

Halesworth



and Bramfield URC



June 2024

What we believe

We believe that in obedience to Christ's command, we must proclaim the Gospel to the world in the power and at the direction of the Holy Spirit.

We are called out of darkness to live as children of light, reflecting God's glory all around.

We recognise that as a Church, the bride of Christ, we are commanded to love and encourage one another and ensure that no root of bitterness divides us.

We acknowledge our absolute dependence on Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father made us, Jesus has redeemed us and the Spirit sustains and provides all we need on our pilgrimage.

We acknowledge our commitment to the Bible, as the authoritative word of God able to teach us, guide us and inspire us as we discover God's perfect will for our lives.

**If you have something for the
July magazine,
please email
smedleybigal@aol.com (preferably)
or hand it to me by **22nd June****

Blessings, Alan

**Our Vision:
"To know Jesus Christ;
to make Him known."**



Dear Friends,

We have had Easter, not just Easter weekend but the whole 'Season of Easter' leading up to Ascension Day. 10 Days after Jesus returned to Heaven came Pentecost, which we marked last Sunday. The Equipping of the church for mission!

You can read the account of what happened in the Bible, the book of Acts Chapter 2. And the rest of Acts describes how the young Church developed as a result. A small group of covering individuals meeting in secret because of fear that the authorities would treat them as they had their leader, became bold and outgoing, spreading good news and being used powerfully by God including in miraculous healings. A worldwide movement of faith got underway.

Why is this relevant to us today? Well, the Bible makes it clear that God always intended that the empowering work of the Holy Spirit was meant for all believers in all nations and all generations. So, that means us as well!?

Church is not meant to be intellectual but experiential. And we, today, are still invited to receive similar spiritual experiences as those first followers of Jesus experienced. That is one of the reasons that we hold 'Healing Services' at Lowestoft, where we invite people to explore spiritual reality including with prayers for healing.

Here at Halesworth, before Covid, we regularly had a personal prayer ministry team available after the Sunday morning worship. I am looking to re-introduce this. So, if you were part of the team, or are someone God may be calling to be involved for the future, I will be seeking to have a word with you.

We also have the Friday prayer meetings with coffee after. Whether you are thinking of coming to healing at Lowestoft, feel called to join the prayer team here, need to start coming to the prayer meeting or indeed one of

the home groups, let's all seek to be more open to the empowering work of the Holy Spirit – in our lives too!

Blessings

Jon



Please continue to hold Eileen MacAllister in prayer, as she is on the journey of grief after Jo Cole's death. Also, Jo's family. And Julia & Alice Howell after Neil's death.

Jean Wagg is starting Chemotherapy. Please hold her and Peter in your prayers.

Please pray for Ruth and myself. Ruth's health limitations at the moment leave her so incapacitated that she rarely goes out of the house, some days doesn't get dressed and can easily be overwhelmed by too much interaction with others. There are some small signs of improvement recently, though it's still unpredictable. I am effectively her carer at the moment. Ruth's request is that we pray for God's purposes to be fulfilled during this time of incapacity, however long it may continue.

We continue to pray with and for Samuel and Lillian, whose practical needs, especially satisfactory housing, many of us are aware of. Also, the elders and others in leadership as we look into re-starting regular personal prayer ministry after the Sunday morning services.

Please also continue praying for Moira Cooke, Janet Saunders, Christine Dominic, Chris Buttle, Andrew & Esther Paige, Michael Gilbert, Sheila Brown, Lorraine Smedley and others you know or know of or God places on your hearts.

And remember you can join the regular Friday morning prayer meetings, 9.45 – 10.30, both in the building (with coffee after) and on Zoom.

Blessings

Jon

Extra!

New Address

Sue and Doug Smith -
6, Princes Green IP19 8DP ('phone No unchanged)



Just in case the folk at HURC are wondering what I get upto in Chesterfield, here's a pic of me playing at the SMH Chesterfield Stadium recently. We have an over 70's friendly against the Australian national team on Tuesday as part of their warm up for the World Championships that weekend. I'm expecting that they'll need a calculator to keep the score!

Best wishes Don

SPECIAL DATES

at HURC

Halesworth United Reformed Church

Come and
join us for:



Tuesdays 3:30pm- 5pm

4th and 18th June

Book with Elizabeth - familyhurc@gmail.com



Tuesday - 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

NOTE New time

9am - 11am



HURC Too
Every Sunday



No family breakfast
in June



Healing?

Is it part of our real spiritual experience?



Explore this with us Sunday 2 June 2024: 3pm @ North
Lowestoft URC (London Rd North NR32 1HB)

In a gentle, prayerful environment, in the context of worship centered on Jesus Christ, we pray for people's needs with the option to receive individual prayer ***No brash promises. Just an understanding that the healing ministry of Jesus continues through the Church***

More info from Rev'd Jon Sermon (01986) 873761

email: pastorjonsermon@gmail.com



How to pray for Israel and Gaza?

A few weeks ago an item popped up in one of my news feeds: *What the Bible says about the Israel-Gaza war* (<https://www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/what-the-bible-says-about-the-israel-gaza-war/16784.article> if you would like to read it for yourself). This turns out to be a very complex question, not surprisingly. The author, Rev Mark Woods says we look to the Bible for guidance, particularly in big things, and surely it must say something about this, but if we go to the Bible for simple answers we won't find them. A knowledge of scripture texts alone is not enough, we need to understand what's happening there. Great wrongs have happened to both sides, and both sides have committed terrible deeds on the other. Woods suggests there are three things in particular we need to do to and three things that should shape how we pray (we may not agree, but they are interesting and worthy of consideration)

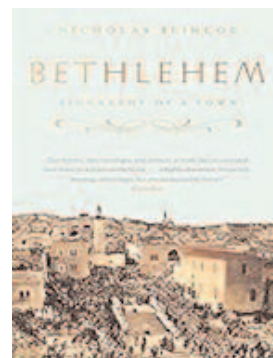
- 1 We need to feel, not just think: both sides are driven by an intense moral conviction that is felt in the heart
- 2 We need to know our history and current affairs.
- 3 We need to know that Christians before us have thought about war too.

And when we pray

- 1 No human being is worth more or less than another because of where they were born or the language they speak; each of us is made in the image of God.
- 2 Christians resign vengeance into God's hands. We should pray that the desire for revenge is restrained and that good prevails.
- 3 We believe the words of Jesus who said 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God'

I have recently read and enjoyed two books, very different in scope and viewpoint, which, it occurred to me, would coincidentally help inform our knowledge of the history and current affairs.

Bethlehem: biography of a town, by Nicholas Blincoe. Bethlehem is in



Palestine, no longer the "little town" of Christmas and the Bible but a modern city with a university, and was predominantly, in modern times, an Arab Christian town until Yasser Arafat arrived. The author is married to an Arab film maker and spends his time between Bethlehem and London. Quoting from the Guardian review, the book is 'part history, part travelogue and memoir... a highly discursive, frequently amusing, often tragic but always accessible history'. The history of Bethlehem, from stone age to the present, is the

history of that piece of land that has been Canaan and Palestine and Israel and always the Promised Land to the Jews, a strip of land that was an important trade route and therefore a desirable possession to many different empires

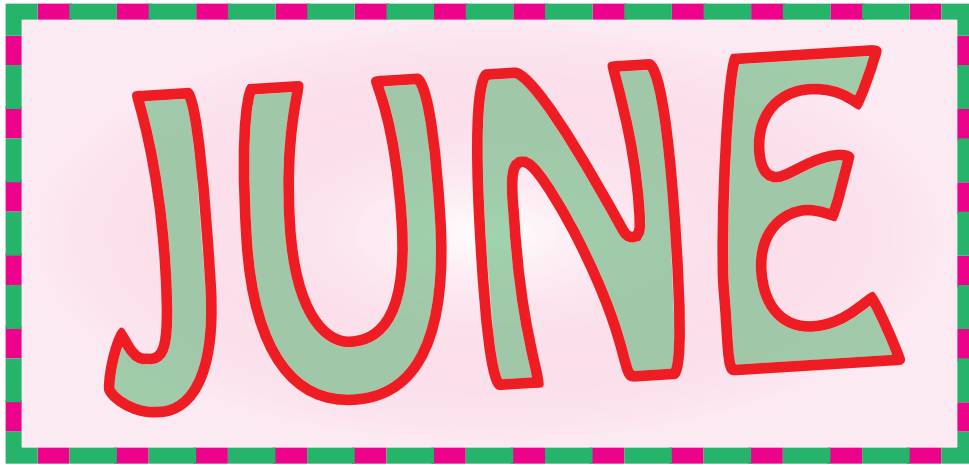
The Jewish Jesus: reconnecting with the truth about Jesus, Israel and the Church, by David Hoffbrand.

Hoffbrand is a Jewish Christian, lives in Brighton and is a member of a Pentecostal church. In this easy, friendly, compelling book he explores with wit and clarity the answers to questions such as "what relevance does it have for us (Christians) that Jesus is Jewish and what difference should it make to our faith?" On the way he emphasises God created and chose Israel, God loves Israel, the Church hasn't replaced Israel, God is not punishing Israel, God has a continuing plan for Israel, that gentile Christians are grafted into the tree of Israel. Along the way a positive future for Israel is in the frame, so maybe this book is an antidote, if any were needed, to the book above!



Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish



Friday 31st May 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 2nd June 11 a.m. Gathered Worship with Communion

Tuesday 4th June 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 7th June 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

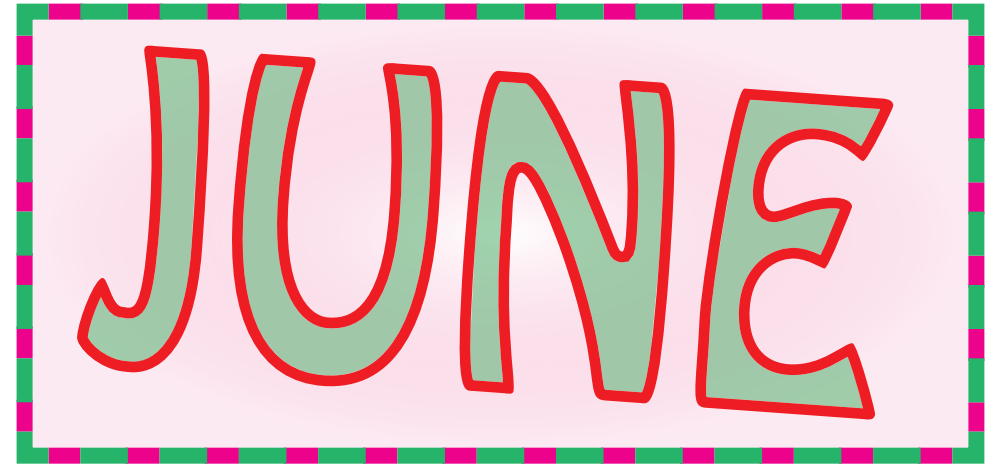
Sunday 9th June 11 a.m. Gathered Worship TBA

3 p.m. Bramfield Chapel

Tuesday 11th June 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 14th June 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 16th June 11 a.m. Gathered Worship TBA



Tuesday 18th June 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 21st June 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 23rd June 11 a.m. Gathered Worship TBA

Tuesday 25th June 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 28th June 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 30th June 11 a.m. Gathered Worship TBA

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

24th Esther Paige 80



Gift Day



Church Gift Day 7th July 2024

Genesis 3 & Mark 14: 32 -42 .

A Tale of Two Gardens

I wonder.....

...Was the bright and unspoiled air of that morning, tingling with the carolling of birds?
And did the sun, kindle diamond fires in every drop of dew?

Did she smile indulgently at the 'bumbling' bee as he ponderously visited each flower,
Shocking the air with the release of each blossom's shameless perfume?
Or did these morning miracles recede
In the deceiving brightness* of her visitor?
And as she grasped the stolen fruit of knowledge,
Beguiling whispers exciting and awakening curiosity within her,
Did she hear Someone weeping?

Choosing the enticing sweetness,
She ate, sharing the fruit with her eager partner.
And God mourned.....

.....And it was night.

In Gethsemane, vibrant with the cacophony of cicadas
And the silent, deadly flight of the night owl,
Luminous eyes of nocturnal creatures peered through the purple darkness.
In the sky above, ancient sisters of this darkened globe
Were jewel bright in the clear, night air:
And overlooked the sleeping forms of men.

Men exhausted by anxiety and Passover wine.
They huddled together, in a brief oblivion.
In the darkened garden,
All alone.... He prayed and waited,
Waited ,..... waited;
For the darkness to claim its prey.
His sweat became like great drops of blood,
As the horror of His mission assailed his flesh
And made His spirit recoil.

But He took the cup of horror directly from His Father's hands and,
In THAT garden,
Put it to His lips,
Decision made.
He **chose** to drink it, to the dregs....

And heaven worshipped.

Lorraine

(*The Hebrew word, translated as "serpent" in Gen 3, is "nachash."
I am told that this word also has the meaning "shining one")

HURC Olympians



All Age
Holiday
Bible Club

Halesworth United
Reformed Church

Stories

6th - 9th August

10am - Midday

Snack

followed by picnic in the
park

Games

(food provided)

Craft



£1.50 per person
per session

Play

Fun

Book your spaces with
Elizabeth, with payment
by 9th July

Songs

Celebrate!

EASTERN SYNOD
BIG DAY OUT
SATURDAY 8TH JUNE
TRINITY PARK, IPSWICH
10.00AM - 4.00PM

A day for all ages from 0-100

RELAX HAVE FUN CELEBRATE CREATE REFLECT PLAY

£8 contribution per adult
children Under 16 free
Refreshments on arrival & picnic lunch

Celebrating our faith. HoPe and Love in Action

Booking on line <https://forms.office.com/e/6iwigUVLMB>



Sunday All in Service

Join us for our end of
HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB
CELEBRATION
sharing with the Church
what we have been doing
throughout the week

Sunday 11th August
11.00am - 12.00pm
Followed by cakes and
refreshments

Rambling...again!

It goes without saying that I will never understand God.. The Creator is not an 'impersonal force' (as some would have it) that's too easy. Neither is God an indulgent, old grandfather, or Superman, an extra-terrestrial, or a time traveller. None of our merely human explanations can hope to come near to the truth. There is, however, one human understanding which we can see in God's creation... He reveals himself as PERSONAL. Not 'a person' but THE PERSON, from which every other personality derives its "personhood".

As I sit here in my garden, I realise that He bestows personality on everything He creates, even those parts of creation which we call inanimate. How often have you been in the presence of great hills, or mountains, even trees, and felt their brooding authority? Water has many characteristics in its many forms. Think of the majestically powerful sea and its moods, ranging from thunderous fury to languid benevolence. Peaceful rivers, effervescent streams, water tamed to provide irrigation and household duties or unruly, unpredictable, unstoppable floods. And that does not even mention the ravishing beauty of snow, or the treacherous ice.

I'm sitting here on the grass, (it would be breaking the Trades Description Act to call it a lawn!) and I love what I see around me. In this anthropomorphic mood, the daisies encroach on my attention. Bright eyed, perky and 'in your face', I just KNOW they have the adenoidal voices of American, teenage girls: insistent and annoyingly optimistic. "Have a nice Day" reverberates around my brain, whenever I see them enthusiastically "starring" their green heaven, always (stunningly) alert and impressionable.

The buttercups, on the other hand, are clearly not impressed by the incessant clamour of their neighbours. They are totally secure in the knowledge that they are "noticed". Their petals are vibrant and shiny, both reflecting and radiating the bright, sun colour... wantonly calling the pollinating insects. Do I hear self-satisfied, buttery, yawns? Despite all this colourful enticement, the bees seem to prefer the clover, which resembles a fading, Edwardian spinster in her muted colours and

lace edged, elegant clothes. Understated and unassuming she may be: but her gentle benevolence would seem to be more attractive than her more "showy" neighbours.

There is another inhabitant of this meadow-like patch of grass, but I am ignorant of horticultural lore, so I don't have a clue as to its name. Little more than ground cover, it has a small, deep purple flower. "Hear I am!" I detect a wee, small voice. "Yes, that's me, down here! Isn't the sun lovely?? We may have rain soon you know...." Being so small she doesn't get much in the way of conversation, well we all have our place!

Lord, your creation is stunning, immense, mysterious, intricate, intriguing and (thank you Lord) brimming over with personality, by your amazing creativity.

Lorraine





Volunteers

Garry Friend

Coffee Mornings (Fridays)

Premises Outside Use Organiser

~~Premises Condition/Works Organiser~~

Other Duties – Greeting/Prayers etc

Manse Officer

Open the Book Team and organiser



Please speak to an Elder if you would like to volunteer for any of the above

