

**Halesworth
and
Bramfield
URC**



March 2026

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
April 2026 magazine,
please email
smedleybigal@aol.com (preferably)
or hand it to me by 22nd March**

Blessings, Alan

Our Vision:

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

Dear Friends,

A question: what connects the Epstein Scandal, and the dumping of oil and car tyres beside the A14 near Woodford in Northamptonshire? The answer, I propose, is that they are both symptoms of an attitude that was prevalent in Greek and Roman culture at the time of Christ. It was a common practice, then, for unwanted babies to be left exposed on hillsides, or taken to the municipal tip. Unwanted humans were expendable, and this disregard for life is what is so shocking about the Epstein Scandal. It is both remarkable, and yet at the same time, not at all unusual in our modern capitalist and sociopathic world. Greek and Roman culture was enabled by slavery. On a recent trip to Sicily, I saw temples built by slaves—prisoners of war—who had been taken in battle. In opposition to this, Christianity grew out of the conviction that every human being is unique and special to God, and that we bear his image. And, not only that, every human being is infinitely loved by God irrespective of gender, status, or ethnicity: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3.28)."

During this Lent Season, we could all profit from time spent contemplating the kind of culture we want to live in, and are willing to work for. We may never intentionally discard litter—let alone car tyres and engine oil—but we can all get involved in the clean-up operation. As it happens, we've probably all left litter of one kind or another kind. Consciously or unconsciously, we've probably all dumped on someone else: with lies or half-truths; with ill-considered judgments and criticism. It comes so naturally that we hardly notice it—through ignorance, weakness or our own deliberate fault. Next time you take a walk, keep an eye open for all the discarded wrappers, cans, and vapes that are lying around. We are all capable of picking it up, and maybe you know someone who needs your help to clear up the mess in their life? Regardless of your situation, I believe we can all profit from using this Lenten period to reflect on how much we owe to the One who came and took our mess upon himself, and by his example, showed us how to live life in a better way.



Peter



NO SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Please continue to lift in your prayers - Moira, Doug, Alan and any one else you are aware of.

News from Don in Chesterfield

Our Church Family Support & Outreach Worker is now in post, having started three weeks ago. Her name is Nancy. If you could include her in your prayers, it would be much appreciated. It's a slightly different role to HURC's being more outward facing (we have about 500 people using our church premises over the week (including a vibrant scouting group), so plenty of outreach opportunities.

Every blessing to you both.

Don

SPECIAL DATES at HURC

Halesworth United Reformed Church

Come and
join us for:



Suggested donation £1 Per Person

Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm

March 10th & 24th

Book with Elizabeth - familyhurc@gmail.com



3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th



**HURC Too
Every Sunday
All in service 15th**



**Crafty Cuppa
Saturday 7th**



February Family and Youth News

Throughout February during our Sunday Family Services, we have continued to look at some of the parables Jesus told us. We looked at ones that focused on how Jesus loves us even when we feel lost and afraid. Looking at how he described the kingdom of heaven through the parables and how he welcomed everyone to be in his kingdom even when others felt they were not worthy. We also have explored what Pancake Day was created for, learning about Lent and what it meant during the time of Jesus. We discussed somethings we could give up for lent or focus more on during this time to help our faiths grow.

Messy Church is in full swing on the new 'Pick 'n' Mix' scheme, which is working very well for the youth, as they like to have a space to call their own. The Messy Church organisation gifted our group some money for being a part of the new Messy Momentum scheme, which I was then able to use whilst I was at the Hand in Hand Conference, and bought five new Youth Edition Good News Bibles. Sharing these with our Messy Church youth was fantastic and now gives us an opportunity to explore the Bible with those that have likely never looked at a Bible before. The Youth Edition has taken the Good News Bible and made it look fun, as well as created plans and questions to help them learn and read the Bible. During our time at Messy Church, we will be looking at the Bible passages for the session with the youth to help get them use to finding versus and reading the Bible. During our Church session with Valentine's Day falling in this month, we looked at how Jesus' love is above all other. We explored the story of Mary and Martha, how they both showed their love for Jesus in different ways. One cleaning and preparing him a wonderful meal and the other giving him their complete attention. We talked about how Jesus was thankful for both of their love and that sometimes stopping and just listening is what is best.

Toddlers enjoyed making Valentine's Day cards and developing their mark making skills. We have had some new families join us and look forward to welcoming them back each week. We continue to bring a gentle biblical theme in by having toddler bibles available for parents/carers to share with the children. With this I am looking into

creating a library area where families can borrow Bibles suitable for the age of their children as well as for themselves. Once I have found a stamp with our church details and logo on, I will be able to get this set up and we can then support bringing Gods word into the homes of our families and young children.

I went to the Hand in Hand Conference this month and had a fantastic time learning new ideas and finding new resources to help support my work with the families and youth. This conference is all about exploring new ways to reach our families and youth. As well as how we can create a church that is welcoming and inclusive to all ages and abilities. It also gave me an opportunity to have some worship time without having to plan it and spent some time reflecting and recharging my faith.





Sunday 1st 11.00 am Gathered Worship Clive Sutcliffe

Tuesday 17th 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
followed by Morning Worship

Tuesday 3rd 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
followed by Morning Worship

Wednesday 18th 7.00 p.m.

Friday 6th 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church
followed by Coffee Morning

CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 8th 11. 00 a.m. Gathered Worship
Michael Homfray-Cooper

Friday 20th 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 8th 3.00 p.m. Bramfield Chapel Mr Paul Potts

Sunday 22nd 1.00 a.m. Gathered Worship Peter Wagg

Friday 13th 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church
followed by Coffee Morning

Tuesday 24th 10 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
followed by Morning Worship

Sunday 15th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship
Mothersing Sunday Elizabeth

Friday 27th 9.30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church
followed by Coffee Morning

Easter in Ukraine.

At the time of writing, 10th February, the van has just left with nearly 60 banana boxes crammed full of bedding, towels, clothes and shoes for all ages, some prem. baby items, food and hygiene items. A huge thank you to all those who contributed. It is much appreciated. The lorry will leave the warehouse on 12th February so by the time you read this the boxes and contents will be in Ukraine being distributed where the need is greatest.

Easter in Ukraine is celebrated in a big way and it's at the beginning of April this year so time is pressing.

When Carole and her husband had packed their van, we spoke of the possibility of doing Easter shoe boxes to help in the celebrations. So, providing items or filled shoe boxes to go on the next lorry. Items for the boxes could include: crayons, paints, pencils and pens, drawing books and note books. Rubbers, rulers, pencil sharpeners. Craft things. Small toys and games. Soap, flannels, toothbrushes, toothpaste. Children's hats and gloves, it's still going to be very cold out in Ukraine at Easter. AND Easter chocolate!!! If you wanted to add an Easter message that would be great.

Thanking you for all you have done so far but let's not stop supporting the people of Ukraine.

Jo



Transfiguration Mark 9 : 2 – 7 and Luke 22 : 54 – 62

From the chamber, with all the shouting going on around him, Jesus turned and our eyes met.

My stomach was stabbed again as I remembered the Master's words to me, just a few hours before... that I would betray him before the cock crowed... that just wasn't possible, what was he talking about??

Fleeing from the High Priest's courtyard, tears of self-loathing flooding from me. I remembered other words too. I pictured the climb up a Mountain (not so very long ago) and I recalled the dark words racing through my mind even then.

"I don't understand him at all!" I had told myself, "He's always talking about death lately. How could I just let him be so morbid?.... And, just because I try to bring him round, to cheer him up, he calls me satan!"

A sullen mood enveloped me, I was angry and hurt. Even James and John had given up trying to talk to me and they had started arguing again, as always.

I couldn't be bothered any more. You try your best and what do you get for it hey? You give up your business, your family, your security. You spend all your efforts on trying to "keep the cart on the wheels" between all the others (and THAT takes some doing, I can tell you!) and all the thanks you get is to be called names! I looked down at the pathway snaking up the mountain side, it really **looked** like a serpent at that moment and I quickly looked away, not wanting to be reminded of the associations with satan.

At Last, we reached the summit and, suddenly, I knew something had changed. James and John were quiet now, at long last! But they were really quiet, in fact I couldn't hear a thing. I mean it : Not a thing. No insect noises, not even the movement of the air around me, or the deep throated echo of silence that one often notices in high places. It was as though we had all become enveloped in a thick blanket and every movement, every breath was being absorbed and stilled. I became

aware that the sun had become very bright and strong. It had an intensity I have never experienced before but, strangely, I felt no increase in the heat. I looked to Jesus, to see if he had noticed the changes and I was dazzled by the light that was streaming out from inside him. It actually hurt, not only to look, (like looking directly at the sun) but it was physically impossible to stand the weight of that light on your body for very long. Jesus clothes were radiant, lit up from inside and it all blazed so much that I could no longer discern the features of his face. He was shimmering with incandescent glory that felt as though it was physically tearing through me. James and John were trying to shield their eyes from the brightness, but I know that they were not able to do that, any more than I was able to guard myself from the onslaught of that terrible radiance, which was savaging my senses.

Then, I noticed movement and two further figures were moving about in the brightness that was shining from Jesus. Don't ask me how, I simply KNEW, in my own heart, that this was Moses and Elijah (long dead) but now undeniably alive, talking with Jesus here in this place that suddenly seemed to be 'other' than a mere mountain in Israel. Dread gripped my throat, I was finding it almost impossible to breathe, the light was intolerably heavy and there seemed to be no air. It took all my effort to remain conscious and then, from far away, I heard my own voice lamely suggesting that we build 3 booths to honour Jesus and the prophets. Even as I spoke, I realised how irrelevant a suggestion this was, but further terror was to come. The air around us became filled with points of brightness: strange and beautiful fragrances surrounded us and the sound of millions of voices, exclaiming praises, rushed upon us, their breath like searing winds. I dropped to the ground, knowing myself to be ugly, guilty and a thing of disgust. Then a voice thundered in our ears. It was more beautiful than anything I have ever heard, but it caused perfect, awesome fear in my heart. It seemed to shake the foundations of the world with unspeakable tenderness.

"This is my Son" it said, "Listen to Him..."

That moment, everything seemed to explode around me into millions of bright fragments. I saw the resentments, which had earlier been echoing around my mind, as the evil, spiteful rants of a rebellious child. I was ashamed of them, knowing that Jesus had always encouraged and

supported me, even when the others had laughed at my hot temper and impetuous words. It's true, I didn't always understand Jesus, but that was not because HE was changeable, it was because I am shallow and foolish, at best. Oh! I **never** learn!

And now my wild boasting has really let Jesus down. Only last night I had thumped my chest and crowed "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and death." He knew well, that my words had no more substance than a noisy cockerel. He told me that I would deny him three times before the cock had announced the dawn of the next day, and he was right:

He is always right: and I am a coward, a braggart, a noisy, empty-headed creature. Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Do you know what really haunts me?

It's that look he gave me, when his prophecy about me and my denial of him had come true.

That look, across a courtyard filled with important, angry men, all shouting at him.

That look which urgently sought me out.

It didn't say "I told you so."

It wasn't a look of disgust, or of loathing (though it should have been.)

No, it was the face of a mother, desperate to comfort a hurting child.

He seemed to be telling me that he understood, that he will always love me!

Oh God! How could I let him down like that? Will I ever be able to tell him how sorry I am???.....

Lorraine



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

**We're
Searching for
Volunteers**