

# Halesworth



## and Bramfield URC



**May 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  
June magazine,  
please email  
[smedleybigal@aol.com](mailto: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

May – what a joyful month to enter. Spring is in full swing, its heat even teasing us with occasional thoughts of summer, and there's the promise of more bank holidays on the horizon. With Easter celebrations fresh in our memory, we may be entering this next chapter of Spring with a word in our mind: renewal. We see it in the flowers, we feel it in the weather (even in the rain!), but do we see it in our lives?

Answers to prayer can feel slow sometimes, or like everyone receives them but us. But a quiet answer doesn't mean silence, and a slow response doesn't mean God is stationary. When God appeared to Elijah, it wasn't from the wind, it wasn't from the earthquake or the fire – it was from the still, small voice. (1 Kings 19:11-12) God's actions in our lives are all around us, but they don't always arrive with a fanfare, and they rarely look the way we expected.

When I took the URC's Stepwise course, its biggest impact for me was in a very simple-seeming part of the program: the question we were asked at the start of every session. "Where did you see God working in your life this week?" At first, it was hard to answer: usually, I wasn't sure what to say, and neither was anyone else. But as the weeks passed, our answers got more animated. We learned to look for God. What had felt like reading "Where's Wally", under pressure at the start, gradually turned into something organic and beautiful.

Sometimes, being a Christian can be like living with a partner who leaves us unprompted presents on the counter, "post its" with encouraging words on the fridge, or tidies up when we've had a long day and can't face it, but we don't notice. Perhaps because we're focused on a particular stress or concern in our life, or because we're run off our feet. When we're focused on that problem that won't seem the shift, it can be hard to see the rest. God isn't in plain view. Instead, God asks us to engage, trust and look – and when we do, things start to change. We

notice the 'just because' gifts, we receive the encouraging notes, and we realise that when we sit and fret on the sofa, someone has been sitting next to us.

It doesn't mean we get that particular answer we're waiting for. But we see the many, many little answers that move for and with us every day. For my Stepwise class, learning to spot these small miracles and realise the incredible love they were telling us about – that was our renewal. And it keeps on renewing.

In Luke's account of Palm Sunday, Jesus tells the Pharisees, regarding the praising crowds: "If they keep quiet, the very stones will cry out." (Luke 19:40). In Psalm 19, the beauty of the skies declares God's glory. God's whole creation reflects and celebrates God's goodness – the message is ever-present and immutable. Even if we miss a reason to praise, the world around us hums and sings with it. But what a joy, to notice more and more reasons to give God thanks, and to join in with the sky and the stones.

Alex Instone-Brewer



We continue to pray for Margaret Long whose recent time in hospital resulted in a diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer. She is home at the moment with outpatient visits and ongoing consultation on treatment options. Praise God for the peace she is experiencing. Please also pray for George, Lottie and the wider family.

Lorraine Smedley's health issue flared up significantly recently. Please pray for her and Alan, and for the Open the Book team as Lorraine's availability is often uncertain. Please also pray for others to join the team and, after the coming term, someone to lead the work as Lorraine will step back. Listen in case the Lord is prompting you to be involved.

Ruth Sermon joined the Good Friday March of Witness, on her mobility scooter, for part of it. She also made it to the Easter morning service – although has to lie down part way through. This is the nearest she has been able to get to engagement with the worshipping life of the church for over a year. Please keep praying for her: Could this be the first glimpse of a turning point in what the Lord is doing for her?

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. Thanks you, Paul for your sensitive leading of worship. It must be hard doing what you and Pat used to do together.

Pray for Elizabeth and Greyson after their recent trip to A&E as Greyson was severely affected by croup.

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

Let's celebrate with Funmi Ogunsola who has just passed her driving test

Blessings

Jon

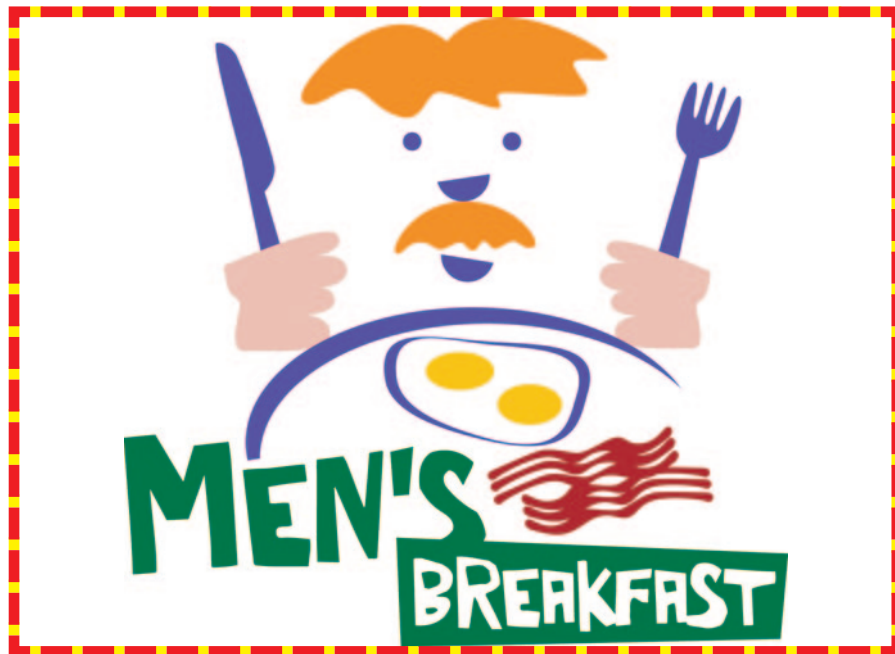




# SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

9th Tony Willis 75  
18th Christine Buttle 80

happy  
birthday



**Saturday 17th May at 09.30**

## SPECIAL DATES at HURC

### Halesworth United Reformed Church

Come and  
join us for:



Suggested donation £1 Per Person

**Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm**

**May 6th & 20th**

Book with Elizabeth - [familyhurc@gmail.com](mailto:familyhurc@gmail.com)



**Tuesday 6th, 13th & 20th**



**HURC Too  
Every Sunday**



**Messy Breakfast  
24th**





Sunday 4th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon  
Communion

Tuesday 6th 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft  
followed by Morning Worship

Friday 9th 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom  
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 11th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship Judy Morton

**3.00 p.m. Bramfield Chapel**  
Minister Jon Sermon

Tuesday 13th 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft  
followed by Morning Worship

**Wednesday 14th 7.00 p.m Church AGM** ★

Friday 16th 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom  
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 18th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship Michael H -Cooper



Tuesday 20th 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft  
followed by Morning Worship

Friday 23rd 9.30 a.m Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom  
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 25th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship TBA

Tuesday 27th 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft  
followed by Morning Worship

Friday 30th 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom  
followed by Coffee Morning

**Sunday 1st June** 11.00 a.m.Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon



Please if you are part of a group and wish to submit a report  
for the AGM please give to Judy **ASAP**

**Also any nominations for Elders**  
(with their permission of course)  
Also inform Judy ASAP



I said last month that the need to really get going with preparation for the Mission is increasing. This is even more so now:

A small steering group has been formed and we are working on the content of the programme. Already it will include links with Conquest Art, Brownies and Edgar Sewter School.

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 still 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
- Joining the steering 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 immediately after the mission.

Meanwhile, we have submitted a Synod grant application to assist with the costs.

Please keep praying. The week of 6-14 September will be an intense focal point. The preparation before and follow up after are just as important. Why not ask the Lord for opportunities to develop relationships with others as you look forward to inviting them to mission events.

Blessings

Jon

# Spring Harvest 2025

As most of you know, we had a young families group trip to Spring Harvest just before Easter. This is now 3 years running we have had a group going.

I am sure there will be more, from Elizabeth and others, whether in this issue or a later magazine. And by the time you get to read this Elizabeth & Peter will have led a service with a Spring Harvest 'flavour' on 27 April.

Meanwhile, just to say to start you off, 24 of us, adults & children, had a intensive, inspiring time of worship, Bible teaching, celebration and fun.

The theme was 'No Greater Story' – based on God's big story – largely from Isaiah. There was a personal challenge to all of us, from the call of Isaiah (chapter 6) to consider our personal call and how we can respond, like Isaiah "Here I am, Send me"

This helps us – not just those who went – as we look ahead to the Awake Suffolk Coastal Mission (see pp - 10 /11).

More to come!

Blessings

Jon



From Dunamis

This is looking a bit further ahead than May, into early June: But now is the time not only to 'save the date' but to book a place for an online event offered via Zoom.

The Dunamis Fellowship in Britain & Ireland is putting on a special event for Pentecost. I will be giving the Bible teaching. There will be worship, prayer and an opportunity to receive from God.

Its on Thursday 5 June 7.00pm. Book (and therefore receive the Zoom link) at [www.dunamis.org.uk](http://www.dunamis.org.uk)

Hope to see you there

Blessings

Jon





You may have noticed that Alex wrote the pastoral letter (or if you like, leader article) with which this copy of our Magazine starts? It is another example of him contributing to the life of the church while on placement with us. And he is adding to his experience in preparing for Ordination.

I am pleased to say that his time with us (& North Lowestoft) on placement has been extended until the summer. We will see more of him – and occasionally his wife Jaz – as he continues to expand what he does with us.

This will include Alex being able to contribute to Holiday Bible Club at the beginning of the Summer Holidays, alongside Elizabeth and the rest of the team.

Please continue to pray for him and encourage him.

Blessings Jon

# 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](mailto:familyhurc@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