



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*

September 2024

VISIT THE WEBSITE:
www.hadleighurc.org.uk



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

September 2024 – Newsletter No. 836

Paper copies and YouTube livestreaming of services also available

- 1st Sept** **10.30am** Morning Worship led by Rev'd Janice White
- 8th Sept** **10:30am** Morning Worship with Communion led by
Ronnie Howson
- 15th Sept** **10:30am** Morning Worship led by Michael Tillett
- 22nd Sept** **10.30am** Harvest Worship led by Karen Harman and
Claire Coster
- 29th Sept** **10.30am** Morning Worship led by Rev'd David Atkins
- 6th October** **10:30am** Morning Worship led by Michael Tillett

Also in Church MID WEEK PRAYER Wednesdays at 10.30am

ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR

Please could you let Nigel Crisp have all items for
the October 2024 Newsletter before

Wednesday 18th September PLEASE

Email to nigel_crisp@hotmail.com



IN MEMORY OF JOHN BETJEMAN

There are probably not many – you would have to be of a certain age – who now remember John Betjeman, in his prime, let alone with any affection. He died in 1984. In his time he was a well-known broadcaster, writer and poet, and laureate from 1972. He was credited with instigating the movement that saved the St Pancras Station buildings for the nation.

This stemmed from his love of architecture. Much of his writing was directed towards buildings. Some extremely critical. Some with more than a touch of humour, and most with a sense not truly wishing to offend. Even daring to offer his thoughts to the Irish!

In a piece entitled, *Fabrics of the Church of Ireland*¹, sometime between 1940 and 1945, he gave a shrewd assessment of what the average congregant might be thinking as they sat in the nave – for us the body - of a church.

His main premise was that a church is made for worship. He states in his essay that all the fabric is involved in generating worship. Such that it can lead the eye – and soul – to God, or away from him. The badly proportioned altar, a glaring window of ‘cathedral glass’, (he says, ‘that odious invention of green and pink’), a bad brass, chipped plaster, a wriggling text, a candle bracket which has not been cleaned for months, a broom which has not been put away, a damp patch on a wall, a cumbrous lectern. Betjeman suggests one, or all, can eat into our souls.

When Ann and I first attended the Felixstowe church we thought much the same and indeed it proved a greater distraction the longer it went on. We could do nothing to rectify the matter until several years later. It may not be the most beautiful church, however the majority of the distractions have miraculously disappeared!

We were on holiday this year, travelling to Guernsey via the fast ferry from Poole to St Peter Port. Don’t! It was awful. The ferry, not Guernsey. The ferry had technical problems which meant changed timetables, far longer journeys, all backed up by unhelpful, uninformative staff. The vessel itself was ‘tired’. What was meant for a short three-hour crossing, not a rear-end numbing

¹ John Betjeman, *Coming Home: An anthology of prose* Ed Candida Lycett Green
Vintage 1998 p127

seven hours. The entertainment was .. nil! The younger element did not appreciate it. The adults had no option other than tucking into microwaved fast food. The alternatives being the usual chocolate or savoury snacks washed down by the staples of tea, coffee, and alcohol.

I guess it asks us all to look at our own surroundings, to be slightly more critical than we would otherwise wish. It may cause us to snap out of our complacent familiarity and see the cobwebs, the stacked and discarded accoutrements of past events, or gifts we don't know where to put for fear of offending that now uploaded saint of days past.

It may be the same internally! Heaven forfend!! But nonetheless true for all that. We can become self-satisfied, thinking we have it all buttoned-and-bowed to perfection. It is one of the most difficult things to do .. to hold ones self up for inspection. No! I'm not suggesting we go to confession. But self-examination occasionally can do no harm. It may, in fact, do us some good. It might lead to some changes, even for the better. Who knows? This month's challenge, who dares look?

John Cook



Suffolk Historic Churches Trust **Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride**

Saturday 14th September
9:00 am until 5:00 pm



Please make a note in your diary and let Claire know if you would like to take part and receive a sponsorship form.

Stewards also needed to welcome visitors to the Church. Please do volunteer for 1 hour.

BRING A PARABLE GROUP - AUGUST

Opening reflection from Michel Quoist's "Prayers of Life" - Published 1963 and still in print

Parables are a way of communication so we started with "The Telephone"

When you think Parables it is tempting to think they only relate to and from Jesus

But remember Jesus' context – A Jew steeped in the Hebrew Scriptures and there are many ways of communicating ways of life then as we can find many examples of Parables NOW.

So, we started with Elijah's escape (1 Kings 19) the episode of the wind, the earthquake and the fire. The Lord was not to be found in any of these but in the sound of silence. So often we can seek answers to big questions in big things when sometimes the solution is to be found where and in whom you least expect it. And we discussed how we had and continue to face the big problems in our lives and do we continue to be surprised where we find possible answers?

So when and where did we encounter parables? - In Luke's Gospel Chapter 8 and that attributed to Matthew Chapter 7. Both are at significant points in the narratives – Luke at the conclusion of what is known as "The Sermon on the plain" and Matthew at the conclusion of, "The Sermon on the mount" although it is thought unlikely that either were homilies as we know them.

In both Gospels we find the story of the 2 Builders (Now take your sharp intake of breath). Luke, written later from a Gentile base and when the early "Followers of the Way" were spreading their wings and addressing the fundamental question of, WHERE TO BUILD, (At home, in the open air or in the community). How would we address the same question?

Matthew, thought to date some 10 years earlier to a predominantly Jewish audience, when members of "The Way" were very much part of the local Synagogue, were tackling a very different question – "HOW ARE WE TO BUILD this community of Faith?"

Here are questions which are as critical and relevant now as they were then. Are we willing to address them or feel more comfortable if they stay on the back burner.

And the final reflection from Michel Quoist was called, "The Brick."

David Atkins

THANK YOU

Thanks to all those who helped or came and supported the Afternoon Tea Garden Party in aid of Water Aid and Toilet Twinning.

We were very blessed with a warm dry afternoon and people enjoyed delicious homemade scones, jam and cream and tea or coffee.

We raised £380 and so have enough money to twin our toilets and give money to Water Aid.

It was hard work but well worth the effort.

THANK YOU



A ROCHA'S IDEAS FOR SEPTEMBER

Step outside this Season of Creation (1 September - 4 October).

Connect with nature and dedicate this time to God as the Creator and sustainer of all life.

FEAST TOGETHER Why not get together in the great outdoors and enjoy some good food? Challenge everyone to bring (if they can) a local, sustainably-sourced plate of food that can be shared. Wrap up warm with blankets and rugs if necessary and enjoy feasting together, giving thanks to God for His good gifts.

GO ON A PRAYER WALK Choose a short route with specific places to stop, pause and pray - an oak tree, a pond or a viewpoint perhaps. At each stopping point pray for the people and nature that are affected by climate change

BUILD A BUG HOTEL Create new habitats for invertebrates by building a bug hotel. This could be in a garden, on church land, or, with permission, in a local park perhaps. Your building materials could include logs, branches, twigs, leaves and moss. With time your hotel could provide refuge and a 'family home' for a range of invertebrates.



**OPEN AIR SERVICE AT FOXEARTH MEADOWS
SEPTEMBER 22 AT 3:00 PM**

Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve, Foxearth, Sudbury, Essex

We are holding another Open Air Service at Foxearth Meadows, celebrating God and his creation during the season of Creationtide.

Come, worship outdoors, hear from our speaker and join us for refreshments afterwards and hear stories of more of A Rocha UK's work.

Speaker: Professor James Pearce-Higgins (Head of Science at the British Trust for Ornithology and a member of our Steering Group)

Bring something to sit on, a sunhat or an umbrella, and a reusable cup for tea or coffee afterwards.

This is a free, ecumenical event with plenty of space for all. We ask you to book a place beforehand so that we have an idea of numbers and to help us with refreshments.

Book your place here

For more information, contact Sarah Leedham on sarah.leedham@arocha.org or on 07810 141234

SAMARA'S AID APPEAL

This initiative started in August 2014 with an email to the mothers in Samara Levy's son's year group, appealing for winter clothes and shoes to send to the people displaced in Iraq who lost everything when IS took their towns, cities and villages.



It has quickly grown into a larger project which provides medical and humanitarian aid, currently focused on Syria. 110 consignments (arctic lorries to Iraq and 40 containers and ambulances shipped to Syria) carrying clothes, shoes, bedding, toiletries/hygiene items, essential medical equipment and school equipment have been sent. Four small emergency field hospitals in different locations have been provided at different times during the conflict. Food farming projects and an outreach centre for orphans and widows are run, 40-70 orphans are fed and educated every day as well as livelihood training for widows. The centre has proved such a success that a second one is being built in a different location and I believe the first permanent medical centre is now open, which is the first stage towards designing and building a new hospital.

The aid provided serves vulnerable people and the teams serve everyone in need, regardless of their faith, political views, gender, ethnicity or other defining categories. The aim is to demonstrate the unconditional love of God to people who are in great need. Although some displaced people live in tents or similar informal structures, there are many more who live in houses, informal settlements which include unfinished or damaged buildings with no windows and sometimes no doors with walls missing, also caravans, animal sheds, schools and other public buildings. There are around 6 million internally displaced people in Syria, many of them having had to flee their homes but when it is safe enough have returned to find their homes have been either destroyed or looted and have had to start again with nothing.

All the recent aid to Syria has been directed to partners on the ground and has served many different areas including Damascus, Ghouta, Aleppo, Deir Ez-zor, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Tartus and Sweida. It has served significant numbers of people living in post-siege areas and been distributed after the sieges were broken – when it became possible to safely take aid into these areas, ensuring

that it reached the people who need it. Jordan and Lebanon have also received aid in the past in addition to Iraq.

All the staff are volunteers and they do this wonderful work simply because it needs to be done and people need to know they are not forgotten. I have supported Samara's Aid Appeal since 2016 and can't speak highly enough of the dedication that has been shown to the devastated people of Syria. You can learn more from their website: samarasaidappeal.org

Maureen Morris

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

We will be supporting Samara's Aid with a light lunch after worship on Sunday 17th November.

95th BIRTHDAY PARTY



Rev'd Ken Pryor was minister at Great Meeting; 1990 until 1995. Ken's wife Rose, now lives in Witham and celebrated her 95th birthday at the beginning of August. She sends her greetings to friends at Hadleigh and says "Thank you for the card".

HADLEIGH STORYTELLERS

The new academic school year now begins and our group of storytellers from Churches Together in Hadleigh will be out and about into two of our local schools presenting bible stories in drama form. Here are our autumn term dates and stories, please hold The Team and Schools in your prayers. Thank you.

September 20th Parable of the workers in the vineyard.
October 11th Jesus feeds the 5,000
November 15th The healing of Jairus's daughter.
December 13th The Christmas story

Hilary

IT'S SHOEBOX FILLING TIME

If you have time to spare, we would be grateful of your help to start filling our shoebox's for this years Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal.

We have 2 dates:

Friday 6th September in the afternoon, 2-4pm
and **Thursday 26th September** 10am -mid-day.

Tea, coffee & biscuits will be at hand. Thank you. Hilary

AS SUNG AT WORSHIP ON 18th AUGUST

Walls mark our bound'ries and keep us apart;
walls keep the world from our eyes and our heart.
Tables are round, making room for one more,
welcoming friends we had not known before.

*So build us a table and tear down the wall!
Christ is our host. There is room for us all!*

Walls make us sure who is in and who's out;
walls keep us safe from all question and doubt,
but at a table in open exchange
new ties are formed as our lives rearrange.

Refrain.

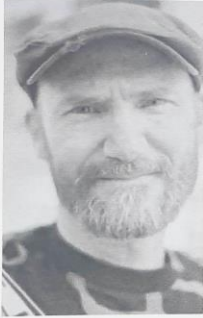
Once we were strangers, divided, alone.
Hate and distrust built a wall stone by stone.
Now at a table the bread that we share
joins us to Christ in a circle of care.

Refrain. Words:

Ruth Duck. (1947-

Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love



Welcome

Dear Commitment for Life friends,

I remember the day I received my call up papers demanding that I present myself to the local military barracks sign-up centre. The South African Nationalist government had a policy of military conscription. Every school-leaving-age white male had to “serve their country.” Except, we were not serving anything but the very narrow interests of a small, racist, and extremely dangerous minority. At the time, South Africa called itself a Christian country. I wondered even how Christians could believe that violence was ever legitimate?

New Testament scholar Walter Wink spent time in South Africa studying state violence and resistance to it, both the armed struggle and non-violent methodologies. His key insight was that any time Christians resort to violence for any reason, even to resist a greater violence, they end up mirroring the very evil they’d hoped to overcome. Thinking that violence, even if used as a last resort, will save us, is a lie. He called that the “myth of redemptive violence.”

At a time when nations are heating up their war production and turning increasingly to violence, Commitment for Life works to birth a just, equitable peace in the world. Your support has never been more important in a world turning increasingly to the myth of redemptive violence. Thank you for your prayers, advocacy, love, and generosity.

In this summer update we hear good news stories from our partners and partner regions, all of whom refuse to engage violently with the problems they encounter, but rather engage with the unlimited nature of Christ’s love in action. Our Bible study explores the myth of redemptive violence in more detail. And so, let us continue to work unflinchingly for peace in the world.

Yours in Christ’s peace

Kevin Snyman

HADLEIGH AND MONKS ELEIGH URC MONTHLY FINANCE REPORTS

JUNE 2024

Total income in June was £7,962 and expenditure £4,041, giving a surplus of £3,920. Income from offerings was £1,480, income from lettings £1,975 and rent for the Manse and the School House, £4,297. £300 per month from the Manse rent is put aside for any buildings or maintenance work on the manse which may be required in the future. The fellowship fund stands at £387.

Our monthly Ministry and Mission payment to The URC in 2024 is £2,653. Other payments in June were the usual gas and electricity (£242), wages, pulpit supply and general expenses.

Our 2023 accounts are currently with our accountant and should be returned in plenty of time for our next church meeting in September.

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.

JULY 2024

Total income in July was £6,441 and expenditure £4,477, giving a surplus of £1,964. Income from offerings was £1,498, income from lettings £2,919 and rent for the Manse, £1,392. £300 per month from the Manse rent is put aside for any buildings or maintenance work on the manse which may be required in the future. Donations of £60 in July to the fellowship fund brings its total to £447.

Our monthly Ministry and Mission payment to The URC in 2024 is £2,653. Other payments in July were the usual gas and electricity (£85), wages, pulpit supply and general expenses.

Our 2023 accounts are currently with our accountant and should be returned in plenty of time for our next church meeting in September.

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

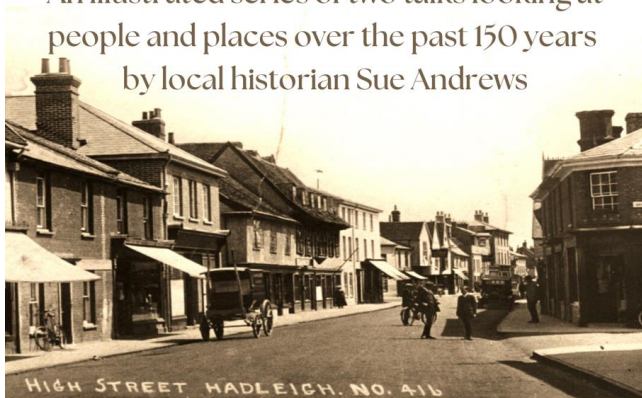
BRITISH SCHOOL (now the Ansell Centre). Note the blinds, the bell cage, stone edged roof ridges and the weed free street.



The Hadleigh Historian in association with
The King Guthrum Group presents...

The Old Hadleigh Picture Show

An illustrated series of two talks looking at
people and places over the past 150 years
by local historian Sue Andrews



Friday 20th September & Friday 18th October 2024
at 7.30pm at The Ansell Centre, Hadleigh
Tickets £5 per talk, (£9 for both) CASH ONLY at the door
& from Avis Newsagents, Hadleigh Thrift Shop & The Idler
or by cheque plus £1 postage to S. Andrews
17 Manor Road, Bildeston IP7 7BG

REPORT OF THE ELDERS' MEETING ON 1ST AUGUST 2024

On Thursday 1st August, as many elders as were able to make a meeting during the day, and John met with Jo Clare-Young, the Mission and Training Officer from the Synod.

Jo had asked to meet us to discuss the Mission Action Plan, following our application for a grant from the Synod towards the cost of the Administrator's Office. All grants now from the Synod have to be linked to the mission of the Church and Jo wanted to talk to us about our mission plans.

It was a wonderful day for Jo to come to meet us because the Memories Café was meeting in the Ansell Centre and there was a dance group in the Community Room. She was able to see how busy our premises are and also to see the office in its current form.

Jo listened as we explained all the different groups that meet on our premises and how we see our mission to the people of Hadleigh. She had read our Mission Action Plan and completely understood that ours is not a Church that opens just on a Sunday morning and is not used again until the next Sunday. She was impressed that we had a Mission Action Plan (thanks to Bryn and John) and it was only the seventh one she had read!!! Most Churches do not currently have one.

We shared our vision, hopes and dreams with her and also discussed some of the barriers that we need to overcome. She told us two different stories and the one that spoke to me was when she told the story of the resurrected Jesus on the shore who met with the disciples on the sea. The disciples had been fishing all night but had not caught anything. Jesus told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat and they caught 153 fish. John 21: 1- 14. Jo reminded us that when we keep doing something that is not working, maybe it's time to look to Jesus, trust in him and try something different. Does this story speak to you too?

Jo finished the meeting by praying for our Church and our work and I found this a very special prayer. Jo said she would be recommending to Synod that we receive a grant towards the administrator's office which she agreed was needed for our work. Watch this space ...

Claire Coster

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



Contacts

Minister

Vacant (Interim Moderator Rev'd John Cook)

Serving Elders

Claire Coster (Church Secretary) 01473 822850
Nigel Crisp
Chloe Elmer
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Ric Lambert 01473 828547
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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Registered Charity No 1151084