

**Halesworth  
and  
Bramfield  
URC**



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**



**June 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  
July 2026 magazine,  
please email  
[smedleybigal@aol.com](mailto:smedleybigal@aol.com) (preferably)  
or hand it to me by 22nd June**

**Blessings, Alan**

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

**'Messy Church', or, "If you find the perfect church, don't join it, for you will spoil it, (attributed to C.H. Spurgeon)!"**

Recently, on a trip to see our daughter in North Norfolk, my wife Jean and I found we had an hour to spare to visit the walled garden at Felbrigg Hall. It was a beautiful day, and the garden looked a picture. The cordons were all neatly pruned and tied, and all manner of food plants were growing vigorously. The flower borders, too, were all neatly trimmed; and there appeared to be more gardeners than weeds!

I came away feeling inspired by the beauty and order on display. It demonstrated perfectly just what can be achieved when knowhow and effort are harnessed towards a specific end. Yet, I have to say that I also came away feeling it put my own garden to shame. You see, I'm only too well aware of the deadlines I keep missing: to plant seeds, to hoe between rows, to water, and to prune my roses.

I could, of course, fall back on the age-old excuse, that I don't have time, but I know it's not true. I could get these jobs done if I was more self-disciplined. Truth be told, I'm a natural at procrastinating! Nevertheless, despite my self-criticism, I still love my garden. It's a haven for wildlife. Lots of pigeons treat it as their own, and muntjac deer drop by whenever they fancy a snack. And, soon enough, blackbirds will be coming around to feast on my soft fruit.

I can't help thinking that Felbrigg Hall garden is a bit too perfect. The high brick walls store heat and protect against biting north winds but, surely, they must also exclude local wildlife? I don't appreciate caterpillars eating my brassicas, but I can at least console myself with the thought that they then become food for young birds.

It's at this point that I start to think about my church. I sometimes wish it was perfect, and I imagine it being like Felbrigg Hall garden. But I'm fast coming around to the idea that it never will be. As Spurgeon, said, "If you found the perfect church, don't join it!" Yes, it would certainly be nice to tidy up some of its rough edges, but would I really feel at home in such a perfectly manicured space? I don't think so.

It's at this time of the year that Christians celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit made all things new. The ripples of that remarkable and singular event are still spreading, and today we rejoice in the knowledge that there are more Christians experiencing the Holy Spirit than ever before.

So, our calling as Christians is to embody Christ—our living Lord—in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to do so, I think, not in an artificial and perfectly managed environment, but within the glorious chaos of the Body of Christ.

Blessings Peter



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

Thanks for sending the May magazine Alan. Another encouraging opening letter - this time from Chris Dunn I see. It's so good to have different people contributing, it gives a different perspective and 'flavour' to the letter.

We're settling in well in Desborough. Still lots of work to be done in house and garden, so Jon's virtually living in his paint splattered overalls! The local Anglican/Methodist church is v welcoming and feels the right spiritual home for us now. I'm still pacing myself, getting out on fine days on my mobility scooter and enjoying the local cafes! We also have a wonderful new cleaner, friendly and efficient

God bless

Ruth xx



Pat Snell has taken over as Church secretary.  
email:- [patriciaann1803@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaann1803@gmail.com)

More details to follow next edition



Thank you for continuing to send me the magazine. I'm glad to know Eileen's birthday as I was hoping to send her a card. Life in Elham is cheerful now the sun has shone for several days. I shall be planting up my patio soon with bedding plants . It is a real sun trap. I hope all is well with you. I hope the church continues to flourish particularly while there is no minister. All good wishes for the near future.  
Love Alma Tracy

## SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

11th Carolyn Mann 55  
12th Laura Nichols 45

happy birthday

Another recent SPECIAL Birthday



See pages 13 / 14

# SPECIAL DATES at HURC

## May Family and Youth Recap

### Halesworth United Reformed Church

Come and  
join us for:



Suggested donation £1 Per Person

**Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm**  
**June 2nd, 16th & 30th**

Book with Elizabeth - [familyhurc@gmail.com](mailto:familyhurc@gmail.com)



**9am - 11am**  
**2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th**



**HURC Too**  
**Every Sunday**



This month during our time with the families on a Sunday we have been exploring Jesus's ascension and how we can strengthen our relationship with him. The time between Jesus's ascension and the receipt of the Holy Spirit can be a tricky few weeks. We can feel like what do we do next, where do we go from here. This is what we have been supporting our families and young children with, both within our Sunday Services and Messy Church. We have looked at passages in the Bible that help remind us that even though Jesus is in heaven preparing the way for us, he is still within us every day. The children enjoyed making bread again during one of our Sunday Services, this helps to remind us that Jesus is the bread of life. This helps support our teachings as we encourage them to think of Jesus, like bread, a food that can be a staple part of our diet. Jesus should be a staple part of our lives. We need to be building that relationship with him, whether that be through prayer, worship songs, reading the bible, or just being still and in his presence. We then had Pentecost and the children enjoyed birthday cake, and games. We had a celebration remembering the wonderful gifts God gave us and that we have the Holy Spirit within us to help us each and every day. During our Messy Church we have been exploring similar things too, from Jesus's ascension to what do we do now in this time between the Holy Spirit coming. We celebrated Pentecost making our own pizzas using pitta bread and having fun with challenges that involved us using our breath. As like the Holy Spirit we cannot see air, but we can feel it. I also used the balloon demonstration during Messy Church, how a balloon only full of air will pop over a flame, but a balloon with water and air in it will not pop over a flame. This reminds us that we were not meant to face life alone, as we are more than likely to pop. But having Jesus in our lives protects us when we face difficult times that can feel like a fire burning inside of us. We planted sunflower seeds in both our Messy Church and Toddler groups to support our learning of giving things care and nourishment to make them grow. Just like our relationship with Jesus it too will grow as we give it nourishment by spending some time each day in the presence of Jesus. Our Toddler Group is doing incredibly well with lots more new faces coming in this month. The little ones all had a fantastic time enjoying the

toys and crafts set out. With the weather improving I am looking at doing some more messy types of play and possible water play. These are great activities that help support young children's development and learning. If anyone has or knows of someone with a tough tray and stand or a water/sand tray with stand that they no longer use, please do let me know their details so that I may expand our resources we have. Also, if anyone has any old small plastic jugs, spoons with holes in, colanders or sieves, these would be great for our water and sand play.

What a fantastic time at the Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday 16th May. The town park was packed with families and children who all had lots of fun taking part in the activities we had set out for them. It was so good to be out in the community sharing with them all the things we have going on at our church and getting to meet new families who maybe interested in beginning a journey with Christ. We have been invited to attend again next year which is amazing. Anyone with ideas on what we could do at our stall do let me know, I am always happy to receive some new ways to spread the word of Jesus.



# JUNE

- |                              |            |   |
|------------------------------|------------|---|
| Friday 5th June              | 9.45 a.m.  | Prayer Meeting in the Church and followed by Coffee Morning |
| Sunday 7th June              | 11.00 am   | Gathered Worship Rev Richard Edwards<br>With Communion      |
| Friday 12th June             | 9.45 a.m.  | Prayer Meeting in the Church and followed by Coffee Morning |
| Sunday 14th June             | 11.00 a.m. | Gathered Worship Lydia Mornen<br>"Barnabus Aid"             |
| <b>3 pm BRAMFIELD CHAPEL</b> |            |   |
| Friday 19th June             | 9.45 a.m.  | Prayer Meeting in the Church and followed by Coffee Morning |
| Sunday 21st June             | 11.00 a.m. | Gathered Worship Paul Potts                                 |
| Friday 26th June             | 9.45 a.m.  | Prayer Meeting in the Church followed by Coffee Morning     |
| Sunday 28th Jun              | 11.00 a.m. | Gathered Worship Rev Stuart Davison                         |



## OPEN THE BOOK – 2026

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29 : 11

I’m sure that most of us are not only familiar with this verse from Jeremiah, but that we have prayed it into circumstances

in our own lives. We place our faith in the promise that God is making for us and our church, in times of “mission” as well as times of ‘trouble’. In faith, I ‘partner’ this Bible verse with one from Hebrews 4 : 12 – “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

These verses are very much in my mind as I construct a brief “State of the Open the Book Work” in May 2026.

The Edgar Sewter School has always been very welcoming to our team throughout the years (and all those who have been members during that time) have brought their own faith and the Spirit of God to the pupils AND the staff. In recent years, we have seen a real desire (in the school) to join with our church family whenever possible. In recent times we have been invited (and treated with special honour) to the school’s Dramatic Performances and Sport’s days. The school has accepted opportunities to come to the church building to celebrate “High Days” and “Holidays” and, (during Jon Sermons’ tenure), we have been invited to “teach” (as well as discuss with pupils at school) many of the important areas of our faith. We spent some days presenting and discussing (in “DRAMATIC” format) the Crucifixion and the issues around this: we also spent time in some of the classes looking at PENTECOST, what it means and the relevance of Pentecost to the first disciples and to us. Jon opened up the school building on occasions for the children to experience Bible teaching, singing together and a chance for the children to become familiar with the church environment.

This year, Peter Wagg and Lorraine have met with the new Deputy Head (Helen Cape) and the teacher in charge of Religious Studies (Leanne Bedwell), to begin an even closer relationship with the school. They are both very keen for the presence of the Halesworth and Bramfield United Reformed Church to be involved with the school AND for our joint efforts to form a stronger presence in the life of the Halesworth community. Please pray. In these times; when respect and belief in Jesus are so fragile, the Lord is showing His desire and ability to form that real relationship with the community.

On May 20th most of the school will have the usual “Open the Book” session about PENTECOST: whilst Key stage 1 (ALL the youngest pupils) will be coming in to the church building to hear the story of Pentecost, as well as making some “tongues of fire” to wear themselves. This is the first time any of us have presented anything like this, however, we will be drawing greatly on Elizabeth’s extensive experience in “Messy Church” and ask God to enable us to make it a very positive and blessed time. The first of many. The school are keen for the children to become familiar with the Church building and feeling at home in it.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR US!

Pray that we will hear from the LORD and will be able to show the love and an exciting relationship with Jesus for all the children...and staff!

We have challenges. Now that Jon has moved on, Open the Book comprises of Val Jennings, Elizabeth Aslett and myself. Elizabeth is already undertaking all the children’s work, along with helpers but she has to organize and oversee it all. We are very blessed by all she does. Val is also a very busy lady in the community and also within “The Limes”, She has been faithful and irreplaceable to Open the Book for many Years, however (like me) “anno domini” makes the operation of Open the Book very difficult sometimes. I have had to stop the weekly Open the Book Sessions because I simply can’t organize them. The school have told us that they (and the children) are really sad about this, but they are always glad to see us when it is possible. And they really do want us to be there.

So, I am making ANOTHER appeal to the church. Could you 'gift' Open the Book with the abilities and interests that GOD has given YOU? There is a lot more to running Open the Book than "acting" stories out with the children. The schedule needs to be organised, the scripts need to be planned, costumes always need cleaning, keeping fit for use etc., there are many areas, which might be just the thing for you and your abilities, which would enable us to be free to do what we can....AND if ever you fancy being "A player"-. You don't have to learn lines, we all have a script, it isn't "acting", it is having fun with the children and helping them to "get into the groove" of the Bible.

The fact is, if we can't add to our team, Open the Book at Edgar Sewter will die. PLEASE, prayerfully enquire of the LORD if He has something He wants You to do for this wonderful opportunity for Jesus to become part of these childrens' lives.

Bless you,

Lorraine





# 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**

*We're*  
Searching for  
Volunteers