

**Halesworth
and
Bramfield
URC**



April 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

HALESWORTH AND BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

"Lo, the winter is past The flowers appear on the earth: the time of singing of the birds is come." (Song of Songs Ch 2 v 11 8 12)

At the time of writing this we have enjoyed some sunny days, and signs of Spring are all around to see. The daffodils seem especially vibrant this year; the shrubs and trees are coming into bud and flower beautifully; also, the birds are singing their hearts out. New life bursting forth after the grey days of winter.

As we move into April we reach the climax of the Christian calendar; the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus himself said, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains a single grain of wheat, but if it dies it brings forth much fruit". (John Ch 12 verse 24).

We see this truth played out in our gardens and on the farms; seed placed into the soil and a few days later green shoots appear. The seed has given of itself to bring forth new life. On Easter Sunday we see new life bursting forth from the tomb, the glorious day of Resurrection!

Let us rejoice in Christ's resurrection knowing that He conquered the power of death and the grave. Jesus' death and resurrection demonstrate to us the depth of the Love of God for humankind, and the lengths He would go so that we could be reconciled with Him.

At this season, let us celebrate this glorious new life.

Happy Easter, Paul Potts ~ Elder

**If you have something for the
May 2026 magazine,
please email
smedleybigal@aol.com (preferably)
or hand it to me by 22nd April**

Blessings, Alan

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



NO SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

We would like to thank everyone for your prayers for our son Kenny as he lost his fight to cancer also thank everyone for the cards and prayers which you gave to us all

Blessings from Anne, Tony, Anthony, Stephen, Wendy, Ruth, Zach, Abigail, Ellen, Alice

Please continue to lift in your prayers - Samual and Lillian on the passing of Samuels Mother.

Also please continue to pray for Eileen, Doug, Lorraine and Alan

A big thank you and the collecting for Ukraine goes on.

Thank you so much for the donations you have made of things to go to Ukraine. Today, 23rd March 30 banana boxes filled with bedding, towels, toiletries, food and clothes and toys for children were loaded into Carole and Trevor's camper van for the trip to the depot where they will be loaded onto pallets shrink wrapped to then be put on a lorry ready for departure on Thursday 26th arriving in Ukraine around 28th or 29th. Along with the big boxes went 60+ shoeboxes of Easter gifts for displaced children. It is an amazing result and thank you again.

There is still a desperate need for so much. If when you shop you could add something to your shopping bag to go in the collection box in the foyer it would be much appreciated. HAAD are hoping to send 2 lorries a month for the foreseeable future.

The wish list consists of:

Food, cleaning products, washing and hygiene items are always top priority.

Any children's things, clothes, shoes, toys, art and craft things. School items e.g. Pens, notebooks, crayons. Clothes for teenagers.

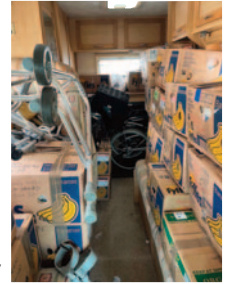
Shoes for adults and young people.

Bedding, duvets and covers, blankets and towels. Pillows and pillow cases.

Tea towels.

Women's underwear – must be new unless its bra's.

Thank you but we are NOT collecting any adult men's and women's clothes at the moment. A lot of women's clothing has gone out and more is not needed at the moment. And there are few men about as they are away at the front.



It seems as if Esther and I are always asking you for more, and we are. You have given generously and it is much appreciated but if you can continue to give, we will continue to pack boxes.

With thanks and praise to Him who provides us with all we have.

Love in Christ, From Jo and Esther.

Dear Friends

After 5 weeks (double what it should have been, after carpet suppliers delayed us) our phased house move is nearing completion.

Hot news. BT have now connected the landline and our number is

01536 680088 .

Ruth has been with her sister & brother-in-law, Cheryl & Len, since 10 February so the last 3 weeks I have been manically coming and going between 3 places: Our house at Desborough, Cheryl & Len's at Wellingborough (25 minutes each way) & Halesworth (2.5 hours each way). I have done most of the painting and installed loft ladder & flooring.

In case you hadn't noted it and want it, our address is:

55 Ironwood Avenue, Desborough, Kettering NN14 2JJ

Thanks to all those supporting us in prayer through this.

Blessings Jon



FAREWELL

Luke 7 : 11 - 16 John 19 : 25 - 27

"I have longed to see him again, day and night, since he changed the world for me and now I bitterly regret having been granted that wish.

Reuben (my son) and I have come to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. This morning, we were just buying some vegetables in the market, when we heard shouting: and we saw three poor prisoners being herded along, through the streets, with arms tied to wooden beams, obviously on their way to their executions. There were some people sneering, others crying and still others simply ignoring this procession, which is far from unusual since the Romans have been in control.

It revolted me to see such a thing on the eve of the Passover and I was going to turn to leave when one of them fell flat on his face right at the side of me. He couldn't stop himself from falling, or protect himself in any way and so he smashed the side of his face and his ribs on the paving stones. Now, I didn't care what the wretch had done, even if he had broken the law, it simply broke my heart to see a young man, a son of Abraham, treated in this way. I bent down, purely out of some motherly instinct to comfort, (he was some mother's son after all) when I found myself looking into the eyes of the man I had been longing to see again for so many months. I thought I would be sick. I was paralysed by the horror of what I was witnessing, this was simply not possible. Reuben heard my stifled cry and came to my rescue. By the time he reached me, the soldiers had bundled the poor man back to his feet and he had staggered on, terribly bloodied, his back in shreds. I had to follow, I needed to thank him (somehow!) and to satisfy myself that that this was all some gruesome mistake. I couldn't understand what was happening and felt that the whole world had gone quite mad.

So it was that Reuben and I joined this bizarre procession. In my mind, I returned to the time when we had first met this man. Back then, we had all been in another procession of death, only that time, my son was being borne aloft at its head, myself behind, weeping for my dear one, my only child, the most precious gift of my life and my only support. It was Reuben's funeral procession and the day (so I thought) of farewell.

Presently, I became aware that we had stopped moving and, through my tears, I could see Reuben's friends laying the bier down on the floor at the feet of a young man, whom I had never seen before. He laid one hand on Reuben's cold body. The young man looked at me and even though my vision was blurred, I could see tears in his own eyes and a look of such tenderness on his face. He smiled at me.

For a moment I thought that I was losing my reason. It seemed as though the blossoms which we had laid on Reuben's body, were exploding into the air by their own volition and then, I saw the impossible. Please understand that it is still almost too overwhelming for me to explain and you will find this hard to believe, but I saw my son, my dead son Reuben, sitting up and chattering away like he used to when he had woken from a bad dream. My son! who had died in my arms the day before, was sitting there talking to this stranger! I heard people speaking the name "Jesus, from Nazareth".

So, this was the man we were all hearing about, the miracle worker, the man who was in trouble with the religious leaders. I looked again and this Jesus was walking towards me, with his arm on my Reuben's shoulders, smiling broadly. He was bringing my son back from the dead, full of life and health and giving him back to me!

The sound of hammer on nail and the tormented screams of men brought my thoughts back from that day of wonder: and here I was, back in a nightmare. I was looking into the face of Jesus, the Life Giver, bleeding, muscles torn, disfigured and suffocating to death on a stake. Reuben and I clung to one another and wept miserably. After long, terrible hours, I heard the parched voice of Jesus call from the cross. "Woman" he said. Reuben whispered to me that Jesus' mother was there and the dear soul came weeping, collapsing with grief, to the foot of her son's cross. My heart broke for her. I knew how she was feeling. Everything in me wanted to help her, to give to her the joy which her son had given to me. As we watched, Jesus called one of his friends and told him to look after this dear lady as his own mother. That was too much for me. Even then, in all his pain and distress, his life ebbing painfully away, he was giving his mother another son, to take his place and look after her. We watched her, collapsing and sobbing, being supported by Jesus' friend and I could bear no more.

Reuben and I also left that awful place of death. Now we are both asking God, where is His will in all this? Jesus, who has done so much for so many people, why should HE be up there, on a cursed tree? Why should this, good man die, when there are so many rogues profiting, with no troubles in their lives? Why should HE (of all people) bear this undeserved, cruel death? Can you tell me why?"

Lorraine

APRIL

APRIL

Thursday 2nd 7.00 pm Maundy Thursday evening service

**Friday 3rd 10.30 am Procession of Witness
starting from URC
12 Noon Good Friday Service at URC**

Sunday 5th 11.00 am EASTER SUNDAY – Rev Ken Thom

Friday 10th 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church and followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 12th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship Peter Walker

**Sunday 12th 3.00p.m. Bramfield Chapel
Mr Paul Potts**

Sunday 19th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship Elizabeth

Friday 24th 9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Church followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 26th 11.00 a.m. Gathered Worship Paul Potts and Lorraine Smedley

SPECIAL DATES at HURC

Halesworth United Reformed Church

Come and join us for:



Suggested donation £1 Per Person

Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm
April 21st

Book with Elizabeth - familyhurc@gmail.com



14th, 21st & 28th



HURC Too
Every Sunday
19th All Age Service
Sharing what we did at Spring Harvest



Messy Breakfast
Saturday 11th



During our Sunday Family Services, we have been looking at knowing God's love, how forgiving it can be, how he gives us things to strengthen us during dark times. We have had several celebration days during March, Saint George's Day, Saint Patrick's Day, Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday. We looked at who the saints were and why we celebrate them. It was lovely to lead the All in Service on Mothering Sunday and have us all together to join in a day of celebration as we think about all those who we see as a mother figure. With Easter approaching we have been looking at what happened the days leading to Jesus being crucified. The children love to learn through creating different things with food and enjoying tasting what they have made. We have created compass bagels to remind us to direct our lives towards God, Chocolate surprise to give to those we forgive and Saint Patrick Day biscuits to spread the word of God like he did in Ireland. Fruit palm trees and bread rolls as we celebrate Palm Sunday and remember the last supper. During Messy Church we based our stories on Mothering Sunday and Easter, looking at Mary and how she said 'Yes' to God and all the joy it brought her. The children made Mother's Day cards and little gifts they could give to their mums on Mother's Day. They also made prayer spinners to support their learning in how to pray for others. We explored the Easter story looking at what Easter is truly about and why it is an important celebration, how we had to face darkness to be brought into the light. We are looking to bring more responsibility for the teens, with them helping in the kitchen serving food and drinks. As well as helping the younger ones with their craft activities. They are all very good with helping during clean up and I am hoping with a new Packing Away Chart the clean-up from Messy Church will become more efficient and structured, so we are packed away quicker. It would be great to help grow our teens faith by having more volunteers, having someone other than myself be in our Youth Space with them and chat to them about the stories we have looked at during that session. Also, anyone who loves to be creative and wants to come sit at one of our craft tables to help and support the children and parents during that craft would be fantastic. This would create more chances to speak with our families and see where they are with their faith and guide them in bringing Christ into their homes.

Toddlers have increased in numbers again and we had over 25 toddlers attend one of our sessions. It has been great to see our numbers increase and meet some new families. They have been enjoying the different crafts, as they practice their cutting skills by cutting out tools for a tool box, as God gives us the tools we need in life. They have made Mother's Day cards, Saint Patrick Day pictures and Easter Crafts.

We have had a great response with Easter shoe boxes for Ukraine with over 10 boxes being put together by our Toddler, Messy Church and Sunday Worship families, we send them all a huge thank you for participating in this.

I am beginning the preparation for our stall at the Annual Parish Meeting in the Town Park on the 16th May. If anyone would like to help by coming along to man the stall or to bring some input into what we could have at our stall, this would be greatly appreciated, please do get in touch with me. The information of the event will be displayed in church as well as included in the magazine for those wanting to know more. This is a great opportunity to reach out to our community and do Gods work by spreading his word.

Elizabeth



The
United
Reformed
Church

Easter Crafts



Tuesday 7th April

10am - 12pm

Halesworth United Reformed Church
Fun games - Crafts - Refreshments



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Saturday 16th May 2026
3pm - 8.30pm

Join your Town Councillors in the Town Park to chat, ask questions, and find out more about what the Town Council does!

- ✓ Voluntary Organisations & Stalls
- ✓ Meeting at 6pm
- ✓ Children's Activities & Face-Painting
- 🕒 Food & Bar
- 🎵 Live Music
- 🎵 Marc Anthony & Isaac 3pm - 6pm
- 🎵 Blyth River Blues Band 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Join us for a fantastic Community afternoon in the park - all free!



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