

Beryl Hunt

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.

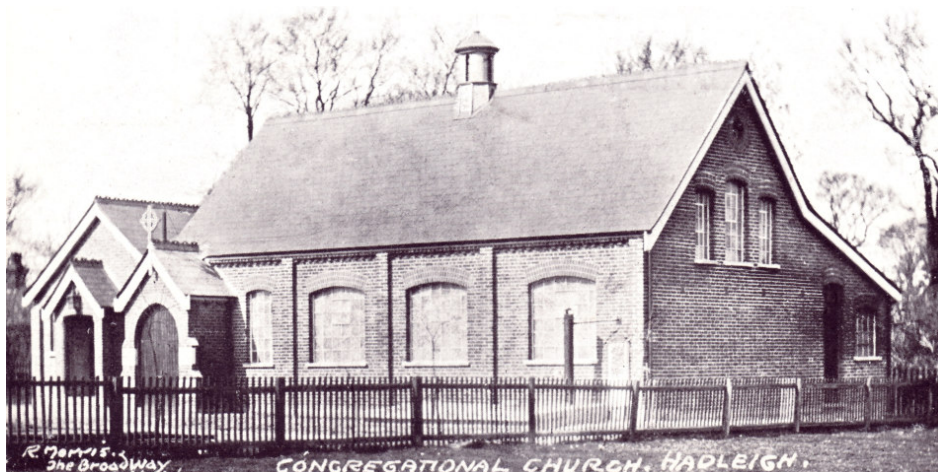
The party then adjourned inside the Lecture Hall where a dedication service was conducted by the Rev. T. Robinson, B.A. The Rev. E. Hamilton offered prayer. Mr Robinson took the text from the First Book of Kings, vii chap, xii. to xxii. verses. He spoke of the relation between Art

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: I originally produced this article in 2018 after obtaining access to bound volumes of the Southend Standard kept in the Echo offices in Basildon. I thought it was worth reprinting for our 120th anniversary as we have a few new readers. For those who are not aware, a framed order of service from the opening services in January 1904 hangs at the back of the church near the double doors.

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 the church archives we have an architect's drawing of a proposed design for the church, drawn up in 1933. The image shown here is from a scan of the front elevation.



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.

Mission Partnerships

Background

For several years now, the United Reformed Church has sought to find a fair way of allocating stipendiary ministerial resources. We are facing a situation where the number of stipendiary ministers within the denomination has fallen. However, the number of churches has not fallen at the same rate but the numbers of members within each church has gone down significantly.

The Synod Moderators, using the target number of ministers per Synod agreed by the denominational Ministries Committee have worked together to ensure that those Synods who are “over-scoped” i.e., have more ministers than the target number, do not add any new vacancies to the denominational Vacancy List until they are at or close to the target number. Our target is currently 28 but is expected to be reduced by 2 by the end of 2024.

This is why Eastern Synod is currently experiencing a fairly high number of churches without ministry but does not have any pastorates on the vacancy list. Due to some unexpected movement of ministers, we will be able to declare at least two vacancies over the next year but that still leaves many churches without ministerial oversight. If we want to find ways to offer ministry to all our churches, then it became clear that we needed to explore new ways of doing this.

The process of exploration began a few years ago but increased in momentum as Paul Whittle moved to be Moderator of the National Synod of Scotland. Paul Ellis and Cecil White as then present and past Convenors of Pastoral Committee, visited most of the Area Partnerships to talk about preferred options to look at in more depth. Overwhelmingly, the majority of those who expressed an opinion warmed to the model used by East Midlands Synod.

A small task group was set up to take this further including the Moderator, Lythan Nevard. Some of the group visited East Midlands to talk to those involved there. The group set up visits over the summer of 2022 to most of the Area Partnership Pastoral Advisors and as many folk as they were able to invite to join in, to have conversations about what might work in Eastern Synod. These discussions were formed into a series of principles, both Biblical and structural, which were shared agreed by Synod Pastoral

Committee as the way forward. A presentation was made at the October 2022 Synod with further opportunities for reflection and discussion with the Moderator at Area Partnerships over the winter of 2022 before coming to a decision at March Synod 2023 to adopt the Principles of Mission Partnership as the way forward.

Although the principles have been developed out of necessity, we believe that they are an opportunity for us to be serious about whole life discipleship and mission.

Biblical principles

Mission and Discipleship

At the end of Matthew’s gospel Jesus tells his disciples to “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:16-20). We are called to be disciples and to make disciples; to be involved in worship, study and prayer and in mission. How can we ensure that every member of every church is encouraged to be a disciple and to make disciples?

Working together

Ministry is a calling for all of us. As the statement at the beginning of the service of induction for a minister affirms: all Christians are called to be ministers of God’s love. “Christians share, through their baptism, in the ministry of Christ, and all Christians are called to be ministers of God’s love.”

1 Corinthians 12 – Paul’s amazing description of the church as the body of Christ, reminds us all that we are all called and all needed. We all have resources and gifts to offer to enable us as a church to be disciples and to make disciples.

Sharing together

Acts 2:43-47 describes the new community of Christians sharing their resources and worshipping and eating together “with glad and generous hearts” We are called to share our resources as well. The Mission Partnership model looks to this happening not just in one church but across a Partnership.

Principles of Mission Partnership

The principles are just that – principles. Synod Pastoral Committee sees these principles as a way of working together that has flexibility at its core so that they can be worked through at a local level in a way that makes sense for each area with its diverse needs such as theology, geography, and membership.

1: Mission Partnerships rather than joint Pastorates

Ministers will be called to a Mission Partnership of usually 3-4 churches. The East Midlands model we are adapting uses Resource Church and Resourced Churches, with 50% of the scoping with the Resource Church and activity with the Resourced Churches on a need or project basis. The emphasis is much less on what percentage of a minister a church has but rather a Mission Partnership working together to enable mission and discipleship in each community.

All churches will need to look at what they need a Minister to help them with. This might be to develop certain projects or work out what God is calling them to be in the future. So, ministers will be called in a different way which is much more about targeting stipendiary ministry where it is most needed and can be most effective.

2: Teamwork is at the heart of Mission Partnerships

For churches within a Mission Partnership to flourish, there will need to be an emphasis on teams working together. A Minister of Word and Sacraments is just one resource that can be called on and is part of a team available within the whole Mission Partnership.

The make-up of a team will vary according to local circumstances but could include Local Church Leaders, Elders, pastoral carers, mission/family workers, lay preachers and administrators/book-keepers.

Reflecting, planning and praying together as a team is a source of great strength and innovation in worship and discipleship.

Worship planning can include those preaching in the Mission Partnership over a few months, discussing Bible readings, perhaps even sharing worship across buildings, using modern technology.

Bible Study and other discipleship courses can run across the Partnership, via Zoom or with different people running the same study simultaneously.

Training can be given in understanding what it means to be a team and how a team can work together well.

3: Lowering the administrative load

There are some burdens on a local church that can be shared across the Mission Partnership:

- Safeguarding – there could be one Safeguarding Officer for the Partnership.

- Finance – a bookkeeper could be employed across the Partnership so that the Treasurer role is more one of oversight. This also could be one person across the Partnership.
- Ministry expenses would be met by the Mission Partnership as a whole, with the Partnership agreeing how they should be allocated. It may be worth considering M&M contributions being handled this way as well.
- Bookings or Maintenance – could there be one person looking after hall bookings or maintenance for the whole Partnership?
- Meetings – There could be some Partnership Elders meetings with part of the meeting to discuss issues together and then breaking out into individual church groups.

4: Including Local Ecumenical Projects

A key principle is that LEPs will be included within the Partnership irrespective of the denomination of the minister who currently serves them. How this will be implemented will vary depending on circumstances.

5: Being organic and responsive

This model will take time to evolve and will need to look different in each area. We will need to have flexible boundaries for Area Partnerships as it will make sense for some Mission Partnerships to cut across the current shape of Area Partnerships. It may be that in the end the Mission Partnerships will replace Area Partnerships but that is not part of the current decision.

Consideration will need to be given to existing models of URC congregations to determine which will best allow partnership working to flourish, the declaring of vacancies and calling of stipendiary ministers to be effective and clear, and the sharing of resources to be equitable.

Creating Mission Partnerships can only happen with the involvement and agreement of Church Meetings and Ministers of Word and Sacraments. That is why this document talks of principles rather than rules.

However, it is crucial that everyone understands that the current way we allocate Ministry is unsustainable. It leads to some churches having to sustain vacancies for a long time which is not easy or acceptable.

Editor's note: This is a cut-down version of a document produced by Eastern Synod in 2023 and updated in March 2024.

The church magazine – a little bit of history

As we're celebrating our 120th anniversary, I think the Editor is allowed to reminisce a little by digging into the archives. I discovered these two articles when researching last month's obituary for Vera Knapton. The first is by Peter Brewer and the second by Vera. They both appeared in the December 1996 edition of the magazine, or newsletter, as Peter and Vera referred to it. In those days the magazine was an A5 booklet.

THE NEWSLETTER – AN ONGOING STORY!

Way back, in about 1961, the Church bought for £13 a hand-operated duplicator from a firm run by two slightly eccentric brothers in Hockley. It was a simple affair which was inked by painting the ink on to the inside of the drum. One turned the drum handle with the right hand while the paper was fed with the left. Yet this primitive machine enabled us to produce a single sheet Newsletter which kept everyone in touch with what was going on in our Church Family. In the course of time this Newsletter grew in size and a simple technique of cutting the stencils in half and typing them sideways allowed us to produce it in magazine form on folded 'foolscap' paper.

Fifteen years ago, Vera and Phil Knapton took over the Editorship and Production of the Newsletter which I had started because, in my previous churches, I had discovered the great value of this means of keeping folk informed and interested in what was going on in the church. Through the years we have become more sophisticated in its production and in its contents. We have acquired a series of duplicators - graduating from the manual to the electric. None of them was new and Phil has wrestled from time to time with their idiosyncrasies and the frustration this has caused. Vera obtained a long-carriage typewriter which obviated the tiresome business of halving the stencils and sticking them together again with correcting fluid. Covers were designed for us by Ron Patten. At first the cover bore a picture of the entrance porch, then when we extended the building, Alan Milne drew the illustration which is used at the moment. Persuading a Basildon School to part with a redundant electronic stencil-maker has been advantageous from time o time.

In spite of modernisation of the production department, there has remained the arduous task of collecting the information, of editing and typing it – all to a very tight schedule month by month. Both Vera and Phil tell us how much they have enjoyed their stint but it is amazing though, how quickly the months come round and there is a good deal of relief when the issues for July and December are 'put to bed' and you can look forward to a free month ahead!

So, now that Vera and Phil. have felt that the time has come for them to retire, we acknowledge our great debt to them for the work they have put into the Newsletter through fifteen years and to say, "Thank you very much indeed". We thank, too, all those who have contributed information, articles, poems, prayers and puzzles etc. through the years.

It is perhaps not well known, but each month more than twenty copies of the magazine are sent to friends and former members all over the country and as far afield as New Zealand and Australia! Marjorie Chase has had one of her stories entitled 'That is the Thames Estuary' published in a book of reminiscences.

Now we look forward to a new era. Malcolm, Angela and Tony have kindly agreed to take over the production from now on. They have access to all the latest means of 'desktop publishing' and we shall certainly see some changes in design and format. This is as it should be and as we look forward to future issues, we wish them well. Inevitably, there will be teething troubles but we promise our support and full encouragement.

Peter Brewer

&..... "THANK YOU" FROM US

"DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU FIND MISTAKES IN THIS CHURCH MAGAZINE. WE AIM TO PRINT SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AND SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MISTAKES!"

For the past fifteen years, I have trawled other people's church magazines, jotted down the gist of readings and poems heard on the radio during sleepless hours of darkness, accepted gratefully all

contributions from friends far-flung around the country and the globe and have been ever-aware of the need to fill the pages of our Church Newsletter in as varied a fashion as possible. Yes, I have tried very hard to print something for everyone.

The above quotation was in a Church magazine passed to me by a relative and it was one of the very few contributions I discarded at the time. I found the sentiments – in spite of the intended humour – rather sad. During our time as producers of the Newsletter, Phil and I have been spurred on by the occasional words of kindness and appreciation. Reminiscences such as ‘I Remember’ by Marjorie and others, too; the various holiday sagas written by a variety of folk; prayers and poems have all, from time to time, been a source of ‘feedback’. I have made mistakes - the most dreadful that I recall was some years ago when I reported a Silver Wedding Anniversary but confused the names. The “bride” suddenly found herself married for twenty-five years to her brother-in-law! (Or, was it the other way round?) Thankfully, the mistake and my subsequent apologies were accepted with good grace and much laughter.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped us in any way to ‘keep the presses rolling’ – those who have written articles, passed on poems etc. that have caught their eye in newspapers and magazines (many’s the time we’ve wondered about infringement of copyright laws and whether our friends’ loyalty could be expected to stretch as far as bailing us out of jail if the worse ever came to the worst.), June and Keith Gargrave, Peter Brewer and Les Tatton who came to the rescue whilst we enjoyed extended holidays Down Under and on occasions when Phil has not been well enough to duplicate some editions for me.

Royston Brackin who often gave practical help in the early days when Phil was unfamiliar with the equipment and the equipment was unreliable, to say the least. Royston always responded to Phil’s S.O.S.’s and would leave whatever he was doing at home to make some necessary adjustment. Peter and Les have also received and responded to many such calls for help and advice. Thanks, too, to the Ministers who have written monthly letters to help and encourage Church members and friends along the way. And last, but by no means least, to Geoff Chase who has received each month’s edition ‘hot off the press’ to check the contents for me before distribution.

The above-named are just a few of the people to whom I owe a debt of gratitude and whom have helped to make the task I took on (on behalf of both of us) a pleasant, interesting and relatively painless one.

Phil and I are so glad that Angela, Tony and Malcolm have agreed to take over from us. We thank them and wish them well. Please give them every support and encouragement and remember that a crystal ball does not come with the job! Unless they are given dates, told of events, offered ‘News from the Pews’ or any other information that may be of interest, there is no way they can be expected to include such items in future editions of the Church ‘News Letter’. All three are very busy people so do please make their task as easy as possible. They will be using up-to-date state-of-the-art equipment but what is fed into the word-processor and photocopier depends on each and every subscriber and reader.

Reverting to ‘feedback’ from readers, I hand over the magazine feeling very pleased that it will continue month by month and also feel uplifted by knowing that a prayer printed in a recent edition was of great blessing to at least one reader. The lady in question lost her husband a few months ago and, naturally, has been feeling very lost and alone. These are her words, “Vera, I read that prayer and it was just what I needed. I have cut it out, put it in a frame and hung it on the wall. I read it every morning and it has given me new hope to take a positive attitude to whatever lies ahead. If I begin to feel down, I re-read the prayer and it speaks to me”.

So, my thanks to Peter for his thoughts and kind words on the subject and, again, thanks to everyone who has helped in the past and to those who will be keeping the Church ‘News Letter’ alive for (we hope), many years to come.

Vera Knapton

Editor’s note: After Vera and Phil retired, the magazine was produced in A4 format by Tony and Angela Bowhill with some assistance by me until May 2006. I took over sole responsibility for its content and printing in June 2006. Things went ok for a long time but, as regular readers will know, the last two or three years have been a struggle because of time constraints and I was very disappointed at not being able to produce some editions last year. More contributions from readers would help but you all know that by now!

Ministry & Mission Fund

The Ministry and Mission Fund is the financial lifeblood of the United Reformed Church. The way that the Fund is run is governed by the Plan for Partnership. This was first approved by General Assembly in 1980 and has been updated from time to time since. Amongst other things the Plan for Partnership defines that, "The whole ministry of the URC is to be made available to the whole of the Church, and the financial responsibility for this ministry is to be shared throughout the whole of the Church." Thus contributions do not relate to the amount of ministerial time received; or, in other words, 'We don't pay for what we get, we give that all might receive'.

The FairShare System asks each church to submit selected financial details to their Synod on a 'FairShare Return'. The information on the form is used by the Synod M&M Advocate to calculate a church's contribution to the M&M Fund.

At a national level of every £1 that the URC spends from the M&M fund, 85p funds ministers' stipends and training. Less than 7p of that £1 is used for the essential work of finance, administration and governance. Moreover, 95p of every £1 that is received into the M&M Fund comes from local church contributions. Thus, church gifts provide for the URC's Ministry and Mission.

HADLEIGH URC, ESSEX

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Your gift of £12,156 to the Ministry and Mission Fund in 2023 has helped the United Reformed Church in its work for the Kingdom by paying ministers' stipends, funding training and supporting mission initiatives that seek to find new ways to serve others, worship God and grow disciples. Your financial gifts have made all of this possible.

Thank you ... you, your gifts and your generosity are greatly appreciated.



*Revd Lythan Nevard
Moderator (Eastern Synod)*



Trumpington Gathering

Computer Corner

QR Codes: How they work and how to stay safe

Useful article

You may have noticed that QR (Quick Response) codes are becoming part of the landscape as a way to direct people to specific websites using technology to be found on most smartphones. This article explains what QR codes are, how to use them and the potential risks of using them.

URL: <https://www.malwarebytes.com/cybersecurity/basics/what-is-a-qr-code>

ATP Geopolitics

Interesting YouTube channel

This channel will only be interesting if you like to keep abreast of the war in Ukraine, something I have tried to do since Russia invaded on 24 February 2022. ATP Geopolitics is run by a British philosopher named Jonathan Pearce who produces around three videos every day about the war, a phenomenal output. One video is about frontline changes, another is about military aid news and the third has geopolitical news. In case of concern, YouTube has strict rules on what can be broadcast about the war so you will not see people being killed.

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/@ATPGeo/videos>

It's a Fair Cop

Humorous radio program

Alfie Moore spent eighteen years on the Humberside police force before turning to stand-up comedy. In each episode of this live stand up show, he takes his audience through a scenario based on a real life case, and tasks them with deciding how they would have acted in the circumstances. The shows are both funny and informative.

URL: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b060fj66>

Word Search – Boats

S	L	X	G	M	W	E	R	Q	S	C	S	S	T	E	A	M	E	R	H
L	T	B	F	Q	P	T	X	L	E	A	W	P	G	J	W	R	U	N	D
B	G	G	S	N	L	C	E	I	M	D	Y	U	C	Y	I	E	W	C	K
M	A	U	X	Z	J	N	F	C	I	S	T	R	X	B	H	L	N	U	F
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BARGE
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CATAMARAN
CUTTER
DINGHY
GALLEON
HOVERCRAFT
HYDROFOIL
KAYAK
KETCH
LIFEBOAT
LUGGER
SCHOONER
SKIFF
SLOOP
STEAMER
TRAWLER
TUG
WHERRY
YACHT

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 17 Jun 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 18 Jun 2024 - Kettle's On Coffee Morning at St Barnabas Church, Hadleigh, from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. Held every Tue.

Wed 19 Jun 2024 - Coffee Morning at St Michael's Church, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath, from 10.00am to 11.45am. Held every Wed.

Thu 20 Jun 2024 - Coffee Morning at the church from 10.30am to 12 noon. Free refills.

ditto - Poetry Reading Group (Thomas Hardy) at Hadleigh Library from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Fri 21 Jun 2024 - Craft & Knitting Club at Hadleigh Library from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

ditto - Benfleet Art & Crafts Club from 2.00pm to 3.30pm at Hadleigh Methodist Church. Held every Friday. Phone 01702 554358 for info.

ditto - Summer Solstice Celebration - an evening of poetry and prose to celebrate the magic of Midsummer's Day at Hadleigh Library from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. Enjoy a summer mocktail & seasonal refreshments.

Sat 22 Jun 2024 - Music in the Park - Pavilion Brass performing for free at the Bandstand, Priory Park, Southend from 3.00pm to 4.30pm.

ditto - Swift Singers & Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir at the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets £10 - phone 07432 456281.

Sun 23 Jun 2024 - Music in the Park - The Show Choir performing for free at the Bandstand, Priory Park, Southend-on-Sea from 3.00pm to 4.30pm.

Wed 26 Jun 2024 - CPBC Special Council meeting for Local Plan at Council Offices, Kiln Road, Thundersley starting at 7.00pm. Webcast on YouTube.

Sat 29 Jun 2024 - Summer Fayre at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.30am to 3.30pm with stalls, sideshows, art display, dance display (at 2.00pm).

ditto - Music in the Park - Tilbury Brass performing for free at the Bandstand, Priory Park, Southend from 3.00pm to 4.30pm.

Sun 30 Jun 2024 - Music in the Park - Thurrock Spectrum Brass performing for free at the Bandstand, Priory Park, Southend-on-Sea from 3.00pm to 4.30pm.

Sat 6 Jul - People's Independent Party (Pip) Councillors' Hadleigh Street Stall outside Iceland store from 10.00am to 12 noon. Come and meet local PIP councillors and discuss matters of concern.

Sat 13 Jul 2024 - Coffee Morning at Hadleigh Methodist Church from 10.00am to 12 noon with drinks, cakes and bric-a-brac stall. Held 2nd Sat of month.

ditto - Beat and Beans Café at St James the Less Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Free live music and refreshments available.

ditto - Coffee Morning & Book Sale at St Peter's Church Thundersley from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Held 2nd Sat of every month.

ditto - Daws Heath Village Fayre at St Michael's Church Field, St Michael's Road, Daws Heath, from 12.30pm to 4.00pm. Parking on the field.

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