

Halesworth



and Bramfield URC



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

Blessings, Alan

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

Dear Friends

A huge Thank You to everyone who contributed to the Awake Suffolk Coastal Mission here 6-14 September. We have been SO blessed by God!

We were one of 5 churches from here to Ipswich who hosted volunteer teams. Our team – you may have got used to seeing them in their blue 'TFM' sweatshirts – were from across the country, including Northern Ireland. They came to give their time in helping us bring the Good News of Jesus to this area.

They visited 605 houses, but a little over half were no answer. Even so, between that, the work in the Thoroughfare and the fun event in the park, they (and we) engaged with over 200 people. Those who attended the events increased the number to over 400. The Name of Jesus has been lifted high among them all!

The well know 'celebrity' guest speakers (JB Gill from JLS, Strictly Come Dancing etc. and Waren Furman who was 'Ace' in the original Gladiators) were both superb. And so were the less known ones, Alex Jacob who was with us for 'Grill a Christian' on the Thursday and led the final Sunday service, Dan Holland who did the talk on 'Where Can I Find Peace' on the final Saturday.

We know of at least 5 people who made commitments to follow Jesus as a result. And there are many more who have no doubt been encouraged in their faith or been drawn nearer.

Now the Alpha Course is running as a follow-up. Wednesdays at 7.30pm plus the 'away day' on Saturday 1 November. It is still possible to join/bring others

Blessings

Jon





As we rejoice over the new people who have been with us throughout the Mission and since, we continue to hold them in prayer. At Harvest festival, we looked at the parable of the Sower. Pray that the seed (the Word of God) planted in them will prove to have fallen on good soil!

Please pray for the follow up, both among those who responded to the door-to-door visits and those currently on the Alpha Course.

You will have seen that, after more than a year of not having the energy to come to church, Ruth Sermon has recently been with us more often than not. Praise God for the healing that has made that possible! And please continue to hold her in prayer for what God is still to do.

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

Blessings

Jon



Explore the meaning of Life

The Alpha Course is a basic introduction to Christianity. A great way to explore faith or refresh our understanding. Also an open environment to bring questions.

Autumn Programme:

Wednesdays 7.30pm

(We have already done Session 1 "Is there more to life than this?") It's OK to start part way

- Wed 24 Sept – Session 2 "Who is Jesus?"
- We 1 Oct - Session 3 "Why did Jesus' die?"
- Wed 8 Oct - Session 4 "How can I have Faith?"
- Wed 15 Oct - Session 5 "How & Why do I Pray?"
- Wed 22 Oct - Session 6 "How & Why do I read the Bible?"
- Mon Wed 29 Oct - Session 7 "How does God guide us?"
- **Sat 1 Nov Alpha Away Day** (covers sessions 8/9/10 "Who is the Holy?", "What does the Holy Spirit do?" & "How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?")
- Wed 5 Nov - Session 11 "How can I resist evil?"
- Wed 12 Nov - Session 12 "How & Why do I tell others?"
- Wed 19 Nov - Session 13 "Does God Heal Today?"
- Wed 26 Nov - Session 14 "What About the Church?"
- Wed 3 Dec - Session 15 "How can I make the most of the rest of my life?"

Mondays are 7.30pm @ Halesworth URC (finish by 9pm). **No need to book**

Venue and timing of the Away Day to be confirmed.

More info from Rev Jon Semon 873761 pastorjonsermon@gmail.com

Or Elizabeth Aslett familyhurc@gmail.com



Elizabeth Hurc

SPECIAL DATES at HURC

Halesworth United Reformed Church

Come and
join us for:



Suggested donation £1 Per Person

Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm

October 7th & 21st

Book with Elizabeth - familyhurc@gmail.com



Tuesday 7th, 14th, & 21st
NOT 25th as its half term



HURC Too
Every Sunday



Messy Breakfast
18th



NO SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

**BUT IF YOU
HAVE A
BIRTHDAY**



from left to right in picture is
Richard, Celia, Nigel, June, David and Stephen

THE WONDERFUL COASTAL MISSION TEAM



Friday 3rd	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 5th	11 a.m.	Gathered Worship Mr Paul Potts
Tuesday 7th	10 a.m. to 12 noon	Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Friday 10th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 12th	11 a.m.	Gathered Worship Mr Michael Homfray-Cooper

3 p.m. Harvest Bramfield Chapel Minister Jon Sermon

Tuesday 14th	10 a.m. to 12 noon	Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
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Friday 17th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 19th	11.00 a.m.	Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon
Tuesday 21st	10 a.m. to 12 noon	Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Friday 24th	9.45 am	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 26th	11 a.m.	Gathered Worship Judy Morton
Tuesday 28th	10 a.m. to 12 noon	Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 31st	9.45 am	Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
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Elizabeth - Luke 1 : 39 -45

Abigail! How lovely to see you.. I have so much to tell you..... The day after you returned home, (last year) started like any other: “draw water from the well; grind some flour; bake some bread”, you know the daily routine! I was sweeping the court yard when Zechariah arrived home after his tour of Duty at the Temple and I was surprised to see that Phinehas was with him. Phinehas’ expression was strained (to say the least), he just couldn’t look me in the eyes. I looked at Zechariah, who seemed to be his normal self, but then I realized that he was, well... he was **grinning!** Yes!.. you and I both know that Zechariah never grins...but that is exactly what he was doing. Phinehas began to explain to me that Zechariah had been chosen (as is usual – by the sacred lot) to burn incense before the LORD in the Holy of Holies. I could imagine how honoured and nervous Zechariah must have felt at that! But Phinehas went on to tell me that Zechariah had stayed in the Holy of Holies for much longer than was usual. His fellow priests were getting nervous and even the crowd in the temple were beginning to mutter restlessly. They could hear the little bells (on the hem of his ceremonial tunic) gently tinkling, so they knew that he was still alive and moving about, but they just did not have any idea what to do... Clearly it was not feasible to risk entering the Holy of Holies unbidden; but then (at last) Zechariah suddenly burst out of that Holy Place, his face shining with excitement and joy. However, when he tried to speak, no sound came from his throat. It was agreed, by all of the priests, that Zechariah was obviously “not himself”, so Phinehas had been instructed to accompany him back home at the end of their tour of duties in the Temple.

I turned to look at Zechariah. He was nodding, enthusiastically in agreement but, even without him saying anything, I could see that my husband had experienced a fundamental change which seemed to have made him.... now, how can I express this? something that had made him **insanely Happy!** Indeed, there is no other way of putting it. When Phinehas had gone, Zechariah used a clay slate and stylus to tell me that, in the Holy of Holies, he had been visited by the Arch Angel Gabriel!.. and that the angel had said that Zechariah was going to have a son!! I was very worried by all this. Was Zechariah going to divorce me

for another wife? We all know that I am now far beyond bearing a child, I just couldn’t understand what the Angel message meant: IF (indeed) it was an angel?? Had he really gone mad? Was that why Phinehas had accompanied him back home? The fact is that we have always loved and cared for one another... Zechariah knows me well and he realised what I was thinking, so he wrote that **God would enable me** to bear a child and I “mustn’t worry!” Hmm.... He also wrote that I should simply believe without question! I admit that I was dismayed (and a bit annoyed!) by that comment! He knows I’m too old to have a child and this “news” was really more than I could make sense of...but, he went on to remind me that:

(no.1) the angel was REAL, (no.2) the reason Zechariah’s tongue was now silent, was a punishment for him not believing what the Angel had said! and (no. 3) God can do anything He wants! I couldn’t really argue with that. Apart from the fact that Zechariah couldn’t speak; we managed to settle back into our life long, loving relationship. So, as you can see from the baby now in my arms, I soon discovered that I was, indeed, pregnant!

It was 6 months after Zechariah’s return from the Temple that my cousin Mary (from Nazareth) unexpectedly arrived. We are very fond of her: a lovely girl with a quick sense of humour and a sunny disposition **but**, as she entered the house, she was (uncharacteristically) restless and hesitant. As soon as I stood up to welcome her (and she saw my “bump”) she raised her arms heavenward and her face fairly glowed with joy. “It’s true!” she said, “I didn’t imagine the angel! It really is true!” The moment I heard her voice, my baby leaped in my womb and I was filled with the awesome knowledge that God (Himself) was with us! Mary quietened herself and, sitting down, she quietly told us that **she** had been visited by an angel. At this point she stopped and looked at us both very hard, as if she was expecting us to argue, or be angry with her. We both smiled and asked her to continue. She told us that, even though she is a virgin, the angel had told her she was soon going to have a son, who will be “the Son of God”. She stopped again, searching our faces, obviously still waiting for us to tell her that this could not be true, but instead she found Zechariah lifting His arms in joy to the heavens and me hugging her and telling her that Zechariah had also been visited by an angel and all that had occurred. Bless her, she was

overwhelmed with relief. She spent almost 3 months with us, while we both “blossomed”, prayed, worshipped and rejoiced in God. Then, one morning, we all seemed to know that it was time...time for Zechariah and I to welcome (in the flesh) the Lord’s blessing on us and for Mary to face whatever the Lord had put before her. There were lots of hugs and kisses, encouragements, blessings and prayers shared between us and then, we parted, with a little apprehension; as well as the knowledge that we were all embarking on a journey with Yahweh.

There was **another**, important happening after John was born...the day for his name to be assigned to him. The family were (endlessly) suggesting family names (with all of them treating Zechariah like a simpleton and **totally ignoring** what I said). Zechariah became very annoyed. He “signed” for a slate and stylus to be brought to him and he clearly wrote: **“His name is John”** (as the angel had directed.) The family were taken aback by this and even more amazed when Zechariah’s voice immediately returned, really strong and clear, praising Yahweh and His endless power!

Since then, Zechariah has told me more about what the angel predicted for my little boy, and that His name, John, is important. It means **“Yahweh provides protection”**: and that it conveys God’s gracious approval. John, is going to be an important person in God’s plans! My little boy!...fancy that! Zechariah tells me that John will speak to our countrymen about the mighty God and that he will even announce the coming of the Messiah! **Our son** will know the Lord’s Messiah!... can you imagine that? Amazing!

And what of Mary and her child?.....

Lorraine



Everything has gone “Virtual”! (well, a lot of things...). And it includes that the ‘Upper Room’ experience of the first followers of Jesus, waiting for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Luke 3: 15-16, John 14: 15-27, Acts 1: 5,8, Acts 2).



The startling reality: Jesus wants to equip His church for mission, by the Power of the Holy Spirit! We have just seen him powerfully at work through the mission. He wants to enable us all the more for the follow-up!

The Dunamis Fellowship Britain & Ireland are offering sessions on Zoom to prepare the ground and pray with people to receive. One such comes up on Tuesday 4 November, so ‘flagging it up at this stage is important. You can go to the website: www.dunamis.org.uk to book a place!

I will be giving Bible teaching at it and leading some of the prayers.

Blessings

Jon



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

