

Halesworth



and Bramfield URC



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

Blessings, Alan

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

Dear Friends

During the month covered by this issue of the magazine, we will conclude our journey through Lent. We will also celebrate Easter - and then look forward to Pentecost. This is a time that the 'seasons of the church year' are perhaps most relevant.

Many Christians use Lent as a period of deeper reflection. Whereas Christmas marks the coming of Christ, at Easter we are reminded of His willing sacrifice (Good Friday) and on Easter Day, the glories of resurrection!

At the church prayer meeting, recently, we started with a reading from Colossians chapter 1. It included Paul reminding the believers of the Gospel and he refers to their response, that they heard [the Gospel] and understood God's grace in all its truth (v6).

May our reflection and our Easter celebration help us to more fully understand God's grace in all its truth!

Then as we look to Pentecost, may we be equipped to pass this on. Paul wrote (just before that bit) "this Gospel is growing and bearing fruit all over the world." Pray for our experience to be the same!

Please give careful, prayerful, consideration to how you all will be involved with the Mission (see p 15)

Blessings

Jon





You will recall that Garry Friend was due to come into membership (along with Samuel, Lilian, Obehi & Funmi, who we received in March). He was unable to be present through illness – actually at Hospital on the day! Praise God that he is recovered. His membership will now be on Sunday 6 April.

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

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

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

And let's celebrate 'special' birthdays with Jo Small whose 70th birthday is 3rd April

Blessings

Jon

SPECIAL DATES at HURC

Halesworth United Reformed Church

Come and
join us for:



Activities

Songs

Food

Crafts

Games

Stories

Suggested donation £1 Per Person

Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm

April 29th

Book with Elizabeth - familyhurc@gmail.com



Tuesday 1st and 29th



**HURC Too
Every Sunday**



**Special Messy Church
10am - 12noon**



**Messy Breakfast
26th**





Subject: Church birthday cards

First it is only right that we express a huge Thank-you to Margaret Long for sending out the church birthday cards for the past Eleven Years.

After much prayer I have decided to take this on.

I have spoken to Margaret who has passed on her "Birthday Book". Unfortunately, as with all lists they very quickly become out of date. To avoid missing anyone out I would be very grateful, if you are new to the church (in the last three or four years) please send me your name and date of birth (either by e- mail to rosierosemary@msn.com) or pass on a piece of paper to me, with your details. I know you may have done this before and I apologise for asking again.

It is my prayer that I can continue this ministry and pass on a Christian Blessing on your special day.

God Bless,
Rosemary Wright

***Dear Rosemary
We all give thanks for your service***



This could be a suitable follow-up to the Lent Bible Study course. Or of course, it is accessible if you haven't managed to make it to any of the Bible Studies!

A new short course (2 evening Zoom events) brought to us by Dunamis – the ministry behind the material we have been using for the Lent Bible Studies.

Sessions are on Zoom, Thursday 24 April & Thursday 1 May 7pm – 8.45

Go to www.dunamis.org.uk for more detail and to book your place.

Blessings

Jon

“...even the angels long to look into these things.” 1Peter 1 : 12

I wonder whether the “company of Heaven” were fully aware of God’s plan for our Salvation?

THE LAMB

The throne room was hushed and silent as the awe-full events unfolded before the hosts of heaven. Every heavenly creature shook with despair and incredulity as they watched the HOLY ONE abused and dreadfully injured by mortal men. They waited in anguished anticipation for the wrath of the Eternal Presence to obliterate these degenerate, rebellious creatures and wipe them for ever from the panoply of His creation. Did these creatures have no fear?

The unimaginable defilement continued and the halls of heaven felt terror for the moment when the floodgates of The Almighty anger would sweep away Adam’s race for ever.

But nothing happened. The presence on the throne remained silent and, instead of anger, waves of grief cascaded from the Central Height, through the Glory, and Heaven’s hearts shattered as the Great Heart mourned and wept for The Beloved.

Soldiers impaled innocent hands and feet to the cross and, with every hammer blow resounding through the fabric of eternity, the Heavenly Host strained to break through and to stop the horror. But the command did not come and none dared to move without His word. Grief and rage, silent weeping and incomprehension beset the creatures round the throne as they continued to witness the deplorable horror, their ears straining to the crucified one for any sound, the slightest murmur of desire for release. They were ready, countless numbers of cherubim and seraphim, along with all the angelic host, to rend the fabric of time and space, to burst through into the merely three-dimensional world, to stand at their master’s command and exact any retribution, on these verminous, earth creatures, that He would pronounce.

But the blood stained, parched and bruised lips remained silent. There was no plea to end his pain, no word at all.... except a supplication,

“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM,
FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.”

And the agony continued. After endless aeons of searing torment, the hordes of the enemy gained courage and oozed, triumphantly, over the giver of life, until His light was completely extinguished from the view of the angelic host.

Then the voice (they had longed so much to hear) resounded from the darkness,

“MY GOD! MY GOD! WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

The yearning in his cry shattered their already broken hearts, but there was no reply from the Throne; except a sob that reverberated throughout the whole universe with grief and longing.

And there was silence.....on the earth, in heaven, through all infinity.

The silence grew.

It throbbed and filled creation, it pushed into every corner, every cell, the very fibre and substance of that silent, little planet. It rushed through the cosmos and filled celestial palaces and stormed the dark dungeons of hell. From the centre of the darkness the silence was ecstatically splintered into an explosion of beauty and creation, even more glorious than the First Word.

“IT IS ACCOMPLISHED!”

And the wild, uninhibited praises of heaven soared and played and swooped and span, burst into celestial colours, sang in myriad tongues, clamoured through the ages, loved and worshipped and adored around the incandescent glory on the throne.

SUCH LOVE! SUCH MERCY! SUCH AWESOME WISDOM!

For it was the third day on Earth and all the hosts of hell had not been able to hold the perfect, Beloved One. And now He had opened hell’s gates, so that the redeemed of ages were jubilantly flooding towards the light, every debt paid in full.

Lorraine



**A
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- Sunday 6th April 11 a.m. Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon
Communion
- Tuesday 8th April 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
followed by Morning Worship
- Friday 11th April 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and
Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
- Sunday 13th April 11 a.m. PALM SUNDAY Gathered Worship
visit from Lythan Nevard Synod Moderator
- 3 p.m Bramfield Chapel**
Minister Jon Sermon
- Tuesday 15th April 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
followed by Morning Worship
- MAUNDY THURSDAY 17th April 7pm Communion led by
Mr Gilbert Burroughes**
- Friday 18th April 9.30 a.m. GOOD FRIDAY**
Picking up the Cross and parading the Town
followed by a service at HURC



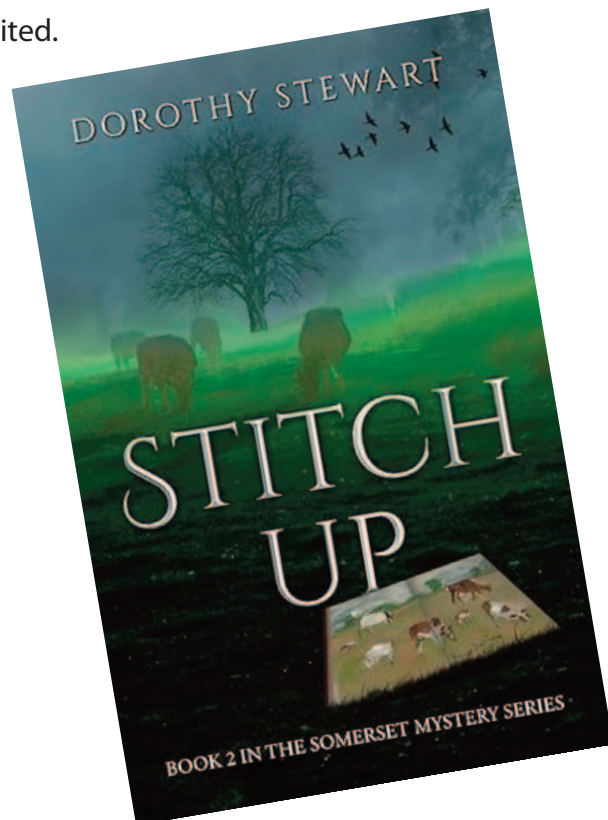
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- Sunday 20th April 11.00 a.m. EASTER SUNDAY**
Gathered Worship
Paul Pots
- Tuesday 22nd April 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
followed by Morning Worship
- Friday 25th April 9.45 am Prayer Meeting in the Church and
Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
- Sunday 27th April 11 a.m. Gathered Worship Judy Morton
- Tuesday 29th April 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
followed by Morning Worship
2.30 p.m Elders' Meeting
- Friday 2nd May 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and
Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
- Sunday 4th May 11 a.m. Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon

Dorothy's latest book: Stitch-Up by Dorothy Stewart

So what was Dorothy Courtis doing over Christmas and the New Year?

Finishing off a new book! This time, the heroine of book one in the Somerset Mystery Series, Jill Leiston, gets embroiled in a murder that looks like an open and shut case. Except that nobody's telling the truth and she has to untangle the knots before justice can be done. There are old friends and some delightful new ones in Jill's second foray into sleuthing as once again faith and fiction meet. Available in paperback on Amazon and from Halesworth Bookshop, and as a Kindle ebook, free on Kindle Unlimited.



A New Request.

Does anyone have any knitting-wool they no longer have use for or knitters who would like to knit clothes for children in Moldova?

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe and has taken in a huge number of Ukrainian refugees. There is a desperate need for children's clothes.

And I am going to carry on collecting for Ukraine. Carole Chaplin a Hope & Aid Direct volunteer collects the full boxes and got back to me with a list of urgent needs. Apart from all the usual items they urgently need towels, tea towels, bed linen, washing powder & liquid, scourer's, tin openers, NEW under-ware, teenage clothes and sanitary products.

If you can help there is a cardboard box in the foyer.

Thank you, Jo





REMINDER

Val Jennings no longer has a landline
Please use mobile 07546 854157

and amend your copy of the church directory and
any other records accordingly

HOLIDAY CLUB

5th to 8th August

**If you would like to help -
either the preparations or during the sessions**

PLEASE contact Elizabeth

familyhurc@gmail.com



The need to really get going with preparation for the Mission is increasing.

We will host the team working in the northern part of the Suffolk Coastal area, Halesworth & Southwold. We don't yet know whether the visiting team will sleep in the church or be hosted in our homes.

We 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, 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.

Right now, we are working on initial ideas for the programme content and a budget. We need this done to apply for a Synod mission grant towards the costs. I am leading this work and I'd love to hear from others who want to participate. **But I do need to know urgently**

Blessings

Jon

"Easter Greetings"

Both Audrey and I were disappointed not to have been able to join you in person for Pat's service of thanksgiving due to Audrey having damaged the ligaments in her leg. Pat holds a special place in the friendships we made during our time at Halesworth.

Please know that we think of you all often and keep you in our prayers, and send a special 'thank you' to Margaret for continuing to remember our birthdays which makes us feel that we are still considered to be part of the fellowship.

We wish you all a blessed Easter as we celebrate our shared faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus."

With our love

Bob and Audrey

Healing?

Is it part of our real spiritual experience?



Explore this with us Sunday 4 May 2025: 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 peoples' 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



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