

Halesworth



and Bramfield URC



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

Blessings, Alan

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

Dear Friends.

Easter may seem a long way back now. But the joy of resurrection is, hopefully, still with us. And with the Season of Easter now over, we recently marked Ascension, Pentecost and then Trinity Sunday.

These themes, together, take us into the season of the church year through the summer and autumn, leading to the return to Advent and then Christmas.

It may well be helpful to us to reflect on these themes some more.

On Good Friday we marked (as Keith Getty & Stuart Townend put it in the song "This the Power of the Cross") the dawn of the darkest day. The day when God – our creator, the source of life – who had come to us in human form – was brutally executed. Perhaps the darkest day indeed! Yet we call it Good Friday...

The name reflects the Good that God achieved as a result of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. And because death was not the end, He rose again, Easter as a whole, becomes a good news story. A message of hope and love. (see John 3.16).

The period after the resurrection, when Jesus continued teaching His disciples led on to his ascension. And then, just as he promised, the pouring out of the Holy Spirit to empower the church.

The church calendar starts with Advent, perhaps because the coming of Jesus is, of course, a necessary pre-requisite to this whole Easter – Ascension – Pentecost unfolding. Taken together, this is the most significant turning point in human history. That God, out of His supreme love for us, intervened to bring about our forgiveness and reconciliation to himself.

So, this is the Gospel, that God chose death on a cross to enable us to be reconciled to him. (2 Corinthians 5:19 & John 3:16-17 again) The equipping of the Holy Spirit to empower us in spreading this Good News completes the picture. Jesus said, at his ascension, that he will be with us. He made it clear that it is by the Holy Spirit that we know his presence. We need to be

open to that presence – and also to the empowering Work of the Holy Spirit. That is how we come to play our part, all of us, in the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18-20)

Blessings Jon



Kathryn Bones has now moved from James Paget hospital to a Nursing Home north of Great Yarmouth. Please keep Kathryn, Paul, Gavin and the whole family in prayer.

Lorraine Smedley's health issue flared up significantly recently. Thanks for all your prayers. There has been a marked improvement. Praise God!

We continue to pray for Paul Potts – and indeed all the family as we stand with them in the loss of Pat. Thank you, Paul for your sensitive leading of worship. It must be hard doing what you and Pat used to do together.

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

Please continue to pray for those attending Alpha – and for those you may have the opportunity to invite onto the next Alpha at the end of the Mission.

And keep praying for Alex. His placement with us (and Lowestoft) is extended to run over the summer

Blessings Jon



80 YEARS OF HOPE



In the aftermath of the Second World War – with lives upended and countries laid to waste – the churches of Britain and Ireland united to support refugees. From communities who were themselves reeling from the effects of the war, congregations gave sacrificially and in solidarity, laying the cornerstone of a movement that would go on to become Christian Aid.

And with every new generation ever since, a vast global network of supporters, partners, churches, and staff have harnessed something formidable. Something that cannot be silenced by injustice. Something that refuses to sit back and watch poverty ravage communities. I call it the unstoppable power of faith, hope, and love.

Our faith drives us forward in the knowledge that poverty was never part of God's plan for the world and that through collective action with people of every faith and belief, we can work together for good.

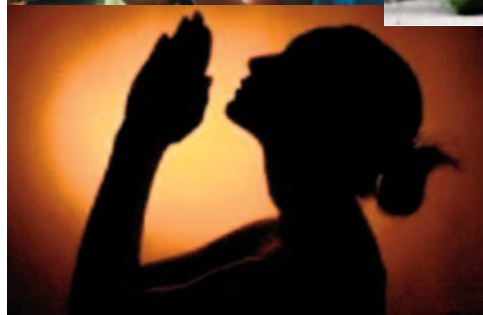
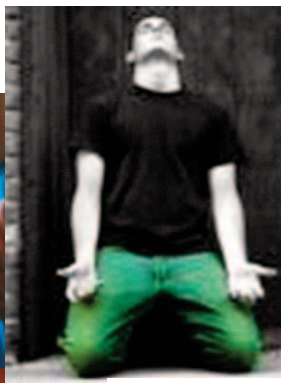
Hope inspires us to ask difficult questions and seek to tackle the causes of poverty, such as the climate crisis, conflict, and unfair economic systems. Hope compelled us to campaign against apartheid and hope drove us forward to campaign for debt relief and to create the fair-trade movement. Hope is in our hearts when we campaign for wars to cease and work with partners across social, political, religious, and cultural divides, building peace so people everywhere can restore and protect their dignity and freedom.

Christian Aid's approach is to shift power and decision-making to local communities, investing in locally-led responses so that people living in poverty can make their voices heard and create their own opportunities for a life free from poverty. Above all, our greatest motivation is love. Love sustains us with energy and passion as we re-commit to continue to work alongside our sisters and brothers worldwide.

***The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE
Bishop of London and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Christian Aid***

Healing?

Is it part of our real spiritual experience?



Explore this with us Sunday 20 July 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

SPECIAL DATES at HURC

Halesworth United Reformed Church

Come and join us for:



Suggested donation £1 Per Person

Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm
July 1st & 15th

Book with Elizabeth - familyhurc@gmail.com



Tuesday 1st, 8th, & 15th



HURC Too
Every Sunday
**PLEASE NOTE NO CHILDRENS SERVICE
ON THE 27th**



Messy Breakfast
12th



SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

10th Les Taylor 95

12th Jean Pointer 75

30th Moira Cooke 80



I didn't expect to be still alive at the ripe old age of Ninety Five..still got all my joints, my own teeth and good sight.. and I don't have to get up too much in the night! Still play my guitar and sing in church and I hope to keep on 'till I fall off my perch!

(Les)

Prayer Request

As many of you know, I am going to Uganda in August. Four others will be travelling with me, all from this area. I'll be joined by Jo Moreira along with her friend Lisa Lawson (some will remember her from Spring Harvest or from when she used to come with Jo to some of our Messy Church sessions). Stu Precious and



Josie Lynn, both from North Lowestoft are coming too. Stu was with me last year and couldn't resist coming again! Here is a picture from last year.



We need some intercessors to commit to praying for the whole mission. We often use the term 'intercession' to refer to the main prayer time in a worship service. But this use of the word is more like praying in God's purposes, listening to the Holy Spirit and providing a spiritual covering. You will receive a copy of the itinerary and email

updates to inform the praying. And you will be able to feed back any insights to inform us.

Please let me know if you want to be included in this?

Blessings Jon



Saturday 5th Alpha Away Day

(covers sessions 8/9 & 10 "Who is the Holy Spirit?", "What does the Holy Spirit do?" and "How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?")

Sunday 6th 11 a.m. Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon
Communion and Gift Day

Monday 7th 7.30 p.m. Alpha Session 11 "How can I resist evil?"

Tuesday 8th 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
 followed by Morning Worship

Friday 11th 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom
 followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 13th 11 a.m. Gathered Worship Alex Instone-Brewer
3 p.m. Bramfield Chapel Minister Jon Sermon

Monday 14th 7.30 p.m. Alpha Session 12 "How & Why do I tell others?"

Tuesday 15th 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
 followed by Morning Worship

Friday 18th 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom
 followed by Coffee Morning



Sunday 20th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon

Monday 21st 7.30 p.m. Alpha Session 13 "Does God Heal Today?"

Tuesday 22nd 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
 followed by Morning Worship

Friday 25th 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom
 followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 27th 11 a.m. Gathered Worship Judy Morton
Please note no youth or family service out the back

Monday 28th 7.30 p.m. Alpha Session 14 "What about the Church?"

Tuesday 29th 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
 followed by Morning Worship

Friday 1st Aug 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom
 followed by Coffee Morning

Mary of Bethany

Since that special Pentecost Day (when Holy Spirit came upon us all) I find myself remembering so many things about Jesus, what He said and did. It is as though (up until that special day) I had been remembering things in the back of my mind, like fuzzy grey images (far away somehow) but now I find myself remembering so many things in great detail, all of which are powerful, full of colour and....**solid**, if you understand me?

Thoughts and emotions also: I recollect them so well that I almost feel I am inside the memory, as though it were happening here and now. I know these reminiscences are inspired by Holy Spirit in me: and it isn't surprising that the death of my brother Lazarus often springs to mind at the moment.

I remember it as if it was yesterday. I was totally numb, as though I was only dreaming through that awful time. The men chanted The Kaddish (our special prayer in honour of the dead), but it still didn't feel real to me. Later, as we wrapped Lazarus's body for burial, I was overcome with horror, grief and desperation. Winding the bindings tightly around his shrouded body, I was overwhelmed by how he now seemed to be trapped, caged, caught and bound in death's prison for ever. Even now, I can hear my inner thoughts angrily asking God why Jesus hadn't come? We had sent a message to Jesus for help, telling him that Lazarus was gravely ill. We knew that he wasn't too far away, so we were sure that he would come: – **but he didn't!**...
Not until it was too late.

I was SO angry with him! Yes, I know,..... I know he never got a moment to himself, he was always living for other people, he **was**: ... well, anyway, he didn't arrive until Lazarus had died, so there was nothing more he could do, was there? When Martha told me that he was here in Bethany and was asking for me, my heart melted and I ran to him. I collapsed in grief at his feet and I couldn't help complaining to him that he could have saved my brother from dying, if he had only come sooner. I felt really bad about saying that: and even worse when we took Jesus to the tomb... and he wept. Not just the usual 'grief' wail. The sobs came

from deep inside him, which only made everything seem even darker and bleaker than before; if that were possible.

*(You know: Jesus really had been such fun to be with! He would make people roar with laughter one minute and then tell them something so true and solemn that we would all become still...not with disappointment or confusion; He just managed to make us see things so clearly and our hearts became excited because we really felt that God knew us.... and LOVED us!
The real possibility of life with God made us feel free and beautiful, no matter what was in our past.)*

Well, after he had wept for some time and everyone marvelled at this (they had never seen him weep before) Jesus then ordered us to roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb! Well!... It was like an explosion! Everyone spoke at once, telling him that Lazarus had been in there four days! The smell would be terrible, not to mention the ritual uncleanness of it all. Jesus didn't seem to hear them, but he looked at me with such a passionate expression...I couldn't tell if it was anger; or excitement. I was deeply afraid that he had actually lost his mind. Intensely looking around at all of us, with a penetrating expression which I had never before seen on his face, he said,

“Did I not tell you that, if you believed, you would see the Glory of God?”

I can remember the utter confusion which gripped me, but also an impossible hopefulness. I felt that I must be going mad.

Straight after, he thanked God, (calling Him “Father”) for hearing his prayer! The men were confused **and outraged**, but they obviously didn't want to argue with Jesus at this point. He looked so terrifyingly forceful that they shrank from arguing any further! Despite all the fear and revulsion in them, they rolled the stone away, as Jesus, amongst chaos, began to shout at the top of his voice:

“Lazarus, Come forth!”

The family, the mourners, the neighbours, became very still. Everyone just stood there: silent, horrified, bewildered. None of us knew what to say or do. We stood, immobile, perplexed. What a nightmare! I couldn't believe that we were in this insane situation, especially at the direction of Jesus! Each person's unspoken fears were almost palpably dragging us down,

...Then, after who knows how long, bystanders began to scream in terror and cover their faces. Many ran away in panic, some fainted. For myself and some others, we were rooted to the spot, not able to make any sense of what we were seeing. A man's form, wrapped tightly in grave clothes somehow appeared in the doorway of the tomb. There was a moment when all movement stopped. We were transfixed: just as bound up in our disbelief as Lazarus was in his grave clothes, for it was, indeed, Lazarus!

Jesus ordered us to remove the grave clothes and let him be free!

The reality of Lazarus, alive again and freed from the shackles of death is so powerful, even now. There was no denying that our brother was restored to us, complete, whole and well. At that moment, I felt a thrill of realisation burning through my veins. I knew this was real, but that it was also far more than I could ever really understand.

I experienced a recognition within me, of Jesus...the one I had known for years; and yet had (clearly) never really known.

That very same recognition came to me at that Pentecost gathering and is still with me, even now:

Jesus, my friend; but also The Messiah; The Anointed of God!from before all worlds:

He is my Lord and my God! ... and I can feel His powerful presence within me right now! Nothing will ever be the same... this wonder is beyond all belief!

Lorraine



Exciting Update:

The Mission plans are progressing. We have **JB Gill** coming on Saturday 6 September. He is from the X-Factor boy band **JLS**, also a Strictly star, eco farmer, and TV presenter

(including The One Show and Songs of Praise).

JB has an engaging style and talks about life, career and faith. He has a track record of attracting audiences well beyond church circles.



We will also welcome **Warren Furman**, the former



Gladiators star 'Ace'. By September, as well as the fact that Gladiators is back on, we will have details of a new TV show he is in. He has a compelling testimony of fame and fortune not satisfying, but finding Jesus was the answer.

We will soon have detailed publicity ready. All who use social media, please get in the habit of sharing what is coming up.

TFM are offering a training session, **Saturday 26 July @ Ipswich**. I will be going and can take a car full. It is a day event, 9-4.30. Let me know.

Jon

I have had a meeting with the Leader of the TFL team who will be with us for the whole week, Richard Winski. And he will come to our morning worship on Sunday 6 July to share about the mission and encourage us.

Lots more exciting news to follow...

Meanwhile, we 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 accommodation for the 2 ladies on the team, meals in your home for team member/others or helping with food : The 4 the men on the team will 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.

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





Volunteers

Coffee Mornings (Fridays)

Other Duties Greeting/Prayers etc

Manse Officer

Open the Book Team and organiser



Sunday 6th July

Help to the cost of Spring Harvest 2026

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

*The article on page 5 is reproduced from the Westminster Abbey service of thanksgiving
Thursday 12th June
attended by Gilbert and Judy*



80years of Christian Aid