



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



# HADLEIGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

*Great Meeting*  
WITH MONKS ELEIGH



*Providing Family, Celebrating Diversity and Serving the community  
Through and For the LOVE of Jesus Christ*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**April 2024**

VISIT THE WEBSITE:  
[www.hadleighurc.org.uk](http://www.hadleighurc.org.uk)



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:  
Hadleigh United Reformed Church  
Hadleigh URC Messy Church

# April 2024 – Newsletter No. 831

Paper copies and YouTube livestreaming of services also available

7th April 10.30am - Ric Lambert

14th April 10.30am - Service of Holy Communion led by Michael Tillett

21st April 10.30am - Rev'd Janice White

28th April 10.30am - Café Church in Ansell Centre - led by Junior Church Team

5th May 10.30am - George Barnes

Also in Church MID WEEK PRAYER Wednesdays at 10.30am

## ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR

Please could you let Paul Simon have all items for the MAY 2024 Newsletter before

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April PLEASE**

Email to [danton89@hotmail.com](mailto:danton89@hotmail.com)



## FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

I will have met many of you already. For those who don't know me I'm a retired United Reformed Church Minister now living and worshipping in Felixstowe. Retired and living in Felixstowe, I'm married to Ann and we have three grownup children.

As April approaches we are getting ready to celebrate Easter. Easily said, it anticipates far more, and hides much hard work that goes unseen to ensure Easter can be celebrated as we would wish.

I love the story of Mary and Jesus in the garden on Easter morning. [John 20: 11 ff] It is hidden from most people – the main players in the story, the disciples. They might well have taken the hump, thinking they've missed out on a vital element of how the Messiah is actually going to be 'Messiah' for the future. Nonetheless it is Mary who sees, hears, and receives the commission from Jesus.

We know she faithfully carries out that apostolic role - taking the Good News to the disciples, sharing the joy, exhilaration, and enthusiasm. It must have been infectious, exciting. It started the process of opening the disciples' minds to the future. In large part it is what the Elders do for the church now. They receive the news – not always 'good' – and through a process of discernment in prayer with the Spirit of God, begin to perceive the way forward.

Claire, having asked me to write this piece, then suggested I need to talk about the 'light' of Easter. And of course she was correct. The opening of minds is like the breaking in of light into a dark situation, like a sunrise after the night. What could have been darker than the crucifixion? During Jesus' ministry a revelation is given to Peter. He emphatically called Jesus "the Messiah". [Mk 8:29] It is the kind of kairos moment we all wish for, but rarely experience. It is the pinnacle that the Elders are working towards to ensure the future of Hadleigh United Reformed Church.

As with Mary it only takes one person to hear the Good News and tell others for it to filter out and soon, as Peter found, thousands were added to their number. Hadleigh are in a process that seeks that route to making new Christians, or once again opening the church to those who may have lapsed. The light is surely there. God is still God. He has not gone away. It is

evidenced in worship, through celebrating Communion, through decorating the church with spring flowers, the sending of Easter greeting cards and much more. Yes, even chocolate eggs!

But the Easter journey is more than Easter day. It is Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, all before we arrive at the brilliant light of Easter. We must walk the whole walk. We must take the time. Only then can we celebrate. And it must all take place with God in our midst.

Like Matthew's disciples we already have the commission.[Matt 28:16 ff] God already has the confidence in us, we are called, we are named on his palms[Is 49:16] we just need to deliver.

Wishing you all every blessing, not just for Easter, but also the days and months ahead.

John

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## **VISIT OF REVD JOHN PROCTOR**

Dear all,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the Revd John Proctor to Great Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June for the day. John who has a long service as a Minister in the URC has extensive experience in Theological Education in Cambridge and served for a number of years as General Secretary of the URC.

We have invited him to preach and preside at the Holy Communion in the morning where he is planning to look at John 5:30-47 and then join us for a shared lunch.

In the afternoon, John has suggested 3 segments:

- John's Gospel, an overview - words with depth, about the Lord of life
- the cross in John's Gospel - sign of pain and glory

- John's Gospel in the church, and in our Christian lives

So the day will look something like this;

10.30 - 11.30	Morning service
12.00 - 1.00	Lunch together
1.00 - 1.40	Overview of John's Gospel
1.50 - 2.30	The cross in John's Gospel
2.40 - 3.10	Living with John's Gospel
3.15 - 3.30	Conclusion and depart

Afternoon tea and cake

This promises to be a very special day indeed. Do try and put this in your diary now. John will aim to make the sessions interactive so no "dry lectures". There will be time for questions and discussion.

John has also written a Grove Booklet on John's Gospel (each of the synoptic Gospels too), so if you would like to do a bit of pre-reading let me know and I will order you a copy. It is £4.95.

On a personal note, I cannot speak too highly of John. I was privileged to be taught by him in the latter 1990s. He brings wisdom and light to his teaching. I always felt enriched by his lectures and Seminars. I suspect Ronnie and Nigel would endorse this too.

Michael Tillet

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**IN MEMORY OF WIN PARTRIDGE:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 1928 – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Win was a much loved member of our Church who was a wonderful example to us all.

Family was very important to Win and she was a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and her mantelpiece was full of beautiful photographs of her family. She was always interested in what children were doing and liked to ask questions to see how everyone was.

As part of our Church family, Win was exactly the same. She was interested in people, asking questions to see how they were and remembering that information for the next time she talked to you. She was a caring pastoral visitor and took her responsibilities seriously. She loved driving and offered to drive people to the hospital and enjoyed being a driver for the 'Ladies who Lunch' on a Sunday after Church. When she had to give up driving, she was very sad that she was no longer able to offer this service to others.



Win enjoyed taking Doreen Riddleston shopping and together they bought items to decorate a windowsill at harvest. I remember one year they bought boxes of cereal for FIND and I felt that was a brilliant idea and looked great. Doreen and Win also helped at the Optimists groups.

Win had many friends. She enjoyed bird watching, her garden and the animals that visited it and she loved being part of God's world. At the service of Thanksgiving for her life the family gave a donation to the Church in memory of Win. The card with it read:

*To all at Hadleigh URC,  
Thank you so much for all the love and care you gave Win over many years.  
And, thank you so much for all your support and help in making her  
Thanksgiving Service and Wake so special.  
From all her family.*

We have used the money to buy new lavender plants and two rosemary plants for the Church garden.

Rest in peace Win and rise in glory.  
With love Claire

## REPORT FROM THE ELDERS MEETING

The Elders met via Zoom and in person during March to discuss our usual agenda items and to start compiling the Mission Action Plan. Please pray for the Elders at this time because there is a lot to do and our team is only small; please also start praying as to whom you could nominate to become a serving elder.

The Mission Action Plan is the document that we are concentrating on producing first. John Cook was able to share with us the document that Felixstowe have produced and it was wonderful not to start with a blank sheet. We also have our own Action Plan that we have been working on since 2021 and which we want to continue to work towards those five goals. Paul is compiling the introduction and Chloe and Claire are working on the core purposes of worship, nurture and mission. Like the Action Plan, this is a living, working document and will be reviewed at Elders' and Church meetings. We plan to meet with Jo Clare-Young, the Mission and Training Officer for the Eastern Synod for help and support too.

At the usual Elders' Meeting we discussed the proposed Mission Partnerships suggested by the Synod. It has been suggested that our Church is part of the Mid Suffolk Group of 13 Churches with 2 ministers. This group includes the Stowmarket group of 5 Churches and Needham Market as well as Thetford and Diss Churches. We were very concerned about being placed in this group, particularly with the distance and time spent in travelling. We looked at the other proposed groups and felt that it would be better if we were placed in the South Suffolk Coast group which includes the 5 Churches in the East Ipswich group and Christchurch Tacket Street, Ipswich and Framlingham. We felt that the people of Hadleigh identify more with Ipswich and many of us shop there and that is where our hospital is. John and Claire are going to arrange a meeting with Lythan and Anne to explain our concerns and our suggestions as to why we think we should be in a different Mission Partnership.

As you have read, there is much to pray about. Please do ask me if you have any questions about either of these things and I will try to answer them.

Claire

## **ECO CHURCH**

We are working towards becoming an Eco church.  
But what is an Eco church?

It is an award scheme developed by A Rocha UK for churches who want to demonstrate that they care for God's earth. From meditation to insulation, from location to invocation, loving God and his creation should impact everything in our church lives.

There are three awards, Bronze, Silver and Gold. At present we are working towards our Bronze Award.

We have to complete an on-line survey about how Hadleigh URC operates in different areas of its life and work. Our answers collect points towards an award.

The five key areas are:

- WORSHIP AND TEACHING
- MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH BUILDINGS
- MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH LAND
- COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
- LIFESTYLE

The good news is that we already have enough points for a bronze award in three areas – Worship and Teaching, Management of Church Land and Community and Global Engagement. We now need to work on Management of Church Buildings and Lifestyle. The Management Group will be meeting soon and will look at the ways in which we could work towards a bronze award in the church building category. The Lifestyle category includes ways in which individuals in the congregation try to live sustainably.

*How we can Achieve our Bronze Award in the Lifestyle Category?*

Some things we can do as a church and some as individuals. For example, the church already has compost bins which are used for vegetable food waste. We also use Fair Trade tea and coffee. Both these achieve points. A lot of points in this section can be earned if members are encouraged to live more sustainably, by, for example, sharing lifts to church – or walking or cycling to



church! We could include tips in our monthly newsletter to suggest simple ways being 'green'. If you have any ideas, why not send them to the editor for inclusion?

Every month I will include more information about Eco Church and how we are progressing towards our bronze award.

Jan

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## **A REQUEST FROM RONNIE: QUIET ROOM IN THE ANSELL CENTRE**

My Dear Friends,

As some of you may know, we are working with the ACC to improve the Quiet Room in the Ansell Centre, and make it a pleasant place to come and simply sit.

One of the jobs that need to be done is to paint the walls. The tasks involved are:

- Wash and clean the walls.
- Paint them with a white undercoat.
- Then paint them with our preferred colour.

I wonder if anyone feels drawn to undertake the work? Do give me a call if you feel so inclined. It would be rather nice if we could do some such works ourselves.

With kind regards,

Ronnie

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**FILM SCREENING: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm**

*FINITE: The Climate of Change* - £4 on the door

As part of our progress to becoming an Eco-Church, we will be showing this film in the Ansell Centre on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm.

If you would be able to help by setting up the chairs or by serving refreshments, please speak to Jan.



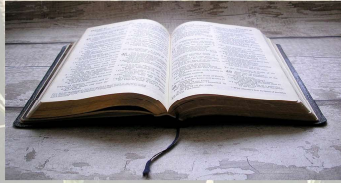
This is the story of a German forest, an area of outstanding natural beauty in the North East of England and the people who stood up to the coal companies who would destroy them.

In the film we join two groups of activists in an emotional David and Goliath battle for the planet, in the tunnels and trees, in the courts and in confrontations with police.

“a persuasive and powerful case against climate crisis fatigue” - The Guardian

“A masterpiece: powerful, inspiring, uplifting. Please watch it.” - George Monbiot

**MONKS ELEIGH  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



A service focussed on  
**Biodiversity and the Bible**



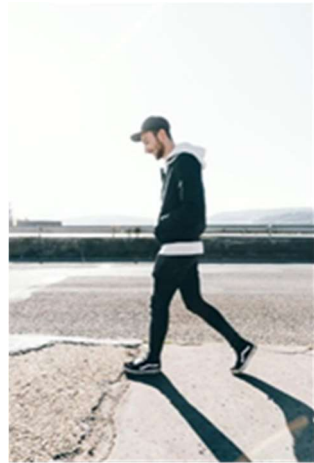
**Tuesday 23rd April at 11am**  
in the chapel

**Service will be led by Rev'd Andy Jowitt**  
(Engagement Officer for Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve)

With refreshments  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## A ROCHA UK'S EASY ECO TIPS - APRIL

- **Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine.**
- **Re-evaluate your journeys:**
- **explore walking or cycling options,**
- **or modify your route to include some form of active travel, i.e. disembark a stop early and complete the remaining part of your journey on foot,**
- **indulge in a leisurely stroll,**
- **or opt for a bike ride along a cyclist-friendly route.**
- **Consider connecting with your local Ramblers or cycling group for shared experiences.**
- **Use the extra steps or the changed travel arrangements as a prompt to pray for God's creation, nature's preservation and the reduction in fossil fuel usage.**



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## PRAYING WITH OTHERS

Are you willing to pray with others, or interested in learning how to do so? We believe it is part of the church's ministry to offer prayer for healing and other needs. Our practice of this on Sundays has lapsed and we are keen to offer this ministry again. If you are willing to be involved, or to consider learning more, do please contact Barbara Breeze. Thankyou.

### **Earth cries**

Forgive us, Creator God, for our abuse of your world.  
The Earth is exploited.  
Her glaciers are melting  
causing waters to flood on all her continents.  
Her lands – their habitats and homes – are being lost.  
Often forever.

**Healer of us all, help us to be responsible guardians.**

Forgive us, Creator God, for our abuse of your world.  
The Earth groans beneath daily mountains of waste –  
polluting her rivers and seas,  
choking their inhabitants  
with a relentless supply of poisonous plastics.

**Healer of us all, help us to be responsible guardians.**

Forgive us, Creator God, for our abuse of your world.  
The Earth cries a lament at the misuse of her resources.  
She reels, watching so many people go hungry,  
dying from starvation,  
while others eat their fill and throw tonnes away.

**Healer of us all, help us to be responsible guardians.**

Forgive us, Creator God, for our abuse of your world.  
Move us all to care for our Mother Earth,  
and for each other.  
Make us ever alert to her neglect and despair.  
Use us to work for healing and balance,  
and restore wholeness to our broken world.

Amen

*Pauline Jones*

## **SACRE at the URC**

On March 7th Suffolk SACRE met at our church. SACRE stands for ' Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education' (RE).

I am co-chair of the Suffolk SACRE currently, alongside Helen Matter who is a nationally recognised expert in the teaching of RE at all levels.

The role of this body, which comprises all the faiths represented in Suffolk and several Christian denominations as well as teachers and representatives of Suffolk County Council, is to ensure that the children of Suffolk receive their entitlement of RE teaching. Few secondary aged children do. But that's another story involving Ofsted...

RE is NOT on the National Curriculum. This is surprising but harks back to the legislation of the 1944 Education Act when RE and PE were made the only two compulsory subjects. When a national curriculum came in, unpicking this legislation was seen as very tricky so RE was left off! Instead every Education Authority has to have a SACRE overseeing the teaching of RE.

Our Suffolk curriculum is excellent, focusing on Big questions and ensuring children and young people learn about Christianity but also other faiths in our diverse world.

Our last meeting, following three years on Zoom, was held at the Church of Latter Day Saints in Ipswich and our next one in the Buddhist Centre - so it is a hugely interesting body to be part of!

Because of family issues I was unable to attend the March meeting. Having offered to host it I felt quite guilty about this but Claire and Jan leapt to my aid! Claire welcomed folk in and gave them a tour and told them about the URC. Jan went at the end of the meeting to help them get out.

I am grateful to both these women for their kind support - they do so much! And it is lovely to think our church played a small part in something so important.

Karen Harman

## REPORT OF THE EASTERN SYNOD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

Chloe and I had a good journey to Cambridge and arrived at Downing Place at 10:10 am, in time for a coffee before the Synod opening worship led by Rev Nigel Uden and Dr Rev Alex Clare-Young. There was a film of Alex telling the parable of the Mustard Seed with images, which was very powerful. The theme for the whole Synod was the Environment.

As well as the usual Synod resolutions to vote on and reports from the committees we had presentations from Helen Stephens who is the A Rocha Relations Manager and talked about how to become an Eco Church. Roo Stewart the URC Programme Officer for Church and Society talked about Reaching Net Zero – the steps to success. These were both very interesting talks and gave Chloe and I food for thought, especially about how we can help our Church achieve their bronze award and beyond. There were also presentations from three different Churches explaining what they had done to achieve their award. The Synod has already achieved the bronze award for the Synod Office.

The policies discussed were:

- amendments to the Mission Partnership Policy;
- how the Environment Policy will be implemented
- a Church Closure Process
- lay presidency at the Sacraments
- revised property policy
- Synod Manse Scheme

It was one of the more interesting and inspirational Synod meetings, not least because it was held in the refurbished St Columbus Church, now Downing Place which is a beautiful building. The refurbishment had taken the best of the old building and made it fit for a university city centre Church, focused on mission, offering a safe and amazing place to find God and a special welcome.

## NEWS FROM THE EASTERN SYNOD:

### Big Day Out 2024

June 8 Trinity Park Ipswich,  
Ipswich, IP3 8UH

Big Day Out 2024 This our story.... A day of activities, talks, worship and fellowship for everyone connected with Eastern Synod. You can book your place here: <https://forms.office.com/e/6jwigUVLMB>



Come and Relax: Enjoy the setting of Trinity Park and relax in the grounds.

Create: Through a celebration art project and music, including drumming/percussion workshop, Drama and dance and the opportunity to sing in a live one-off production of 'Jonah Man Jazz'.

Reflect: Celebrating our Faith, hope and love in Action through Bible study, prayer spaces, storytelling. Exploring Faith in Action including through displays, conversation and all age activities.

Have fun: In the grounds with a craft marquee, bouncy castle and slide, giant games, and fairground sideshows, including balloon modelling, face painting and bubble shows Celebrate: Worship together and eat together

### Children's and Youth Work team

The Children's and Youth Work team across the Assembly and synods have launched a new calendar where you can see all the URC events and training relevant to your ministry among children, young people, young adults and families, including those offered by Safeguarding and Education & Learning. Take a look on <https://padlet.com/URCCYW/training-events-and-opportunities-pb0xf9hbk6xawrq8>





## A LETTER FROM JOHN CUNNINGHAM

John Cunningham has shared a few life hacks, as I believe they are now called, in a letter to the local media, which he has kindly allowed us to reproduce here.

Although I finished work about twenty years ago I have been very active ever since.

I recently came across some suggestions made by our National Health Service about activities, which, if we follow these guidelines, could improve our health and activities. These suggestions are below and I have commented on how I follow these ideas:

1. Exercise regularly: I walk at least five miles a day. An evening's stroll can be very useful to make up the distance.
2. Connect with other people. I am delighted to have so many friends locally and all over the world. A brief telephone call to another person can be a delight to both of us. I also have contact with a Doctor who is from the Far East who now works for our National Health Service in a very dedicated fashion. It is important to ensure that conversation with others is, two ways about themselves and their activities also.
3. Try a new hobby. For almost twenty years I have spent a great deal of time working, on a pro-bono basis, re-pointing old brick and stone walls, using lime mortar
4. Give to others. Fortunately having worked, from just before I was 16 years old, for an insurance company and then, after receiving a pension, I kept on working for some years. I have been able to help family and others in need.
5. Pay attention to the present moment. We all have thoughts about what needs to be done. To act swiftly, in connection with matters, we wish we can address, is so important. We can go to bed, in peaceful state, knowing something has been achieved. Even if something happens, which we come across, which irritates us, we may not be able to rectify this issue, but we should try to put it behind us or preferably, see what we can do to amend or improve the situation. It is important also to look at the issues from others points of view, rather than just our own thoughts. We cannot alter what has happened in our lives but we should try to think of the past in positive ways. This morning, it being a dry day, it came to my mind that my

neighbour's lawn needed cutting/ So I phoned her and spent an hour and a half with my mower. It needed to be done before it rained.

Although I am not so active as I was, I am now 90 years of age. my working, and other ways of being active, has been and still is very enjoyable and continues.

Fortunately, I am not overweight which is a great advantage and neither have I ever smoked or taken drugs. Occasionally I may have a drink but I have never been drunk

Although my father died in 1940, my mother and grandmother came to the Midlands village where I and my brothers had been evacuated to on 2nd June 1940. We all lived peacefully in a that village as a family from mid-1940 to 1945. We only heard bombs drop on one night and certainly the above suggestions by the NHS were well evident in that village and have been in my mind ever since.

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## **HADLEIGH & MONKS ELEIGH URC MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**

**February 2024** Registered Charity No 1151084

Total income in February was £5,750 and expenditure £6,010, giving a deficit of £260. Income from offerings was £1,946, income from lettings £2,318. We are now starting to receive rent for the Manse, £1,392 each month. At church meeting it was agreed that £300 per month from this is to be put aside for any buildings or maintenance work on the manse which may be required in the future. The fellowship fund stands at £182.

Our monthly Ministry and Mission payment to The URC in 2024 is £2,653. Other payments in February were £1,246 on gas and electricity, plus the usual wages, pulpit supply and general expenses.

Please remember to sign a gift aid form if you are able to and haven't already. This allows us to reclaim 25% from HMRC on any gift you make to the church or have made over the last four years. There should be forms at the back of the church or contact me directly and I will get a form to you.

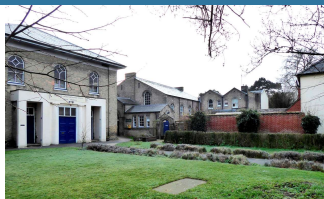
Tom Gordon, Treasurer

## HADLEIGH - CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

ORGANISATION	TEL	ISSUE
AA National Line	01473 212224 0800 917 7650	Alcoholics Anonymous
Disability Advice Bureau	01473 217313	Local Support and Claims
Leading Lives	07860798362	Support for Learning disability
Wednesday Lunch Club	07719 496112	Lunches
First Lunch Club	01473 808835	Lunches
Samaritans National Line	01473 287727 116 123	Life support concerns
Sue Ryder	01473 295200	Nursing Home
Hadleigh DAA	07976 603805	Local dementia support
Alzheimer's Society	0333 150 3456	National Helpline
Benefit Enquiry Line	0800 882 200	Direct Gov UK
Age UK	0800 678 1602	Support, advice
Frank National Line	0300 123 6600	Advice about drugs
Parentline	0808 800 2222	Parenting Issues
Domestic Violence	0808 2000 247	Women's Aid
Police Suffolk	101	Non -Emergency Number
Sensing Change	01473 260030	Support for independent living
Hadleigh Health Centre	01473 822961	Health
NHS 111	111	Non-emergency issues
Child Helpline	0800 111	Support for children
NSPCC	0808 8005000	Child neglect
Waterfield House	01473 944654	Care Home
Hadleigh Nursing Home	01473 858982	Care Home
Magdalen House	01473 829411	Care Home
Canterbury House	0800 032 1304	Care Home
Babergh District Council	0300 1234000	Local issues
Disability Living All'nce	0800 121 4600	Direct Gov UK benefits
Child Death Helpline	0800 282 986	Support
Gam Care	0808 802 0133	Gambling Issues
National Debt Helpline	0808 808 4000	Debt Issues
Missing People	116 000	Missing relative
Cruse Bereavement	0808 808 1677	Bereaved People helpline
Elder Abuse Helpline	0800 069 9784	Abuse of older people
MIND	0300 123 3393	Mental Well-being
Citizens Advice Bureau	01473 219777	Advice – legal, debt, housing, etc
National Grid	0800 111 999	Report gas leak
UK Power Networks	0800 316 3105 105	Loss of electrical power

## Where We Meet

Great Meeting  
United Reformed Church  
Market Place, Hadleigh,  
Suffolk, IP7 5DL



Monks Eleigh Chapel  
and HOME Retreat  
The Street, Monks Eleigh,  
Suffolk, IP7 7JE



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Vacant (Interim Moderator Rev'd John Cook)

### Serving Elders

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Paul Simon 01473 829171  
Ann Swallow 01473 806711

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

### Treasurer

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