

Halesworth and Bramfield URC



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

Our Vision:

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

'Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark'. (James 3:5). I feel certain that we've all been left saddened by the recent fires on Dunwich Heath. For a few days at the end of July and the beginning of August, the national and local media seemed mesmerised by events unfolding at Minsmere, Dunwich Heath and Westleton. Mercifully, thanks to the superhuman efforts of the firefighters, the Coastguard Cottages, and a nearby caravan-site were saved, though sadly, many hectares of heathland were destroyed.

The National Trust has launched an appeal, saying on its website: 'Heather and rare wildlife has been left scarred almost beyond recognition'. ... 'The devastation is heartbreaking'. ... 'An area estimated to be the size of 210 football pitches has been affected'.

Whilst very much wanting to draw attention to the local situation, I also want to strike a spiritual chord by drawing our attention to James' remark. He is, of course, stating the obvious, but he's using 'small spark' as a metaphor for the destructive potential of unguarded words. We know this because of the bookends on either side. First, he writes: 'The tongue is a small part of the body; it makes great boasts'. Then, afterwards, he goes on: 'The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell'. ... 'No man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing'.

He doesn't mince his words! His rant concludes with a series of questions: 'Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ... Can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs?' He's telling us, in a roundabout way, to be careful what we say. Indeed, we would do well to take David's prayer to heart: 'Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.' (Ps.141:3).

Words have the power to heal and to wound, to bless and to curse, to lie or to speak truth. St Paul said: 'Do everything without complaining or

arguing,' (Philippians 2:14). And, elsewhere he wrote: 'Rid yourselves of ... slander and filthy language. ... Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self'. (Colossians 3: 8-9).

Nowadays, so much public discourse seems tainted by insults and crudity. Language is all too often offensive, confrontational, and inflammatory, and, unless called out, it debases human relationships. Am I being fanciful? As Christians, I think we need to redouble our efforts at speaking kindly, wisely and gently to one another. And we would do well to take to heart the words set down in Proverbs 16: 24: 'Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones',

Peter



Please continue to hold Doug Mizon, Moira Cook, Eileen McAllister. Carolyn Mann's mum Barbara and Alan Smedley in your prayers and any others you are aware of.



ADDRESS
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32 The Limes
Halesworth
IP19 8LT

NO SPECIAL
BIRTHDAYS
THIS
MONTH

***Janet supplied this for the August magazine I managed to delete part of her heartfelt contribution - here is the full version
Alan***



I am sure many church members will remember Norma Thwaites who was a member of our church for many years before moving to be with her family in Bexhill-on-Sea. During those years she served periods of time as Magazine Secretary and Church Elder playing a very active role in our Church.

Norma continued her Christian journey at the United Reformed Church at Bexhill-on-Sea, being a very active member there and enthusiastically serving many supporting groups within the Church.

Sadly, after a comparatively short illness, Norma passed away on 21st June this year. A Celebration and Thanksgiving for her life was held on 15th July at Bexhill United Reformed Church and, in accordance with Norma's wishes, she was brought back to Halesworth to be buried with her late husband Albi in the cemetery here, which took place on 17th July.

Norma and I had continued our close friendship over the years since her leaving Halesworth and I will miss her terribly, but feel at peace in the knowledge that Norma had a great faith and was ready to meet her Saviour.

Rest in Peace my very dear friend x

Janet Saunders

August Family and Youth Recap

We kicked started August with our Holiday Bible Club and what a fantastic four days it was. Our theme this year was Detectives, we searched through stories about Moses and how with his continues trust in God he was able to do amazing things. Each day we had a secret word linked with the bible story; to find out these words the children had different types of code breakers to solve. All the children put their detective hats on and did a great job at breaking the codes. Our stories through Holiday Bible Club were, Crossing the Red Sea, with the secret word being 'Rescues'. We drew the children and parents' attention to how God can rescue us from a difficult situation, if we place our trust in God, he will rescue us. Our next story was Water from the Rock, with the secret word being 'Refreshes'. Our focus during this day was how God refreshes us by giving the good things we need. Having patience and trust in God, he will provide what we need, remembering that sometimes what we want isn't always what we are needing. On the third day our story was the 10 Commandments, with the secret word being 'Reminds'. The commandments our there to remind us how to behave and treat others. I shared with the children a fun way to remember the commandments by using your fingers and the wording for each commandment was more child friendly than simplified words. On the final day our story was the 12 spies, with the secret word being 'Restores'. God remembers his promise to us and restores our faith. Each day we shared the bible story with the families through a short play, which my amazing youth and adult volunteers acted out. Each story restored their confidence to be on stage and showed how they all brought each story to life as they adapted and improved the scripts I gave them. It was great to see the youth volunteers getting involved in the prep of Holiday Bible Club, after each lunch trip to the park they all came back to run through the next day's story and helped with any other preparation that need to be done. The encouragement the youth received from Hannah really helped them to share their ideas and adapt the scripts to make work for them which led to all of them sharing their ideas which made the stories come to life. I am so truly grateful and blessed to have had an amazing team behind me this Holiday Bible Club all helping with so much and creating just a wonderful four days.

It was great to share with the congregation during our All-Age Service what we got up to during Holiday Bible Club and lovely that some of our families who came to Holiday Bible Club also came to the Sunday Service. During our time with the families and children each Sunday this month we have be following on from the Holiday Bible Club stories seeing how God brought the Israelites to the Promise Land, with Joshua leading them into Canaan by knocking the walls of Jericho down. We looked more into who Caleb was, as one of the spies who loved and trusted God it is important to take a closer look at these people. We then looked at Rehab and how she helped the spies showing her love and trust for God.



SEPTEMBER

Friday 4th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 6th	11.00 am	Gathered Worship Rev Alex Jacob
Friday 11th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 13th	11.00 a.m.	Gathered Worship Peter Walkee
3 pm BRAMFIELD CHAPEL		
Friday 18th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church and followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 20th	11.00 a.m.	HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Friday 25th	9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Church followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 27th	11.00 a.m.	Gathered Worship T.B.A

SPECIAL DATES at HURC

Halesworth United Reformed Church



Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5pm

8th and 22nd

Book with Elizabeth - familyhurc@gmail.com



8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th



**HURC Too
Every Sunday**



A mystery!

Wednesday, 7th March 2012....

It was a good shoe....

TOP QUALITY.

You could see it.

The tan leather glowed from obvious, careful attention and there was very little sign of "wear" on any part of the beautifully crafted, but solitary shoe.

Discreetly, it nestled beneath a garden hedge on a wet, Wednesday morning in Norwich: with rain dripping from the leaves and settling (like tears) on the isolated half of (what should have been) a perfectly matched pair of shoes – **it was just waiting for its sole mate...**

Agatha Christie could, no doubt, have constructed a convoluted mystery from the incongruous 'happenstance' and (in the guise of Hercule Poirot, or Jane Marple) she would have teased out the exact circumstances which had caused a lone (and beautifully crafted) man's shoe, to be so intriguingly abandoned.

I mused that there was no indication of the shoe having been accidentally dropped out of a bag. If this had been the case, it would not have been upright and tucked away so perfectly, almost obsessively aligned as far back against the trunk of the hedge as it was possible to be. **Was this a sign?** Indeed, I was used to seeing a lone, drab, trainer, 'slung up' on a telephone wire, in a dingy street, indicating the availability of a 'deal' for those looking for illicit, classified drugs... but I was in a quiet, orderly area of university lodgings: the sign I was used to seeing in particular regions of Yarmouth didn't quite "fit" here.

Mmmm :... **Perhaps** a local teenager had taken revenge on their father for some parental rebuke?... and was now (probably) beginning to regret the possible consequences of their actions?

.... Or a very tidy dog had hidden his master's shoe, to nuzzle later in the day? ?

The notion passed (vaguely) through my increasingly surreal thoughts, that a **one-legged tramp** could have been given a pair of good shoes... and carefully discarded the shoe for which he had no use... ..?

..it was at this point that I decided all reason had departed from my brain and I had better attend to the business of the day.

Thursday, 8th March 2012....

The shoe was gone.....! ? ?

...You may wonder why I have included (in this magazine) a particularly bizarre (and pointless) memory from my (long past) working life ...

Whatever made me think that the eccentric musings of my "weird and obsessional" brain could ever have any part in God's word to us??

It is true that I do tend to find myself walking down interesting 'alleys' of all kinds, both physical and imagined... but I believe that (today) I am being prompted to encourage all of you...**and ME!...** to take notice of the ways, (and the things) which **God** puts before us, **particularly** if they are a bit off-beat, unusual, "interesting", or even surreal ... I am frequently reminded that **GOD** is the original ARTIST, our Creator..... Remember?

... **"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God, He created them; male and female He created them"** (Genesis ch1: 27).

It is from **Him** that **all** creativity, of every kind, springs into life.

It may be that you don't regard yourself as 'creative'...but Genesis1:27 would seem to be insisting that you are incorrect in that assumption, as God created **you** in **HIS image**, so **creativity** is definitely part of your character!

BUT: **"Creativity"** is really NOT all about 'art', or music, or writing, etc., IN FACT it isn't about being (what we think of as) "talented" at all: Creativity is (much more importantly) **the desire to hear and obey God, to be filled with His Holy Spirit, in order to worship (and work) with Him.**

GOD's Creativity invents concepts of all sorts. Just read through the imaginative ideas He gives to the prophets! He enables the "inconceivable" to take form and life. Like it or not, **God has breathed in to you.**

His creativity, for **His** glory and for the enrichment of **your** life. It is especially pertinent that we DO take **Holy Spirit** seriously. This special expression of our Creator is meant for ALL of us, to experience His POWER, and gentleness and to know that part of his being which is 'mysterious'...or playful?

The Spirit is able to take us (safely) into areas outside of our merely human experience: not for "fun", but to see things from God's point of view.... And that is where the power and inspiration from Holy Spirit can be wonderfully at work in us. We need to believe and trust Him, so we are

able to allow Jesus to lead us to new and amazing places.

Did you know that God sent **you** a personal message, thousands of years ago, so that YOU could receive the message this very day?

Here it is:

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God... I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

God really means that **because He is the one who made you and He wants you to truly understand (at this very moment) how real, important and personal, that truth is. Every word in scripture is eternally true and is as fresh now as the moment God uttered it (to whichever human He had chosen to write it down) for all the rest of His children, past, present and future, to worship and serve Him .**

God delights in His children... He delights in YOU... He is with YOU, now.

READ HIS WORD and **“listen” in faith** to what **Holy Spirit** is saying to YOU....

You can be sure that He really IS saying something to YOU, personally.

You may be inspired (by God) to bless a brother, or sister, right now: with a word of encouragement which they would never have thought of, but need to hear, none the less. God really does want to use every one of us to pass on His special messages, to His family, to ‘build us up’ together and to be His BODY, at work, in Halesworth (or where-ever!) No-one is left out!

There are so many different and wonderful pathways which the Lord might choose to “jog **us** out of our usual, mundane rut” .. **hold HIS hand**.....

I still wonder... were those two shoes ever re-united??

Lorraine



OPEN CHURCH

Halesworth and Bramfield United Reformed Church

Step inside our historic 18th - century chapel and discover the fascinating history of the ordinary people who built, maintained and lived their lives around this church. this is a family friendly event with history information boards, a dedicated play space and activities perfectly suited for children of all ages

SEPT 19TH
10AM-3PM

Refreshments available throughout the day

 The United Reformed Church
More Information: FaceBook Messenger: Elizabeth Hurc
Email: familyhurc@gmail.com

Hi everyone,

I am looking for historical information and help with the event shown on the poster. If you know anything that could be useful, the Heritage Open Day events are all running from the theme 'Everyday working Lives' that would be great. If anyone is able to support me on the day in any way, please get in touch. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you! Elizabeth



Breaking News!...

Jo Small tells us that it looks as though HAAD may well be going in to Ukraine in September. Food is number 1 request, Please, could you, urgently, donate any tinned, dried, packeted food, with a decent shelf life? They are vitally needed. Thank you.

What's on at St Mary's in September



People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Halesworth

Film screening and discussion
St Mary's Church, Steeple End, Halesworth, IP19 8LL



Thursday 10 September 7:30-9:30pm
(door opens 7:10pm)
Suitable for age 16+
Book online or for enquiries call:
01986 875941
Hosted by St Mary's Eco Church group

www.nebriefing.org

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, HALESWORTH
presents
A Tudor Portrait
with
CHANTER'S JIGGE



Here is proclaimed the true life and times of the Tudors.
A lively telling of that most famous Elizabethan age,
set forth with tunes, tales and good humour

SUNDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER
3.00 p.m.
TICKETS £10 on the door
(cash or card)

First-hand accounts of intrigue, chivalry, and mischief.
Learn what befell the high and the low, the noble and the notorious,
in a performance both entertaining and enlightening.

Halesworth
September 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
heritage open days

HERITAGE OPEN DAY
ST MARY'S CHURCH, HALESWORTH
Explore the history. Experience the heritage. Celebrate 200 years of the Town Clock.

ALL FREE!

- 8am - MORNING PRAYER**
In the Lady Chapel
- 10am - 1pm HAVE AGO AT BELL RINGING**
The Halesworth Bell Ringers invite you to try this ancient art.
- 1pm - 3pm TOWER TOURS**
Celebrating 200 years of the Town Clock. Climb the Church Tower and see the remarkable 16th-century mechanism up close.
- 3pm - 3.30pm ORGAN DEMONSTRATION**
Music is at the heart of our worship. Hear our magnificent 18th-century & 19th-century organs from 1685.
- 6pm - EVENING PRAYER**
In the Lady Chapel

ACCESS: Suitable for wheelchair users (ground floor only).
CONTACT: halesworth@parishdiocese.org

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026 **HALESWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**



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

