



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
June 2025

VISIT THE WEBSITE:
www.hadleighurc.org.uk



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

June 2025 – Newsletter No. 845

- 1st June** **10:30 am** – Nigel Crisp – with Junior Church
- 8th June** **10:30 am** – Pentecost – Holy Communion – with Junior Church – Rev'd David Rees
- 15th June** **10:30 am** – Michael Tillet – with Junior Church
- 22nd June** **10:30 am** – Paul Simon
- 29th June** **10:30 am** – All Age Worship – Chloe Elmer and Claire Coster
- 6th July** **10:30 am** – Ron Wade – with Junior Church

ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR

Please could you let Paul Simon have all items for the **July and August** 2025 Newsletter before

Thursday 19th June PLEASE

Email to danton89@hotmail.com



Letter from our Minister

God's Promises, Our Faithful Journey

Dear friends,

As we move through the rhythms of this season, from Easter through to Pentecost, I've been reflecting on my faith journey and on the journey of faith of the people in the churches of the Ipswich and East Pastorate.

Some deep and hopeful words are found in Romans 4:13–25. In this passage, Paul tells the story of Abraham, not as a perfect man, but as a person of deep trust. Paul reminds us that it wasn't Abraham's actions or adherence to rules that secured God's promise — it was his faith. A simple, steadfast belief that God's promise was for him, even when the evidence in front of him seemed to say otherwise.

This big idea — that God's promises are realized through faith — is both timeless and incredibly timely. Especially in a world that often measures worth through productivity, conformity, or power, Paul's message is a liberating one. The promise doesn't depend on our perfection. It doesn't require that we fit a certain mould or tick all the boxes. The promise is grace. And it's for all of us.

What I love about this passage is its expansive vision. Paul isn't just talking to one group. He's deliberately opening up the story — saying, “Look, Abraham didn't receive the promise through the law, following a whole set of rules, but through faith.” That means the promise wasn't just for a specific lineage or those who followed a certain path. It was, and is, for everyone who trusts in the God of love and life. In our own context, this has powerful implications. It reminds us that God's promises include those who have been pushed to the margins, excluded from churches, or told they don't

belong. Faith, Paul says, is what unites us — not dogma, not doctrine, and certainly not exclusion. In this light, we read Abraham's story not as a lesson in blind belief, but as a testament to trusting that God is still working, still fulfilling promises of justice, inclusion, and peace.

Faith isn't about having all the answers. It's about accepting and embracing God's promise, even when it's hard to see the way forward. It's about believing that resurrection is possible — in our lives, in our communities, in the broken places of the world. And welcoming that the Holy Spirit does dwell and work in us even when we sometimes question what we see and do.

So, let's be people who live by faith. Not just in belief, but in action. Let's continue to build a church where all are welcomed, where diversity is cherished, and where God's promises come alive through the way we love one another.

With grace and peace, David



Christian Aid Soup Lunch

Thank you to everyone who supported this on 11th May either by attending or contributing to the soup/cake or by doing both. There was a lovely atmosphere with lots of guests from St Mary's and the Salvation Army as well as friends not connected with the churches.

We raised £345 at the lunch and there have been further donations since. I will let you know the final total next month. I think it went well holding it on a Sunday instead of the usual Friday. No decision has been made yet about next year.

Jan

HADLEIGH STORYTELLERS

Hadleigh Storytellers session on Friday 13th June is titled 'The Beautiful Gate'. It's the story of Peter & John healing a lame man from Acts 3.

Please keep The Team & the schools in prayer.

CHURCH GARDEN & INDOOR TABLETOP SALE **on SATURDAY 7th JUNE 2-4pm**

This is a new venture raising funds for BLYTHSWOOD'S SHOEBOX APPEAL.

We shall have our usual refreshments available for everyone.

Any offers of baking to provide cakes, scones, cookies etc would be very welcome, as would help on the day.

Thank you Hilary. 822208

SAMARA'S AID AFTERNOON TEA, on SATURDAY **19th JULY**

Make a note in your diary for visiting & meandering around Maureen's tranquil nature garden on Saturday July 19th from 2-4.30pm with an afternoon tea served in Maureen's garden. Enjoy the nature reserve, its ponds, flora & fauna, the sound of birds and watch the dragonflies. Enjoy fellowship too, sit and have a chat in Maureen's garden over afternoon tea.





Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Commitment for Life is the United Reformed Church's global justice programme. Their goal is to enable us, the local congregation, to make global justice a core foundation of our mission. We, at Great Meeting, support Commitment for Life's work in Bangladesh.

News from Bangladesh- Summer 2025

When Maydul Hassan was first mugged, he thought he had hit rock bottom. But within a week, the 21-year-old student was battered and robbed again – this time in front of the police, who, according to Hassan, did nothing. Hassan participated in the student-led uprising that helped to unseat long-time Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. But Hassan wonders what the country has become. "The nation is drowning in crime, no one seems to care."

Hassan's ordeal is not an isolated case. Over 170 million people call Bangladesh home, but the country is experiencing a terrible crime wave. Since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government, walking the streets has become extremely risky. According to Al Jazeera, in January 2025 alone the police reported 242 cases of mugging and robbery across Bangladesh – the highest number in six years. At least 294 murders were recorded. Robberies, muggings and abductions are all on the rise.

All the more reason for *Commitment for Life* to continue its work through its Christian Aid partners in Bangladesh. We assist some of the poorest communities, empowering them, even during this politically, environmentally, and economically fraught time.

Eco-Church

On Sunday 27th April, our Church service focused on Eco-Church. We led the Café Church service which had been prepared by Adam for all the churches in the Ipswich and East Pastorate. The theme was "Food for Thought". Claire had prepared a quiz which is reproduced at the end of this article for you to try if you weren't at the service! (Answers on page 13). We watched a video which had been prepared by Adams' wife which informed us of lots of interesting facts about our food, including the number of people it takes to provide us with our toast in the morning – over 100! Members of the congregation were asked to commit to an action they would take which would benefit those who produce our food and/or the environment. These commitments were written on the back of pictures of various foodstuffs and are displayed in the church. Here are some of them -

- I will buy more local food
- I will grow some vegetables, herbs and salads
- I won't buy farmed fish
- I will buy Fairtrade
- I will be more aware of where food comes from
- I will eat more plant based food
- I will reduce my consumption of meat
- I will buy food in season
- I will make my own sauces

We are pleased to report that our swifts have returned and are starting to take an interest in the swift boxes. It is amazing that they have found their way back from Africa and even more amazing that they will have been on the wing ever since they left the nest boxes at the end of August last year!

Wild flowers in the garden at time of going to press: meadow buttercups, creeping buttercup, red campion, self heal,

dandelions, daisies, tutsan, greater hawkbit, mouse-ear hawkweed, birds foot trefoil, green alkanet, greater celandine, cow parsley and orange Welsh poppy.

A Rocha tip for June

One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it. Joining in with wider initiatives also reminds us of the power and encouragement of being part of communities and taking action together. Churches Count on Nature, 30 Days Wild, and The Great Big Green Week all take place across June. Join an awareness-raising event or nature count as an individual, with your household or church. Find out more at <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk>

Claire and Jan

Food Quiz

1. How many gallons of water does it take to grow just over 2 pounds of avocados under normal conditions:

23

43

63

2. Which of these fruits grow in Suffolk?

strawberries

apples

pears

3. What is the most widely eaten food worldwide?

4. The distance your food travels from field to fork is known as food miles. How far do bananas coming from the Caribbean travel to the UK?

3,500 km

5,500km

7,500km

5. Which food never rots, and keeps fresh without the use of preservatives?

6. Which ancient civilization used cocoa beans for money?

7. How many segments are inside most oranges?

8

9

10

8. Which brand of ketchup should you buy because it's local?

Stokes

Heinz

Hellmans

9. What type of milk is mozzarella cheese traditionally made with?

10. Wasabi is a snack traditional in which country?

Service at Monks Eleigh Chapel

On Thursday 15th May there was a service at the Chapel led by Rev'd Andy Jowitt, who is the Engagement Officer for Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve.

There were a dozen of us and we enjoyed a service of praise focusing on God, Us and the Planet. The sermon was based on four headings – Creation, Christ. Church and Completion and Andy had produced some amazing and awe-inspiring images for us to focus on. We sang some wonderful hymns and read from the Bible and prayed. Thanks to Andy, Nigel for organising the technology and Maureen for organising the refreshments.



Sunday 22nd June

Open Air Service at Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve at 3pm led by Dr Andrew Crowson. With refreshments. Bring a chair. All welcome.

Saturday 28th June – 10:30am – 3:00pm

Big Bug Day - Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve

Free family event celebrating National Insect Week, with activities for all. Join in bug hunts, see moths up close, shake a bush, search for beetles, come along and take part. Bring a picnic. Contact Sarah: 07810 141234 or sarah.leedham@arocha.org or book through Eventbrite.

Bring your colours!

I have been given the privilege of leading the service on June 22nd. The readings will be Luke 8.26–39 (Jesus cures the Gerasene man) and Galatians 3.23–end.

In order to illustrate one of the themes I'm hoping to tease out, would all of our fellowship do me a favour and wear a scarf or a similar, easy-to-detach item of clothing of a sporting club or similar. Even Norwich City scarves, badges are welcome!

Thanks
Paul

Report from the Elders' Away Morning

David and Adam led our Away Morning on Saturday 26th April at Monks Eleigh Chapel. There were eleven of us and Ella who sat and crafted and did a jigsaw. We began with coffee and cake.

Worship was at the heart of the morning and we enjoyed singing hymns, praising God in prayer and having a time of quiet reflection. We each took a stone and visualised placing our burdens on the stones and then placed them by the cross.

We reflected on the blessings and challenges of our Church, using a Venn Diagram to display our thoughts. It was interesting to see how something can be both a blessing and a challenge – for example our buildings.

Time for another coffee and chat and then back to work as we discussed our thoughts and hopes for Mission. We recorded these ideas on a large sheet.

We finished the morning in prayer.

Adam has written up a record of our discussions and we have planned another Away Morning to develop our ideas about Mission.

We will be sharing more with you at the Church Meeting.

Report from the May Elders' Meeting

It was lovely to welcome Nigel back to our Elders' Meeting after his holiday in Australia with Hilary. Claire led the devotions and it was agreed that the Elders would take turns to prepare the opening prayers.

We reflected on our Away Morning at Monks Eleigh and discussed the next steps...

We also spent time checking that all was in place for the Christian Aid Soup Lunch and the Hadleigh Show.

We also spent time talking about the pastoral list that David, Elizabeth and Claire had updated at the Pastoral Core Team Meeting.

Claire

A Letter from Our Eastern Synod Moderator:

Dear friends in Christ,

I will be on Sabbatical (including holiday) from 19th May to 31st August.

My theme is “reconnection, revitalising, refreshment”, which will involve reconnecting with family and friends and finding out about faith today in different parts of the UK.

There will be times of rest and reading, mostly in Joy our tiny Basecamp caravan and involving many, many books stockpiled for this opportunity.

I hope to come back refreshed in body, mind and soul as I continue to have the honour of serving and loving Jesus and the wonderful congregations and Ministers of the Eastern Synod.

Every blessing



Dates for your diary:

Monday 2nd June Elders' Meeting

Saturday 7th June Car Boot without a car Sale

Sunday 9th June Pentecost

Monday 10th June Annual Church Meeting

Saturday 14th June Pastorate Elders' Meeting at Felixstowe
URC (postponed from March)

Saturday 28th June Elders' Away Morning – Monks Eleigh

Sunday 29th June Service at Felixstowe URC to celebrate their
125th anniversary

Friday 4th – Monday 7 July 2025 – General Assembly –
The Hayes, Swanwick – David will be
attending

Saturday 19th July Afternoon Tea in aid of Samara's Aid

Monday 21st July Elders' Meeting

The newsletter for **July and August** will be combined. There will still be the weekly news sheet which can advertise last minute events and dates.

Food Quiz Answers:

1. An average of 63 gallons of water
2. All of them can all be grown in Suffolk and in our part of the county as well. Strawberries at Lindsey, apples and pears in Stoke by Nayland
3. Rice
4. 5,500 km
5. Honey
6. The Aztecs
7. 10 segments in most oranges
8. Stokes ketchup is made in Woodbridge
9. Buffalo milk.
10. Wasabi is a snack traditional in Japan



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 1111	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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