

Halesworth and Bramfield URC



July 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
August 2026 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."**

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (Prov. Ch 12 v 18)

Probably we are all familiar with the phrase "Sticks and Stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me"? I expect we are very aware how far from the truth that actually is, and I am sure that you, like me, have had times when we 'wish we hadn't said that!' At those times it is even more important for us to humble ourselves and say "sorry", however hard that may be. How much better place our world would be if we all endeavoured to be more gracious, no matter how others respond to us. Our neighbourhood and whole area would be impacted.

Why, I wonder, is it so hard at times for us to say the right thing? But if we give thought to our words, it is possible to bring support and comfort to others in times of trouble or difficulty, and thereby make an enormous difference.

We need interaction with others – that's how we are made. Many people admit to being lonely at least some of the time. How good then to pick up the phone and spend a little while talking to someone to lift up their spirit and help them along life's journey?

We can talk to God in prayer; no special words or formula is needed, we just need to believe he is listening and waiting for us to get in touch. Some people like to say the "Lord's Prayer" others prefer a quiet stroll in the garden or countryside, but it is possible to talk to God in our hearts, even in the business that we find ourselves in, and that can often bring some peace into our hearts,

In Psalm 141 v 3, the Psalmist asks the Lord to "Take control of what I say". I think we would do well to follow suit.

Paul Potts

Halesworth URC



A note to the Church Family from Eileen

Thank you to everyone for your part in giving me such a memorable and happy birthday. Thank you for the large, beautiful bouquet of flowers, for individual pots and tubs of flowers and for the heaps and heaps of cards. They filled my sitting room and dining room

with colour and, more significantly, glowed with the good wishes and love they brought. I felt so richly blessed. You channelled God's love and care to me.

I enjoyed my birthday lunch so much because you came. Thank you. I was able to meet some I had not talked to before, like Laura. That was special.

The flowers have now all faded and the cards are packed away, (though not before I read everyone again), but the knowledge of your love and care remains and that is lasting.

May you also feel blessed by God's love and care as we journey together through the ups and downs of life.

Dear Church, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for all your prayers telephone calls, cards, not forgetting the flowers!

I went into the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on Tuesday, 2nd June for a thoracoscopic procedure. The procedure was initially to take a biopsy (looking for signs of Lung Cancer). What they found (much to their surprise) was that the bottom lobe of my right lung is calcified, so they took a larger piece than initially planned. This has gone off for investigation. I have been discharged from hospital and I am fitted with a pleural lung fluid drain and have a District Nurse in 3 times a week to drain (the said) lung!

My mobility is extremely restricted and I now await the outcome of the tests. At the time of writing (12/05/26) I feel it will be some weeks before I am able to get back to Worship at the Church: but (again) **my many thanks** for your prayers. Blessings, Alan

Phone calls (land line) 01502 712316
or mobile 07918 698086

Please continue to hold Moira Cooke, Doug Mizon, Chris Dominic plus any others who may need prayer at this time.

NO SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



Hope And Aid Direct (HAAD) an update.

I have been asked several times recently if we are still collecting for Ukraine. The answer is yes, with provisos.

Esther has recently had boxes collected from her to go to the warehouse. However, the warehouse is being taken back by the owner at the end of June and HAAD have not as yet, despite I think 6 months' notice, been able to find another storage and sorting facility.

It has been a challenge in recent weeks especially for Esther because having not had much response locally to her pleas for support she was then inundated! We both get predominantly pre loved adult clothing and although this is welcome it has not been high on the priority list and then needs storing.

The message this week from Carole who is our link person is that we are only collecting essentials between July and September. So, essentials are food, medicines and toiletries. If you are going shopping and can add something for Ukraine to your list it would be gratefully received and can go in the box in the foyer at church.

Joan continues to knit baby clothes and blankets for us and we are truly grateful for those.

If you do have things that you want to donate and you really cannot house them, I do have some capacity to store things so please do ask me.

Thank you for your support, Jo and Esther.



SPECIAL DATES at HURC

Halesworth United Reformed Church

Come and
join us for:



Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm

July 14th

Book with Elizabeth - familyhurc@gmail.com



**9am - 11am
7th and 14th**



**HURC Too
Every Sunday
ALL AGE SERVICE 12th**

School holidays start week commencing 21st July so no weekday family or youth activities until Holiday Bible Club on 4th - 7th August 10am - 12pm.

I will be on annual level from 24th - 31st July



June Family and Youth Recap

Sunday family services have been quieter this month, but it has been lovely to join everyone in the main service. The children who have joined us have done very well sitting, listening, and taking part in the service. We also had a lovely Sunday out the back with just two children. Their parents joined us too, which gave them the opportunity to discuss their faith, ask questions, and reflect on what the Bible passage was saying to them.

Messy Church is going very well, with our regular families and youth attending each session. We still have plenty of room, so if you know a family who would benefit from a fun, craft-based learning style, please do put them in contact with me.

We were pleased to welcome Sophie from the Messy Church organisation team, who came to see how we were getting on with the 'Pick 'n' Mix' pilot scheme. Her feedback was very positive. She was pleased with how our Messy Church runs and said she felt very welcome and included. She also noticed a strong sense of community among our families and team.

A huge thank you to the team for making Sophie feel so welcome, including the thoughtful idea of meeting her at the train station and personally directing her to the church. I am so grateful for all the hard work you do. Messy Church can get very busy and noisy, but you all get stuck in and support both the parents, carers, and children so well. During our sessions, we have explored, the Fruits of the Spirit. The children had lots of fun making their own fruit salads, decorating our very own fruit tree and playing games with the parachute. We have also looked at the Lord's Prayer and how we can pray. The children's responses have been a real blessing as they begin to recognise that God is with us every day, wherever we are. We have also talked about prayer and helped them understand that it is not only about sitting with hands together and eyes closed, but about focusing our attention on speaking with God. Taking even a few minutes during the day, wherever we are, to talk to God in our heads and be aware of his presence is a wonderful way to begin building a relationship with him.

Our toddlers have also been exploring the Fruits of the Spirit, using playdough to create different fruits and talk about what they represent. They have had lots of fun playing in the sand and have shown a real interest in messy play.

To support this, we are looking for suitable removable flooring that would allow us to offer more messy activities without damaging the carpeted area. We are also looking for a stand for our tough tray—the large black hexagon-shaped tray we currently use on the floor. A stand would allow children to access every side of the tray at waist height and would make activities such as water play easier and safer, as children would no longer be able to sit inside the tray. *Elizabeth*



JULY

Sunday 5th	11.00 am	Gathered Worship Rev Alex Jacob
Friday 10th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 12th	11.00 a.m.	Gathered Worship Elizabeth
3 pm BRAMFIELD CHAPEL		
Sunday 19th	11.00 a.m.	Gathered Worship Peter Wagg
Friday 24th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 26th	11.00 a.m.	Gathered Worship Michael H-Cooper
Friday 31st	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church followed by Coffee Morning

GIFT DAY 12TH JULY

2026

As in previous years, the Gift Day donations will be for the support of those attending Spring Harvest next year. A deposit has already been paid so the trip will certainly be going ahead. There may be a family or families who have not been before and, you never know, the experience for someone could be life changing.

Envelopes will be available for your donation and if you are a tax payer and/or have signed a Gift Aid declaration, would you please complete the details on the envelope. If you are unable to be at church on 12th July, don't worry because donations will be accepted until the end of August.

Liz is greatly encouraged by the financial support received from the church so I don't mind asking everyone to be as generous as possible.

Blessings from your always optimistic treasurer !

David Moreton



Gift Day



I am sure the church will find an appropriate time to say Thank you on her retirement. However, I would like to express my personal thanks to Judy Morton for her years of service as church secretary

I think it is only right to honour a remarkable woman who has been the anchor of our church office. When she first took on this role, she faced an unimaginably difficult season with the loss of Brian. Yet, in the face of that profound grief, she chose to pour her heart into serving her Lord and helping all of us.

Alongside the Morton Partnership who also deserve our thanks she ensured our printing and communication were always flawless. Working tirelessly behind the scenes, she never sought the spotlight, but her impact was seen in every corner of our church family.

Judy Thank you for your unwavering faith, your hard work, and your beautiful servant's heart. We wish you a blessed retirement.

David and Rosemary Wright



Daily Devotions From United Reformed Church

3 June 2026

When God's Tears Become a River: Amos 5:21–27

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? You shall take up Sakkuth your king, and Kaiwan your star-god, your images[a] that you made for yourselves; therefore I will take you into exile beyond Damascus, says the Lord, whose name is the God of hosts.

Reflection

I heard a pastor from the Pacific Islands speak. "The water keeps rising and the land is disappearing". His voice trembled as he spoke of home, of the sea that kept coming closer. I watched his hands shake and felt the weight of a world losing ground and the ache of a God who still loved it. Some words in scripture fall like soft rain, others like frozen hail. Amos carries both in his voice. He speaks to people who sing beautifully but have forgotten the sound of mercy. Their worship fills the temple, but their streets remain dry. And so the Holy One speaks, "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." These waters are not a passing rain. They are the tears of God, wept for the unheard and the unseen. Yet they also carry the weight of our neglect, the forests we have cleared, the seas we have poisoned, the

poor left to face the storm first. The flood at our doorsteps is not only nature's grief; it is creation remembering what we have refused to mend. Justice is not a word to defend. It is love that learns to move, sorrow that becomes healing. When we step into that river, we walk with the Presence who feels the pain of creation and longs for its renewal. This calling is urgent. It is for this reason that the World Council of Churches has named this time the Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action, a reminder that our worship must now flow into the work of caring for the earth.

Each step is a prayer, each act of care a drop of grace. Together they become a river carrying the promise of new life. Wherever this river flows, something begins to live again. Perhaps holiness begins there too, where divine tears touch the earth, and faith finds the courage to love.

Prayer

God of mercy,
let Your tears become our compassion
and Your love our strength.
When the waters rise,
help us to rise together in hope.

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"My Summer Holidays!"

Memories of essay titles set in the first English lesson of the new school year!

I have recently spent 10 days in Romania on a wildlife watching holiday and wanted to share two pictures that give the briefest glimpse into that very diverse country.



The alpine meadows of the Carpathian Mountains and a Cardinal butterfly seen down near the Black sea.



The amount, the beauty and the variety of wildlife whether it was birds, butterfly's, mammals or plants was amazing and awe inspiring. And it is all a gift from our amazing Father God.

I went looking for a bible verse that would encapsulate my feelings about this gift and the variety of life our planet is home to. I didn't quite do that but a friend set me looking at the internet and I wanted to share this. (Giving credit to "Learn Religion's" and The United Methodist Church 2021.)

"Butterflies are not mentioned in scriptures, but the metamorphosis that a caterpillar goes through is a perfect illustration for the story of the Christian life and resurrection. The butterfly starts life as a caterpillar, then enters a stage so dormant that it appears lifeless in a tomb-like cocoon; finally, a beautiful winged creature appears, Christians lead a life on earth, enter death, and will see eternal life through Jesus Christ."

"For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changes." 1 Corinthians 15:52

And "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of his hands," Psalm 19:1

So, I am very happy that "my" beautiful butterfly is linked to the symbolism of the resurrection of Christ and I thank God for all creation and may He help us look after it.

Jo Small



Volunteers

Coffee Mornings (Fridays)

Other Duties Greeting/Prayers etc

Open the Book Team and organiser

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

