



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
November 2023

VISIT THE WEBSITE:
www.hadleighurc.org.uk



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

November 2023 – Newsletter No. 826

Paper copies and YouTube livestreaming of services also available

- 5th Nov** **10:30am** Morning Worship with Shoe Box blessing led by Michael Tillett
- 12th Nov** **10.30am** Remembrance Service with Communion led by Nigel Crisp
- 19th Nov** **10:30am** Morning Worship led by Michael Tillett and Paul Simon
- 26th Nov** **10:30am** All Age Cafe service led by Claire Coster and Chloe Elmer
- 3rd Dec** **10:30am** Advent Sunday Worship led by Rev Janice White

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
DECEMBER 2023 Newsletter before

Thursday 16th November PLEASE

Email to nigel_crisp@hotmail.com



**MESSAGE FROM CLAIRE:
3 MONTHS INTO THE VACANCY AND HOW ARE WE DOING?**

It is now just over three months since Bryn and Lilly moved away from Hadleigh and our Church began this next stage of its life, in vacancy. As Paul Simon wrote in the August edition of the newsletter, “Things will be different during the vacancy. They must be. But that doesn’t mean for the worse.”

So how are we doing? Please take some time to think about this before you go on to read my ideas.

Thanks to Michael, for arranging and encouraging people to lead worship, we have had a variety of services during the last three months, with something to suit all tastes. How fortunate we are that we have people from our own Church family who have been willing to lead worship but we have also enjoyed services from old friends and also enjoyed meeting Revd Alex Clare-Young from Downing Place URC in Cambridge. Having previously been at a Methodist Church in Reading, I am used to having a variety of different preachers in a month but must admit, I do miss not having a series of services that I can get my teeth into. Thanks to those who continue to deliver the printed version of the service to those unable to attend in person, and to those who are skilled with technology and enable the service to be streamed and for us to use Easy Worship.

Publicity – we do miss Bryn’s gifts with technology and IT but we are managing to keep everyone informed of what is happening. Karen is working hard to produce a piece for the Hadleigh Community News each month and Nigel continues to compile and edit the newsletter. Chloe and Jane are both contributing publicity for the blue noticeboard and George Elmer is working on the website so that we have a user-friendly website that tells everyone what is happening in our Church. I am endeavouring to produce the weekly news sheet although this has proved to be a challenge. Did you notice that for two weeks the services were happening at 10:30 pm? For two weeks we had the same streets for prayer!! Please do let me know if you would like publicity for an event with Kingdom Values that can be added to the sheet or any special prayer requests that we should be focusing on.

We continue to hold our weekly prayer service on a Wednesday with refreshments afterwards on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

If you have never attended, can I recommend that you come along and try this time of prayer and fellowship.

Nigel has been working incredibly hard to decorate the manse and Hilary, Paul and Dave have also been working to ensure the manse can be rented out at the beginning of November. Plans for the Administrator's Office in the Church are now being drawn up by an Architect.

Pastorally, everyone is working hard to care for each other, and I would like to thank all those who visit, telephone, email and pray for members of the Church family. We do have a number of people who are in care homes or in their own home for a significant amount of time and really do appreciate all that is done to love and care for them. We are delighted that we have seen some new faces on a Sunday morning but do miss friends who are no longer worshipping with us.

We now have an Interim Moderator, the Revd John Cook, a retired minister now living in Felixstowe. We are looking forward to meeting him in the coming weeks and seeing how he can support us.

So those are my thoughts... But what about you? If you are pleased with something that is happening have you passed that on? If you are worried about something that is happening in the Church, have you shared that? The Elders can only support and lead the Church family if we know your thoughts too. Please do speak with us. Maybe you can write something for the December Newsletter too.

I finish with some words from the Apostle Paul from 1 Corinthians 12:27 "All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it." And from verse 26: "If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness." As we continue to 'Provide family, celebrate diversity and serve the community through and for the LOVE of Jesus Christ' may we grow together as one body in Christ.

With love,

Claire

NEWS FROM PHIL WELLS

Some members of the URC have been praying about our grandson Ivor (and those with longer memories may remember our son Joe). It was suggested that I give an update as a celebration and thank you, though he still faces challenges of course.

Ivor is just 1 year old and, though his Mum, Anna had gone through all the tests, the diagnosis of Down's Syndrome was a shock. What gradually emerged in the first two weeks of tests was that Ivor also had a major heart defect, with two holes and a missing valve. Open heart surgery was scheduled for four months, if he had grown sufficiently.



For his Mum and Dad this was a very difficult time. Not only all the unanswerable questions, and the dreams of the future that needed rewriting, but the literally 24 hour care they had to give. Although Ivor took to breastfeeding, the medics realised that all the effort Ivor was having to make purely to breathe meant he was not putting on weight at all!

So Ivor had a nasal gastric tube inserted and needed feeding every three hours, day and night; each feed took 45 minutes, plus sterilising time! He also needed medicines for his heart condition and antibiotics - with an hour gap before or after food. You can do the maths! How a single parent, or anyone with a full time job can manage I can't imagine. Joe did no work for 6 months.

It felt like a race against time, as delaying surgery would put further strain on his heart. Daily weight gain measurements became the task master. They also had to contend with regular visits to A&E and admissions to hospital because his oxygen levels (always low) became worrying.

All through this time, Ivor was a sweet and cheerful little thing, very interested in people and always keen to communicate, though any physical effort was very short lived - even his cries lasted only a few seconds!

However, after only one delay, he had his operation in January - so hard to believe what surgeons can do with such a little person. After 7 hours Mum and Dad heard that he had come through successfully; such a big day!

Since then Ivor has begun his new life - and he is such a joy. He has now moved on to several physio and speech and language sessions a week to give him the best chance to develop ready for school. Apart from that, the challenges are much more typical - Mum and Dad trying to establish sleep routines and manage the buggy on the bus!

But Ivor is still a joy; the cheerfulness and sociability that saw him through hospital treatments is still his default setting. He can sit up by himself now and roll anywhere he shouldn't be; the next step is crawling which will come, but is more difficult than for most little ones.

With best wishes

Phil Wells, Chichester

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

It has been good to hear from Phil and we continue to pray for little Ivor.

Over the years many people have been part of life at Great Meeting, but have now moved on and away. Maybe university, maybe a new job, or whatever. It would be good to hear from friends who are no longer in Hadleigh. So, if you are in contact with any such folk, why not encourage them to share their experiences via the pages of this newsletter. We would love to hear from them.

REMEMBERING PAT



Patricia Ruby June Langley 12th June 1931 – 25th September 2023

A service to celebrate the life of Pat was held at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 17th October. Unfortunately, several people were unable to attend due to having COVID. It was a special service for a very special lady.

Pat had two children – Grace and John, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even two great-great-grandchildren. Family were so important to her and she was so proud of them all and loved spending time with them. I

remember her telling me that she used to be a 'dinner lady' at a primary school in London – I think she would have been a great one, taking an interest in the children but making sure they did as they were told too.

Pat was a very talented soprano, with a beautiful voice and enjoyed singing so much. She was a member of choral societies throughout her life and was always willing to sing a solo. She was also a member of the music group at Church and was able to sing the descant wonderfully (much to the envy of the rest of us). I loved to hear her singing the descant to Christmas Carols.

She was an Elder in our Church for many years, also representing our Church at the Eastern Synod. She took her pastoral responsibilities very seriously and always took a great interest in other people. She would move around the Church on a Sunday morning, greeting people and checking how they were. She always asked about my family and supported the youngsters in our fellowship and taking an interest in them. She loved to see children in Church. Pat was always willing to drive people to medical appointments and other ladies to Phil's organised Sunday lunches at the pub.

Pat and I attended the same Bible study group (Christianity Explored) at the manse with Milly Dagleish. Pat was willing to share her experiences and faith. I remember one evening when we had a deep discussion about Jesus and I had one of those 'leaps of faith' thanks to talking, listening and praying with Milly

and Pat. She was always so kind, caring and concerned about me and my workload as an Elder. She understood because she had been there.

Pat and Sylvia were always a pair and were such close friends. Pat supported Sylvia and Sylvia supported Pat. During lockdown they would take their daily walks together, pushing their trolleys to the railway walk.

Pat was such a kind, caring Christian lady who loved life and lived her faith in her every day life. "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:23. Claire

PS Pat was part of the fellowship at Great Meeting during the ministry of the Rev Ken Pryor. She joined us at the GEAR conferences at Swanwick. Pat also went on the pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1994 with Ken, Rose, Phyllis and friends from St Mary's. Pat came into membership in 1999 during the ministry of Rev Jim Dagleish. Rest in Peace Pat. Nigel

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX NEWS

Hi Everyone,

Michael will be leading our Shoebox blessing this year on November 5th. Unfortunately I won't be with you as Nigel has a service elsewhere. Thankyou for all you do to reach out and support others in need.

Sincere thanks also go to our local Morrison's and Neil from the food bank run from the Ansell Centre. They have helped enable us to fill 60 boxes this year by providing extra hygiene items, sweets & stationary. Our limited fundraised funds don't stretch so far these days.



I recently heard from Blythswood Care and have pleasing news to share, our boxes and collected items will be travelling off to Ukraine. Please pray that they may give hope, some comfort and many blessings.

Hilary

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

This year the Harvest Festival donations were incredibly generous, so THANK YOU to all who kindly gave! Maureen, at FIND was especially grateful. I've received a delightful letter of thanks from Naomi Partridge from Kersey.



*Dear Ann,
What a splendid box of Goodies you and George brought me. Will you please convey my thanks to all my friends at Hadleigh URC. It reminded me of the days when I used to deliver several lots to various church friends myself!
With all Good wishes,
Naomi*



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Monks Eleigh URC Chapel

Wednesday 8th November at 2.30pm

Led by Revd Andy Jowitt.

Nigel Crisp will tell the story of the first man on the Chapel's memorial plaque.

Everybody is welcome to this event to remember those who made sacrifices in war.

REPORT FROM THE ELDERS' MEETING ON TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2023

The Elders' Meeting began with devotions and prayer led by Nigel, based on a reading from Philippians 2:21. We enjoyed having the ukelele group playing downstairs while we met and their playing and singing are uplifting. As usual we spent time sharing news of our fellowship and praying for those who are in need of particular prayer at this time. We remembered Pat Langley and her work as a serving Elder and all that she had done for our Church.

We spent time discussing the Interregnum and how things were going. Claire had written to the Revd Lythan Nevard (Moderator), Revd Anne Sardeson (Chair of the Pastoral Committee) and Revd Dave Coaker (Synod Clerk) to express disappointment at the lack of support from the Synod since Bryn left at the beginning of July. Anne had emailed back and has agreed to be a point of contact until an Interim Moderator has been appointed. Claire and Anne will meet at the Synod Meeting on 14th October to discuss things further.

It was agreed that we would have a break from offering Messy Church because the Messy Church on 1st October had had to be cancelled because there had been no interest from those who used to attend. We hope to relaunch this in September 2024 and in the meantime will think and pray about ways that we can make this more appealing to others. We also discussed Junior Church when there is only one regular attender and how hard that is for the child and the adults leading it. Jane and Claire are leading assembly at Hadleigh Community Primary School on 9th October and will advertise Junior Church there and invite children to come along.

We discussed the technology at the Church. Ric was thanked for his work of tidying and labelling the cables on the computer desk. We realise that the computer needs upgrading and Ric will look into how much it will cost to buy a new computer and the programs that we need, like Easy Worship.

Our next Elders' Meeting is on Monday 6th November because there is a South Suffolk Area Partnership Meeting on Tuesday 7th November which Claire needs to attend.

Claire Coster

REPORT FROM THE EASTERN SYNOD – SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2023

This Synod was held at Castle Hill URC in Ipswich, so it was a local journey and Chloe and I didn't have to leave home until 9:30am! We parked at Mum's house, so we didn't have to worry about parking either. The opening worship was led by Revd David Rees and Revd Adam Earle, both ministers in the East Ipswich Pastorate.

In the morning we had a presentation by Jo Clare-Young the Mission & Training Officer on Partnership and Discipleship. This was an interesting presentation, and I will be writing more about some of the Synod's initiatives in next month's newsletter. There was time to discuss our gifts and also to hear about discipleship courses that are being organised. We also heard from representatives of the East Midlands Synod, who have already started on the 'resource Church model' for organising their pastorates. Next it was time to hear about General Assembly 2023 and I was very proud of Chloe, who spoke about her experiences of 'What Do You Think' and the General Assembly. She explained what she had done and how the 3 days before General Assembly had helped the youth to prepare to engage more fully with it. (I wished I had been able to attend that too as it would have helped me to have been better prepared.)

Lunch was a busy hour, with a visit to the bookshop, chatting to friends from General Assembly and Castle Hill URC, meeting our Interim Moderator, Revd John Cook and eating lunch!

In the afternoon we passed the resolutions that had been brought to Eastern Synod, and heard about the plans for a new Church in Northstowe, a new town beyond Cambridge. This will be a Local Ecumenical Project, based in a Community Centre, and supported by the Anglicans, Baptists and URC and we heard from Revd Janet Tollington and an Anglican minister Revd Dr Beth Cope. This is an exciting time and this was certainly expressed by Beth.

The day finished with a Communion Service, which included the induction of the Revd Alex Jacob into the role of Synod Transitional Minister. During the Communion Service, Lythan named Elders and Church Officers who had died since the last Synod and so we remembered Pat Langley and her service both as an Elder at our Church and a Rep to the Eastern Synod.

The next Synod is in March 2024 and will be held at Downing URC in the middle of Cambridge. Now that journey will be interesting and long, with a Park and Ride Bus as well as an hour and half car journey! Claire

FINANCE REPORT AUGUST 2023

Total income in August was £2,877 and expenditure £5,906 giving a deficit of £3,029. Income from offerings was £1,665 and income from lettings was £1,209. We received £10 in donations towards the fellowship fund, bringing the total in that fund to £132.

As was briefly mentioned at church meeting at the beginning of September, our total cash flow for this year up to the end of August is -£6,775. One important point to note is that offerings have decreased by around 11% on average this year compared with last (£2,045 monthly average in 2023 vs. £2,302 in 2022). This is most likely just a result in a general decrease in congregation size over the last couple of years or so.

Gas costs have risen significantly since this time last year, as has been expected. Between January and August 2022, we spent £3,875 on gas and electricity compared with £6,520 in 2023 – an increase of £2,645. Our income from lettings over the same period has more than covered this though, lettings income in 2023 is £15,820 to date, an increase of £3,136 compared with the same period last year. Note that electricity costs will be increasing very shortly too, our current electricity contract is due for renewal in November.

Our monthly Ministry and Mission payment to The URC in 2023 is £2,726. Other payments in August were the usual wages, utility bills and general expenses and also £684 on the manse insurance and £249 on buildings maintenance. Gas and electricity bills totalled £651.

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.

Notes on attached figures

Income

£3 Miscellaneous – ‘Loyalty reward’ from the bank (bearing in mind they charge us £8.50 plus charges for having the account in the first place).

Expenditure

£249 Buildings and Maintenance – £129 maintenance, £120 window repairs
£185 Miscellaneous – £26 bank fees, £15 bookkeeping charges, £50 Retreat Association subscription (Monks Eleigh), £95 general expenses (mostly tea/coffee etc.)

£372 Communications – Usual payments of £28 for church broadband and £13 for newssheets plus £331 for newsletter printing (covering a few months of printing)

Tom Gordon, Treasurer September 2023.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the cards and flowers and best wishes from our friends at HURC which we received on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Yes - 50 years - and it took place at Great Meeting 3pm on 20th October, with Rev Bill Tordoff officiating with dear Renie Dawson on the organ.

Nigel and Hilary



Great Meeting a few years before 1973. Note the iron railings along the path! No playing on the grass in those days.

PRAYING THE STREETS DURING NOVEMBER

This month we will be remembering those in the following streets: Week beginning:

5 Nov	Oxford Drive
12 Nov	Ramplng Close + Chisnall Close + Ward Close + Allen Road + Durrant Road + Leeks Close
19 Nov	Emmerson Way + Betts Close + Lambert Close
26 Nov	Pykenham Way + Wellington Close + Charter Close

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Hadleigh's Coronation Carnival 1953



A very wet day!

A massive town effort – look at all the floats!

“Congregational (that’s us) Youth Club” has its own presence;
David Simpson the late plumber can be seen standing on the lorry.
The Idler Book Shop then Sisson’s fish shop on the far right.

I remember it well! Nigel

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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*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.*

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