

# Halesworth



**and Bramfield URC**



**August 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  
September magazine,  
please email  
[smedleybigal@aol.com](mailto:smedleybigal@aol.com) (preferably)  
or hand it to me by 22nd August**

**Blessings, Alan**

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

Dear Friends.

I write this as I am into the last 2 weeks of preparation for this year's Mission trip to Uganda. As most of you know, Jo Moreira is joining me on this adventure, along with 3 others from Lowestoft. Await exciting feedback once we return!

I hope there is also growing excitement about the Awake Suffolk Coastal Mission, which will follow shortly after, 6-14 September. See the separate features about this and do make use of the flyers & posters, keep praying and inviting friends, family, neighbours.

The current Alpha Course comes to its conclusion with "How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of my Life?" on Monday 11 August. It has proved really encouraging to those who have engaged with it. We will be running Alpha again immediately after the mission, hopefully with both daytime & evening sessions.

I strongly believe that the Mission and the Alpha that follows will prove to be a huge boost to the church in preparation for a time without a Minister when I retire. The Lord is leading us into a season of opportunity – and of challenge. Pray to hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit as He reveals your parts to play in the adventure!

Blessings

Jon





Please continue to pray for Kathryn Bones. She has now settled in well at the Nursing Home north of Great Yarmouth. Please keep Kathryn, Paul, Gavin and the whole family in prayer.

It has been a delight to see the continued improvement in Lorraine Smedley's health and vitality recently. Thanks for all your prayers. Praise God!

Please hold Ruth Sermon in prayer. Thank God for the recent progress, resulting in her being back in worship several times (made possible by her reclining chair & mobility scooter). Ruth is receiving ongoing prayer ministry and we know the Lord is at work. We long to see her more fully restored. Pray for her to manage well while I am in Uganda

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

And keep praying for Alex Instone-Brewer. His placement with us was extended but will conclude with his involvement, supporting Elizabeth and the team for the Holiday Club. We bless him in his ongoing training.

And for Jo Moreira in her ongoing training: Pray for her also as she travels in Uganda with me as an overseas training placement. And for the others coming, Stu Precious, Josie Lynn & Lisa Lawson, all from Lowestoft.

Blessings

Jon



## Ukraine.

As you will be aware Ukraine continues to be bombed by Russia and everyday more people are left homeless and with very little. So, a huge thank you to everyone who has donated items to go to Ukraine with 'Hope and Aid Direct' in recent weeks. I have had boxes and

bags left on my doorstep. Some I know about, others just turn up and I am so grateful. It's like finding treasure!

25 banana boxes packed with a huge variety of things were collected in June and will now be on their way.

I will carry on collecting if you have anything you can spare. Maybe there is an airing cupboard that needs sorting out?! Things squirrelled away that you really don't need but could be a godsend to a family now having to live in a warehouse. The list of things is as before but here goes:

Always food, dried and tinned. Household items so cleaning products, detergent, tin openers etc. hygiene items, sanitary products.

Clothes for all ages especially children but for young people and adults as well. Shoes – new to the list. Bedding, so duvets, pillows, sheets, pillow cases, blankets, towels and sleeping bags. Tea towels.

The list is endless it seems. If in doubt please ring me. 01502 478600. There is a box at the back of the church but I can collect if things are bulkier.

Jo

# 2100 - A year of destiny

Martin Dominic - June 2025

Life-forms on Earth will face severe challenges to their survival in coming centuries if the current trajectory of growth in the emission of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is not reversed significantly. Rising temperatures on land and in the oceans will make life intolerable over coming centuries if mankind does not act quickly.

In spite of prolonged and aggressive campaigns by vested interests in the Coal, Oil and Gas producing countries, international communities have been trying to formulate a programme for change of economic and industrial processes to prevent the Earth overheating to the detriment of the natural world. In recognition of the urgency of the need to replace major sources of carbon emissions nations across the world are formulating programmes to phase in new technologies using non-carbon emitting alternative sources of energy. Among which are wind, solar, tidal, hydro, air and ground source heat pumps, higher standards of thermal insulation and possibly more, as yet, unidentified. Making the transition to a low carbon economy requires much planning, international cooperation and significant lead-in times to accomplish. Over time the groups of specialists dealing with each aspect of the identified elements have been assessing deadline dates if uncontrollable climate change is to be avoided. Some elements may have a deadline of 2035, another 2075 but the final deadline has been drawn as 2100. By this time CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere must be at or below 335ppm.

We have 75 years to acknowledge the reality and to make the changes necessary to avoid a global catastrophe. Already carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in the atmosphere are way above a safe level of 335ppm, in May 2025 they were 430ppm. So far, no successful attempt has been made to moderate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and prevent the reality of impending disaster, and emissions are still rising.

How has an intelligent species, Homo Sapiens, failed to prevent the current dangerous situation from developing? It is not a lack of resources, or knowledge, or scientific capability, or failure to bring it to the notice of the

public. Perhaps the cause of our pending demise is the consequence of engrained cultural conditioning over centuries which define who should hold power, implement policy and practice economic governance. The answer is ancient history

In her book ***Fields of Blood- Religion and the history of Violence***

Karen Armstrong describes the advent of the Agricultural Revolution, and its consequences, between 12000 and 10000 years ago, at the beginning of the Holocene. As settled agricultural communities developed, they began to produce crop surpluses. These surpluses began to be acquired by powerful elites in communities and were traded. Overtime the powerful elites became Kings and Emperors, with retainers, warriors and other functionaries. Apart from seizing the surplus crops from the peasants as taxes the Kings and Emperors went to war on their contemporaries to seize power and wealth. This pattern was adopted by countries across the world, the lands along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the Nile and Indus valleys, the Ganges plain and China. By the time of Rome this model of power was the norm and a sense of entitlement to rule was firmly established in society, and only the rich and powerful dared challenge the established order. In the process of securing power by warfare many millions of the lower orders in society have perished in battle. A pattern that has endured for thousands of years.

Today classical empires do not exist, but post-colonial wealth is still a powerful facet of the modern economy, class and social status is a powerful asset in commerce. Contemporary empires are now the global corporations, banks and Asset Management companies who hold powerful sway over national governments. These financial institutions operate under constitutions, which by design are Psychopathic and subject to short term objectives. Any expression of desire to engage with climate change mitigation is at best less than enthusiastic. Wealth and power derived from the exploitation of Coal, Oil and Gas has been the stimulus for resistance to any initiative to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Influence of old boy networks, fraternal organisations and other secretive associations provide channels of communication and influence to strengthen those opposing legislation and able to frustrate actions necessary to stop climate change.



National governments must resist the overtures from wealthy vested interests and give much more attention to the concerns of the public and campaigning organisations. Without developing a much more international and egalitarian approach to the management of trade, industry and finance it is very unlikely that the necessary criteria to prevent disastrous climate change will be achieved.

The Church across the denominations and under the auspices of Eco Church is awakening to the challenges we face. The Encyclical Laudato Si by Pope Francis, published in 2015, presents an extensive analysis of the threat of Climate Change and degradation of nature and the issues which demand radical intervention. Sustained action by the community of faiths is now essential if we are to prosper in the future



## Christian Aid Week – 2025

As a result of another successful Christian Aid Week a sum of £3802 was sent to Christian Aid to support it's work in enabling some of the world's poorest people to sustain themselves, and to improve their situation and that of their community. Offerings from the Christian Aid Week Service in this Church contributed £250 to the total.

£1555 was Gift-Aided, so that an additional £388 (25%) will be recovered in Income Tax by Christian Aid, giving them a total benefit of £4190.

On behalf of the Halesworth and District Christian Aid Group, I should like to say a sincere "Thank You" to everyone who donated and helped, in whatever way, to achieve these excellent results.

Chris Dunn (local treasurer)

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

21st Rosemary Wright 65

happy  
birthday

NEW  
ADDRESS!

We are moving house on Friday, 18th July to Beccles, at last!  
I shall still be coming to Conquest Art on Wednesday afternoon.

Our new address is;

10, Richard Crampton Road, Beccles NR34 9HN

• Phone no; 07910850221 Thanks very much!

Marilyn and Brian Pettit

# **HURC SUPERHEROES**

**5TH-8TH AUGUST**

**TIME  
10AM-12PM**

**ALL AGE  
HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB  
HALESWORTH UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH**

**STORIES, CRAFT,  
GAMES AND PLAY.  
SNACKS/DRINKS  
BRING A LUNCH FOR A PICNIC  
IN THE PARK**

**£1 PER PERSON  
PER SESSION  
PAYMENT BY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**BOOK YOUR SPACE  
WITH ELIZABETH**

Email:  
familyhurc@gmail.com  
Facebook:  
Elizabeth Hurc

# **ALL AGE WORSHIP**

**11AM-  
12PM**

**10TH  
AUGUST**

**JOIN US TO SHARE  
HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB  
WITH THE CHURCH**

**REFRESHMENTS FROM  
10:30AM**





Friday 1st	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 3rd	11 a.m.	Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon Communion
Tuesday 5th	10 a.m. to 12 noon	Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Friday 8th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

**Sunday 10th 11 a.m. All Age Gathered Worship Elizabeth**

### **3 p.m Bramfield Chapel**

Monday 11th	7.30 p.m.	Last Alpha Session "" How can I make the best of the rest of my Life?"
Tuesday 12th	10 a.m. to 12 noon	Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship



Friday 15th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 17th	11.00 a.m.	Gathered Worship TBA
Tuesday 19th	10 a.m. to 12 noon	Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Friday 22nd	9.45 am	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 24th	11.00 a.m.	Gathered Worship Paul Potts & Lorraine Smedley

### **Tuesday 26th 2.30 p.m. Elders' Meeting**

Friday 29th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 31st	11.00 a.m.	Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon

# Ananias

We were in blind panic actually: the only thing that stopped us from running around like headless chickens was the news that the very thing we had been dreading (and attempting to flee from) was already here, in Damascus, so we had to keep calm and a very low profile.

All of us were from Jerusalem. We had seen the events of the Passover when Jesus was crucified and we had been in the vicinity 50 days later when his disciples erupted out into the streets, preaching about Jesus' crucifixion, and that (3 Days later) he had been raised from the dead! That Pentecost Day (when we encountered his disciples) was the time that Jesus had sent His Holy Spirit to all of his followers. I had been touched and 'convicted' by Simon, the fisherman, who spoke about how many of us had been caught up in the calls for Jesus to be crucified... and he managed to make us feel that he actually knew how we felt! I don't know how he would understand our feelings as he was Jesus' right hand man, but it helped us to stop making excuses to ourselves. In part (it is true) we were aware that it was the priests who were calling for crucifixion, so we thought it must be the right thing to do. Even Pilate was overwhelmed by the noise, as well as the Priests threats that Ceasar would not take it well if this "trouble maker's" disciples were allowed to continue.... But later in that awful day, I had already begun to be afraid that I had made a terrible mistake by calling for Jesus to be crucified. Of course, then it was too late: there was nothing I could do to change the situation and I felt terrible.

Peter's words on the Day of Pentecost really hit me hard and I felt the need to confess what I had done, to say how sorry I was and that I really wanted to follow this man Jesus. So, with many others, I was baptized in water and received the overwhelming presence of the Holy Spirit. It just isn't possible to describe the wonder of that moment! We "Followers of the Way" (as we were now known) began to grow in number significantly, even some priests became followers!.. and, indeed, all was well for a time.

Then Stephen, one of the newly appointed "deacons" (or servants) was stoned to death for "blasphemy" and a man called Saul of Tarsus, had started hunting down those of us who believed in Jesus. Saul had quite a lot of them put into prison until the chief priests could judge them and declare them guilty of blasphemy, which meant the death penalty. Many of us decided to escape and

take our families to live in Damascus.

The news of Saul's unexpected arrival in Damascus caused us complete terror. I was praying that afternoon and asking God to protect us when... (well, it's hard to describe,... I didn't "hear" anything with my ears, but a voice in my head seemed to call my name.) I responded: "Yes Lord?" Then the voice told me, "Go to the house of Judas, in Straight Street and ask for a man named Saul... He is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight".

This, properly confused me! For a start this was the man we were constantly trying to avoid, the reason we all came to live in Damascus....so why would the LORD give him a vision of me?...AND THAT meant Saul would be able to recognize me! Whatever was the Lord doing? For that matter, why did Saul need his sight to be restored? He hadn't had any problems with his sight that I had heard of. So I told the 'voice' that this man (Saul) had been rounding up as many of Jesus' followers as he could, to put them in prison! Now, (I'm not quite sure how to put this) but I FELT that the voice was holding me close! It is impossible to describe it, but that is just how I felt and, inexplicably, it actually made me feel strong.)

Anyway, after a moment's silence the voice continued, commanding me to "GO! - This man is MY chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings, as well as the people of Israel.." and the voice listed lots of other things that this man Saul was going to do.

Utterly perplexed, I simply knew that I would have to go to Straight Street!

The strength that I had felt when the voice gave me instructions, seemed to dissipate the closer I came to my destination. I arrived at Straight Street and suddenly felt very "heavy"... and somewhat alone! I stood outside the house, as though paralyzed, every movement feeling as though I had enormous weights on my feet and arms. I have no idea how long I stood there, outside the house. I knew that Jesus was waiting for me to go into it...but it was SO HARD! At last, I took just one, tiny step towards the house and before I knew it, I was being ushered into a room where a man was sitting, praying aloud. Saul's friend (who had shown me into the room) gently interrupted Saul's fervent prayers, telling him my name and that I had come to speak with him. He stopped praying and turned his face slightly towards me, but his eyes were clearly sightless. He moved his head carefully, as if trying to guess exactly where I was standing.

So, this was it! I was here, in front of the man we had all been in terror of. Even his name set me to shaking with fear. My throat was dry at first and I couldn't



actually get my voice to work, but I remembered the words which I had heard from the Lord so, in fear and trembling, I laid my hands on Saul's shoulders. Addressing him as "brother" (Phew!) I told him that Jesus had sent me to restore his sight: and, in the name and the authority of Jesus, I spoke the command that his sight would be returned to him.

I continued to tremble with fear but then; I saw things (which looked like fish scales) dropping off his eyes! He looked me in the face, and this time, his eyes filled with amazement and joy! Do I really need to tell you how confused I was at that moment? ?

I honestly didn't know what would happen. Why would this man want to change his mind and stop his assault on Jesus' believers?

Well, I never expected what happened next: he suddenly dropped to his knees and said, "Lord Jesus, Thank you! All I want is to follow you from now on!"

I was totally dumbfounded; and then he jumped up and threw his arms around me! I was SURE this was all a trick and he was really going to arrest me: but then he held me by the shoulders, at arm's length, searching my face. His face was wreathed in smiles and almost looked as though it was shining!

We sat together for ages; he told me about his life and his desire to be well respected as a learned Pharisee and Rabbi, then how he had decided to destroy all followers of "the Way". He felt so guilty about putting so many in prison and he told me how Jesus was speaking to him about many things.

Well, I expect that (by now) you have already heard for yourself about this man: Paul of Tarsus. A Roman Citizen but also a Jew! who trained at the feet of the revered Teacher Gamaliel and who is now travelling all over the world telling people about Jesus!

Since following Jesus, I have learned that God does the most surprising things, but the way He is using this man Saul (or Paul, as the Romans call him) to spread the Good News of Jesus completely takes my breath away. Dear friend, I have to declare that (clearly) there is really nothing our God cannot do!

*Lorraine*



**AWAKE**  
*Suffolk Coastal Mission 2025*

**Exciting Update:**

The Mission will soon be happening. There is a wealth of events to invite friends, family and neighbours to, including:

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'. He will be with us on Friday 12 September, both for an afternoon tea and an evening event. Warren has a compelling testimony of fame and fortune not satisfying, but finding Jesus was the answer. What an opportunity to bring friends!

Rev Alex Jacob, our Synod Transitional Minister will be with us for 'Grill a Christian' on Thursday 11 & for worship on Sunday 14 September.

And on Saturday 13 September, Victor Jack, an evangelist who from Sizewell Hall is speaking on "Where can I Find Peace."

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.



Throughout the week, the TFM team will be engaging with people, in the town, pubs & cafes, door-to-door. There will be opportunities to join them. They will give invitations to events – as indeed we all can.

Here is the Programme (events are at church unless stated otherwise):

- Sat 6/9: from 12 midday BBQ  
7.30pm "An Evening with JB Gill" (see poster/flyers)
- Sun 7/9: 11.00am Altogether Worship with Communion  
from 1.00pm Fun Event in the Park
- Mon 8/9: 3.00pm Healing Service  
evening *Host Families\**
- Tue 9/9: 9.00am Parents & Toddlers  
3.30pm Messy Church
- Wed 10/9: 9.30 & 11.00am Edgar Sewter School coming into Church  
evening *Host Families\**
- Thurs 11/9: 7.00pm "Grill a Christian" A panel will take questions.  
Nothing off limits. Particularly good for 'seekers'.
- Fri 12/9: 9.45 Prayer Meeting, coffee after.  
3.30pm afternoon tea with former Gladiator "ACE"  
7.00pm A chance to meet former Gladiators star "ACE"  
(see poster/flyers)



- Sat 13/9: 10.00am "Crafty Cuppa"  
all day Church open for  
'Ride & Stride and Heritage Open Day  
7.00pm "Where Can I Find Peace?"  
(see poster/flyers)

- Sun 14/9: 11.00am Worship led by Rev Alex Jacob & TFM team

*\*Note: Host Families – on Monday & Wednesday – refers to a chance to have 2 TFM team members and other guests you invite with you for an evening meal. An informal mission opportunity for your friends to hear what the team are doing. If more than 6 hosts come forward, we could add Tuesday, when there is no evening event except the Team engaging with Brownies. Let Jean Wagg or me know if/when you want to do this.*

**All events are free of charge, but donations invited except:**

An Evening with JB Gill on Sat 6th (£3)  
and toddlers & messy church on Tue 9th subject to their usual nominal charges



### Alpha: Explore the Meaning of Life

Throughout the week, and at all events, we will be encouraging people to come on the Alpha course. It takes place immediately after the Mission. Dates & times are still to be confirmed, but it will likely be either Monday or Wednesday evenings – and we hope to arrange a daytime slot as well

Blessings Jon

# An Evening with JB Gill

(JLS, Strictly Come Dancing, regular TV presenter)

**JB talks  
about his  
life, career  
and faith**

- **Sat 6 Sept**
- **7.30pm**
- **Tickets £3**  
(cash on the door please)
- **Venue: Halesworth URC, Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP**

(Subject to professional commitments)

For more info:

[pastorjonsermon@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjonsermon@gmail.com)

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 Elizabeth Hurc



# A Chance to meet former Gladiators star “ACE”

**Warren  
Furman, (who  
played Ace in the  
original Gladiators)  
is coming here**

- **Fri 12 Sept**
- **Afternoon tea & cakes @ 3.30pm**
- **Evening event @ 7pm**
- **Venue: Halesworth URC, Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP**

Here his remarkable experience of fame & fortune that did not satisfy – and what eventually did! (No charge, but donations welcome)



For more info:

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 Elizabeth Hurc







**AWAKE**  
*Suffolk Coastal Mission 2025*



## Volunteers

**Coffee Mornings (Fridays)**

**Other Duties**

**Greeting/Prayers etc**

**Manse Officer**

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



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<b>CURRENT ELDERS</b>	<b>Peter Wagg : Jean Wagg : Gilbert Burroughes : Paul Potts : Judy Morton : Pat Snell : Chris Dunn :</b>
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