

Halesworth



and Bramfield URC



March 2025

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
April magazine,
please email
smedleybigal@aol.com (preferably)
or hand it to me by 22nd March**

Blessings, Alan

Our Vision:

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

Dear Friends

We are now in the period between Christmas and Easter and, in fact, soon to be in Lent. One of the traditional practices among Christians is to treat Lent as a period for enhanced spiritual reflection & study, hopefully leading to blossoming of our faith. This is one of the reasons many churches hold a series of Bible studies during Lent.

This year, our home groups will be continuing their programmes of Bible Study. And there is also the option of joining with Lowestoft URC for a specific 6-week Lent course. We will be exploring how Jesus always intended His church to be equipped for effective mission by the empowering work of the Holy Spirit.

The sessions are on Mondays, from 10 March, 10.30 -12.00. They will be in the Lowestoft church building and also accessible on Zoom. (see p5)

Following on from the recent Church Meeting, we now know that we will be partnering with a team from Through Faith Missions for the Awake Suffolk Coastal Mission, 6-14 September 2025 (see p13). And beyond that, come January, with my retirement, a period of ministerial vacancy. This course, and indeed the Virtual Upper Room (p4) could prove helpful for preparation.

We will need to recognise that God may be calling new people to contribute to leading the church, in eldership, leading worship services and in other practical ways. Also, some who have been involved for a long time may find new aspects of calling.

So, to address, from a Bible perspective, questions like:

- ▶ Is empowered ministry, like Jesus engaged in, as did his 1st followers, still possible today?
- ▶ Is this really what Jesus intended for his church?
- ▶ Can we re-discover the spiritual gifting Jesus promised his followers?.....

Will be even more relevant in that context. We need to be praying and discerning who God is raising up and equipping for key roles. As well as the formal roles like eldership, and specific help with the mission, we need to encourage gifting in everyone. Remember, God isn't limited by our church structures as to how He equips us to serve.

Please come to the Bible Studies, either in Lowestoft or on Zoom, if you possibly can. **Blessings Jon**



We continue to pray for Paul Potts – and indeed all the family as we stand with them in the loss of Pat

Please hold Kathryn Bones in prayer – also Paul and the wider family. Life has become a real struggle for them.

I reported last month that there were people exploring church membership. It is a great delight that 5 of them are now being received. Praise God for the new people He is bringing to us. There may be others who have been coming for a while and may want to explore membership? Do get in touch.

Please continue to pray for Moira Cooke, Christine Dominic, Ruth Sermon and other you know of in need.

And let's celebrate 'special' birthdays - See page 6

3 April (You may want to know sooner than April's magazine will reach



The Dunamis ministry offers on-line ways of accessing the equipping Jesus wants to give His church, including Virtual Upper Room events.

The next one is **Wednesday 12 March 2025 @ 3.00pm**. Go to www.dunamis.org.uk for details, including a 5-minute video explaining the Virtual Upper Room. And it is necessary to book to receive an invitation & Zoom link. *So, checking diaries and registering Now is appropriate.*

Remembering that the equipping Jesus promised His followers came to fruition as they were gathered in an upper room on the Day of Pentecost, this event helps us connect with that experience and receive refreshing.

Blessings Jon

Healing? Spiritual Gifting? Miracles?



Are this part of our real spiritual experience today?



Explore this with us during Lent 2025

@ North Lowestoft URC (London Rd North NR32 1HB) (& on Zoom)

Lent Bible Studies:

**6 sessions on Mondays 10.30-12.00
starting Monday 10th March**

Is empowered ministry, like Jesus engaged in, as did his 1st followers, still possible today? Is this really what Jesus intended for his church? Can we re-discover the spiritual gifting Jesus promised his followers?

The Biblical answers to these questions will be addressed

Contact Rev Jon Sermon 01986 873761
[email: pastorjonsermon@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjonsermon@gmail.com)

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

13th Rody Simpson 50

21st Michael Gilbert 85



A picture for the magazine Missing Paul Woods and Chris Dunn. I just wanted to thank them for coming today and helping achieve so much. More to do! And thanks to Paul Potts for lending his truck and providing a spot for disposal

Blessings Jo Small

SPECIAL DATES at HURC

Halesworth United Reformed Church



Suggested donation £1 Per Person

Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm

March 11th & 25th

Book with Elizabeth - familyhurc@gmail.com



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



**HURC Too
Every Sunday**



**Messy Breakfast
22nd**





Sunday 2nd 11 a.m. Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon
Communion

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

Friday 7th 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 9th 11 a.m. Gathered Worship Jo Moreira

3 p.m. Bramfield Chapel Minister Jon Sermon

Monday 10th 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 Lent Bible Study at Lowestoft and Zoom

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

Wednesday 12th 3.00p.m Virtual Upper Room @ www.dunamis.org.uk

Friday 14th 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 16th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon



Monday 17th 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 Lent Bible Study at Lowestoft and Zoom

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

Friday 21st 9.45 am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 23rd 11 a.m. Gathered Worship TBA

Monday 24th 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 Lent Bible Study at Lowestoft and Zoom

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

Friday 28th 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 30th 11 a.m. Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon

Monday 31st 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 Lent Bible Study at Lowestoft and Zoom

Transfiguration
Mark 9 : 2 – 7 and Luke 22 : 54 – 62

From the chamber, with all the shouting going on around him, Jesus turned and our eyes met. My stomach was stabbed again as I remembered the Master's words to me, just a few hours before.

Fleeing from the High Priest's courtyard, tears of self-loathing flooding from me. I remembered other words too. I pictured the climb up a Mountain (not so long ago) and recalled the dark words racing through my mind even then.

"I don't understand him at all!" I had told myself, "He's always talking about death lately. How could I just let him be so morbid?.... And, just because I try to bring him round, to cheer him up, he calls me satan!"

A sullen mood enveloped me, I was angry and hurt. Even James and John had given up trying to talk to me and they had started arguing again, as always.

I couldn't be bothered any more. You try your best and what do you get for it hey? You give up your business, your family, your security. You spend all your efforts on trying to "keep the cart on the wheels" between all the others (and THAT takes some doing, I can tell you!) and all the thanks you get is to be called names! I looked down at the pathway snaking up the mountain side, it really looked like a serpent at that moment and I quickly looked away, not wanting to be reminded of the associations with the serpent, satan.

At Last, we reached the summit and, suddenly, I knew something had changed. James and John were quiet now, at long last! But they were really quiet, in fact I couldn't hear a thing. I mean it. Not a thing. No insect noises, not even the movement of the air around me or the deep throated echo of silence that one often notices in high places. It was as though we had become enveloped in a thick blanket and every movement, every breath was being absorbed and stilled. I became aware that the sun had become very bright and strong. It had an intensity I have never experienced before but, strangely, I felt no increase in the heat. I looked to Jesus, to see if he had noticed the changes and I was dazzled by the light that was streaming out from inside him. It

actually hurt, not only to look, (like looking directly at the sun) but it was physically impossible to stand the weight of that light on your body for very long. Jesus clothes were radiant, lit up from inside and it all blazed so much that I could no longer discern the features of his face. He was shimmering with incandescent glory that felt as though it was physically tearing through me. James and John were trying to shield their eyes from the brightness, but I know that they were not able to do that, any more than I was able to guard myself from the onslaught of that terrible radiance, which was savaging my senses.

Then I noticed movement and two further figures were moving about in the brightness that was shining from Jesus. Don't ask me how, I simply KNEW, in my own heart, that this was Moses and Elijah, long dead, but now undeniably alive, talking with Jesus here in this place that suddenly seemed to be 'other' than a mere mountain in Israel. Dread gripped my throat, I was finding it almost impossible to breathe, the light was intolerably heavy and there seemed to be no air. It took all my effort to remain conscious and then, from far away, I heard my own voice lamely suggesting that we build 3 booths to honour Jesus and the prophets. Even as I spoke, I realised how irrelevant a suggestion this was, but further terror was to come. The air around us became filled with points of brightness: strange and beautiful fragrances surrounded us and the sound of millions of voices, exclaiming praises, rushed upon us, their breath like searing winds. I dropped to the ground, knowing myself to be ugly, guilty and a thing of disgust. Then a voice thundered in our ears. It was more beautiful than anything I have ever heard, but it caused perfect, awesome fear in my heart. It seemed to shake the foundations of the world with unspeakable tenderness.

"This is my Son" it said, "Listen to Him..."

That moment, everything seemed to explode around me into millions of bright fragments. I saw the resentments, which had earlier been echoing around my mind, as the evil, spiteful rants of a rebellious child. I was ashamed of them, knowing that Jesus had always encouraged and supported me, even when the others had laughed at my hot temper and impetuous words. It's true, I didn't always understand Jesus, but that was not because HE was changeable, it was because I am shallow and foolish, at best.

Oh! I **never** learn!

And now my wild boasting has really let Jesus down. Only last night I had thumped my chest and crowed "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and death." He knew well, that my words had no more substance than a noisy cockerel. He told me that I would deny him three times before the cock had announced the dawn of the next day, and he was right:

He is always right: and I am a coward, a braggart, a noisy, empty-headed creature.

Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Do you know what really haunts me? It's that look he gave me, when his prophecy about me had come true. That look, across a courtyard filled with important, angry men, all shouting at him. That look which urgently sought me out.

It didn't say "I told you so."

It wasn't a look of disgust, or of loathing (though it should have been.) No, it was the face of a mother, desperate to comfort a hurting child. He seemed to be telling me that he understood, that he will always love me. Oh God! How could I let him down like that? Will I ever be able to tell him how sorry I am???.....

Lorraine





You have already been hearing about this, including the recent occasion when we broke into small groups to pray about it in Church. The last two Elders' Meetings addressed it, and as those who were present know, the last Church Meeting endorsed the Elders' recommendation that we become a partner with Through Faith Missions for the event.

Essentially, we will host the team working in the northern part of the Suffolk Coastal area, Halesworth & Southwold. We don't yet know if it will be for the whole period (8 days) or just 4 days. Also, whether the visiting team will sleep in the church or be hosted in our homes.

We also have a lot to do in prayer and preparation, to discern these details and to prepare the ground: Think of Jesus telling the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4, also in Matthew & Luke). We want the seed to fall on 'good soil' and our prayerful preparation is a major part of that.

We also need to be prayerfully considering what each of us might contribute, practically. I anticipate our being a host venue for training that TFM will offer. Some may want to do this with a view to going out with team members while they are with us? You may also wish to consider which of these roles you could be involved in:

- Mission Coordinator
- Prayer coordinator
- Follow up coordinator
- Hospitality – either in your home or helping with food if the team sleep in the church
- Publicity
- Being part of a planning group
- Being part of a mission specific prayer group
- Joining a follow-up team, both one-to-one follow up and the delivery of the Alpha Course (probably) immediately after the mission.

Nearer the time, we can all be active in inviting friends to the events which we put on.

Please give feedback of the sense of calling/likely involvement you anticipate.

Blessings Jon



In the last magazine I got the email address for
Garry our new outside use organiser wrong
The correct email is -
halesworthurcbookings@gmail.com



I would like to thank everyone who has donated items of groceries, bedding, blankets and clothes to go to Hope and Aid Direct.

The spare bedroom has been taken over and packing almost complete and by the time you read this in the March magazine hopefully they will be on their way to a place of need.

Should you still have items you would like to donate the donations box will remain in the foyer and I am happy to store items for the next delivery.

With thanks for this provision,

Jo





Volunteers

Coffee Mornings (Fridays)

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