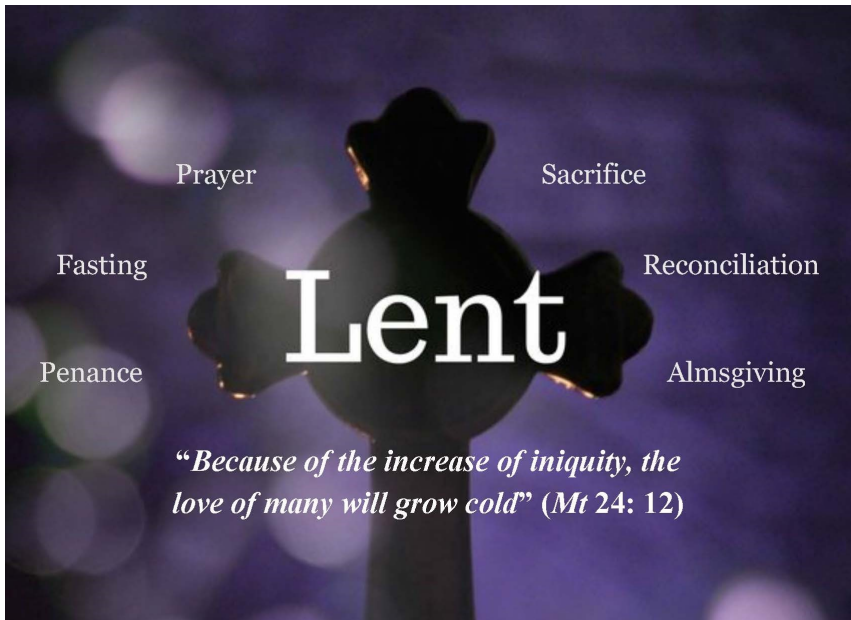


ASPIRE



March 2020

Christ Church Haydock URC

www.christchurchhaydock.co.uk

MINISTER

Reverend Malcolm Fife

ELDERS

Neil Fairhurst—Church Secretary (01744 635163)

Ray Clare—Treasurer (01942 724809)

Eric Grayson

David Faulkner

Brian Taylor

Mike Nelson

Joanna Cunningham

Debbie Bold

YOUTH PASTOR

Sandra Morris

01257 255675

YOUTH ELDER

Jo Nelson

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Sunday morning 10:45 a.m.—Family worship

1st Sunday evening of the month 6:00 p.m.—Communion

MAGAZINE EDITORS

Brian Taylor Mike Nelson Jo Nelson

Please feel free to email anything you would like published in
the magazine at the following address:

haydockurcmagazine@gmail.com

www.christchurchurchaydock.co.uk

A word from the Editors

March is the month for *reflection, resisting temptation* and *preparation*. We will be doing all of these things in the next few weeks as we look forward to Easter.

We will be *reflecting* on what Jesus did for us by giving himself as a living sacrifice for our sins so, through believing in Him, we can spend our eternity in Heaven at the right side of the Father.

We will be *resisting temptation* as we all give up things for lent, remembering that when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He used God's power and God's Word to rebuke Satan and his lies.

We will be *preparing* for our Easter celebrations, when we will rejoice in the knowledge and truth that Christ is risen, that he defeated death and he has made a way for us to have a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Although we will all be doing these things this month, we will each do them differently. We are all individuals who worship and serve God in unique ways, specific and important to us and our personal relationship with our Father. However, God sees us all as equal, irrespective of what race, colour, age and sex we are. He doesn't care how much money we have or what we wear, he loves us, unconditionally, simply for who we are. There is an article included this month that explores our individuality and equality in further detail.

It is now common knowledge that Malcolm, our minister, is planning to retire next year. Malcolm feels that the Lord has laid on his heart that next year is the right time for him to retire, which has got him thinking about TIME. Therefore, he has written an interesting article on the passage of time this month. The older we get, the faster time flies so we need to make sure we make the most of it.

Our Youth Pastor, Sandra, mentions how well the Holocaust Memorial Art Display was received by everyone who visited Christ Church last month. It really was a brilliant, thought-provoking exhibition and Sandra has thanked everyone involved for their contribution. She is currently organising the Easter Experience so your help, support and prayers would be very much appreciated.

We hope you enjoy *reflecting, resisting* and *preparing* this month as we look forward to Easter. We pray that, through doing these things in your own special way, you will grow closer to the Lord, renew your faith and strengthen your personal relationship with Him.

God bless,

Brian, Mike and Jo

NOTICES

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Here are the upcoming dates for the month:

Tuesday 3rd March	Ruth Tunstall
Tuesday 10th March	Janet Gow
Tuesday 17th March	Sharing
Tuesday 24th March	John Bradbury
Tuesday 31st March	Rev. Malcolm Fife

FLOWER MINISTRY

The following friends have received a gift of flowers since the last issue of Aspire:

Betty Ellis	Steven Mitchell
Annie Brighthouse	Mary Briscoe
Mavis Haseldon	Jane Burgess
Jean Symes	
Monica Unsworth	
Sylvia Eden	



SWEATY CHURCH and MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church is on Saturday **28th March**. Please pray for a special blessing over this venture and that the Lord will continue to bring along new families.

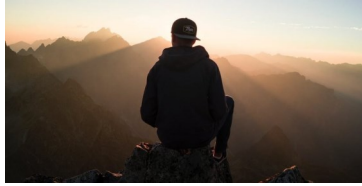


THANK YOU

The church now has an official Facebook page which can be used to advertise upcoming events, special occasions and to make announcements. Included in these can be pictures and promotional materials (posters, leaflets etc). The posts on there reach hundreds, and sometimes even thousands of people, so it is a great resource for promoting the work that we do! If anyone would like anything put on the church's Facebook page, just let Becky know on 07788 279286.

If you would like to see the church's Facebook page, just go to the Facebook website and search, 'Christ Church Haydock URC'.

Sunday 1st March 2020
Live the Overcoming Life



Foxes Book of Martyrs tells the stories of men and women who died for their faith in Jesus Christ. These people were bold and stood up to those persecuting the church. They left a legacy that impacted generations to come. In the end times, people will be persecuted, but they will overcome it by the blood of Jesus and their testimony. Many will die for their faith, but many lives will be changed. Live the overcoming life.

Revelation 12:11

“They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death.”

Sunday 8th March 2020
The Importance of Teaching Scripture



There are all types of churches. I think this is a good thing because it allows people of all walks of life to feel comfortable worshipping the Lord. The colour and variety of different groups brings life to the church and glory to God. One thing that should be common in each is the teaching of God’s Word. Everyone should value the importance of teaching Scripture. Without it, we are lost and weak.

1 Corinthians 14:19

“Yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, in order to teach others also, than ten thousand words in another tongue.”

Sunday 15th March 2020
Love Reigns Supreme

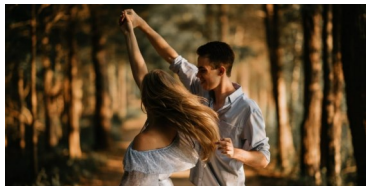


Love has to be the most overused word in modern language. We apply it to everything which has caused it to lose its power. If our love for ice cream is equal to our love for our spouse, we have a problem. This isn't what God intended when He created us to love others. He wanted it to be the strongest and most enduring force within us. When everything else fails, love reigns supreme.

1 Corinthians 13:13

“Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love — but the greatest of these is love.”

Sunday 22nd March 2020
Love That Builds



Loving someone like a spouse or child will be the most rewarding endeavour you can experience. At the same time, it will also be the most frustrating and exhausting. If you want a love that lasts, you have to work on a love that builds the other person up. Selfishness and jealousy tears love down, but patience and kindness build up.

1 Corinthians 13:4

“Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant,”

Sunday 29th March 2020

God's Coming Justice



Do you ever get depressed by how things are going in this world? Does the injustice to the poor sadden you? You are not alone. God sees all of this and is bringing His solution. One day soon, Jesus will return to the earth and bring justice. He will bring peace, and His people will rejoice. Don't lose hope. Look for God's coming justice.

Jeremiah 33:15

"In those days and at that time I will cause a Righteous Branch to sprout up for David, and he will administer justice and righteousness in the land."

Foretold Long Ago

Jeremiah was a prophet. He spent most of his time telling the leadership of Israel where it had gone wrong and the judgment God was bringing as a result. From time to time, he also would prophesy about the coming Messiah. This verse is part of one of those sections. Here he is telling the people about a future ruler, out of the house of David, who will bring justice and righteousness to the land. It is verses like these that Israel clung to when the oppression of Rome got to be too much. They thought for sure the Messiah would liberate them and re-establish the glory of Israel as in the days of David and Solomon. That wasn't God's plan.

Until Christ returns, we have His righteousness inside of us. It was deposited into our lives when we accepted Jesus Christ as our saviour. This free gift changes our lives, and in turn, we are to let it impact others. We are to show justice to those with whom we come in contact. In a hurting world, this can be one of the most important witnessing tools we possess.

From the Ministers Vestry

It is common knowledge now that my time of retirement is fast approaching as I made the announcement recently that I have decided to retire next year. This started me thinking about the passage of time and how it makes a difference in our lives. It is also interesting to look at what the Bible has to say about this.

"What is your life? It is like an early morning mist that appears for a moment and is then blown away", James 4:14.

Time flies, and the older we get the faster it flies. The Bible is full of wonderful time-flying images and the King James version is particularly poetic in the way it describes the movement of time.

"Our days on earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding", 1Chron.29:15.

"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle", Job 7:6.
"Behold, thou hast made my days as a handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee", Ps.39:5.

"My age is departed and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent", Isa.38:12.

The older we get the faster time flies. When we were children, an hour's trip in the car seemed like an eternity, now it's just like driving around the block. Our school years were half a lifetime, while the last ten years seem like a shadow. In my lifetime by the time I retire I will have had two substantial careers, one in the RAF and the other in the church. It would be interesting to know how I would have felt about this when I was launching out into the first of these. Time flies, that's certainly the way it seems, although surely time is fixed. Actually, time is not as fixed as we think it is. Time, as we experience it, moves in relation to the speed we process information. Like a computer, we process information

at a varied rate. From childhood through to our early adulthood, we process information far more quickly than in our later years. The sad thing is, the older we get the slower we process information. It's then that time seems to fly. We just slow down, although from our perspective, everything seems to speed up. The days get shorter, the years compound, everyone is in a hurry, walking faster, driving faster, "*swifter than a weaver's shuttle.*"

We may delay the advance of time. Like the aging body we can keep the speed up by constantly exercising the mind, stretching the intellect, but inevitably the old grey matter just slows down. It is then that "*my days are swifter than a runner, they fly away without a glimpse.*"

I am reminded that "*with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*" Our Creator God is at the beginning of time, and at the end of time, at the same time, for He created time. So, I may sense the inevitable rush of time, but there is no substance in that rush, for with Jesus there is eternity, permanence, "*eternal life.*"



I hope that these musings will not only help me to accept the future but that it will also help you to accept the passage of time.

In Christ

Malcolm

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all managing to keep warm and dry during this awful weather?

I think you will agree that the Holocaust Memorial Art Display was truly amazing. Ann (Art Teacher) and Sandra did an amazing job. They put so much time and effort into creating such a thought-provoking exhibition.

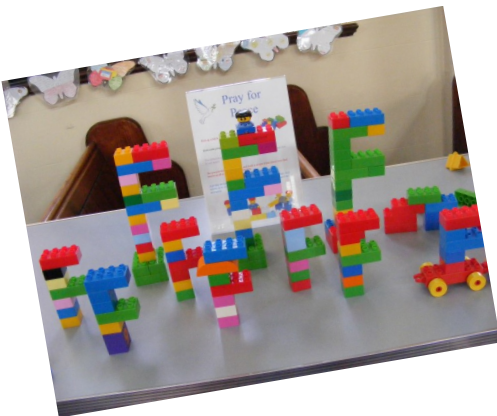
Grange Valley and Legh Vale pupils were involved in creating some of the butterflies. I would think we had over 100 people visit the exhibition on the Saturday morning. And over 300 pupils visited too. Thank you to Doreen, Eric, Margaret & David for helping to set up the exhibition on the Friday evening. And thanks to everyone who very kindly baked and supplied cakes and helped in the café and with the pupils when they visited.

I was sent a book by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust which had been written by a 94-year-old Holocaust Survivor. In the book, Hedi Fried wrote *"If knowledge addresses the mind, it is easily forgotten. It must also reach the heart"*. I believe we succeeded in reaching the hearts and minds of many young people and adults.

One of the Prayer Station was *Lego Peace Prayers*. The young people expressed their thoughts about peace in very thoughtful ways. Below are a couple of photographs of their creations. As you can see one says 'Love' and has a large heart, another says 'Peace'. But the ones that really touched me were the F's. When I asked the boys why they had made a load of F's they said, *"In gaming if someone dies and you want to respect them you press the 'F' key"*! I was stunned!! They were expressing their respect in a way that made sense to them, they were expressing it in a culture they knew!

Hedi's message resonates with us as Christians. If people only have knowledge of God, then He will be easily forgotten, but if He gets into our hearts then He's there forever and He will be able to change our understanding and lives.

The boy's creations are a reminder to us that we need to remember to communicate about God in ways that people will understand, ways that relate to their culture!



WE ARE ALL EQUAL IN GOD'S EYES

"He created all the people of the world from one man, Adam." Acts 17:26

We are all equal in God's eyes! There is no race when your blessed with God's grace. Even the faith that God gives each person is equal. How we nurture and use our faith throughout our journey in life is a whole different matter.

"God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith," Romans 12:3

We may all be created equal but were not born equal, for example being born with celebrity parents. I praise God that there are so many rich and famous people out there who are putting their trust in God instead of their wealth and therefore being a blessing to so many people and wonderful organizations.

"Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf." Proverbs 11:28

We also understand that someone can have a God given skill that they are much better at than someone else. And I'm glad that there are many people out there that are far better at fixing cars than me. Otherwise if you depended on my mechanical skills to help you, you'd be riding a horse to work. To the entire auto Mechanic industry out there who use integrity and honesty to make a living, your purpose in life is to be the best and most honest mechanic that you can be.

"Don't forget to be kind to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realising it." Hebrews 13:2

The equality that we are talking about is our mental and spiritual attitude of respect to each other. We are all equal in Gods eyes and in the end of our lives this one resounding truth will echo in every fibre of our spiritual being. As we kneel before God on judgment day. We will all hear God's truth, *"You are all my children and you are all created equal "*

"Never think of anyone as impure." Acts 10:28

What does it take to change the essence of a person? God is tired of our vanity and arrogance when we think we are better than someone else. Think about it, someone will always have more money or more material things than you or me. It doesn't matter what car we drive to church or what clothes we wear to church, what matters is that we love God with absolutely all of our hearts and put our complete faith and trust in Him.

"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you

will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get." Matthew 7:1-2.

God makes it very clear what happens to us when we start judging other believers, when we start to agree with Satan that we are better than someone else. The truth is none of us are worthy and are only being judged by God, so let's stay under His blessings and not His wrath!"

For with what Judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again" Matthew 7:1-2

The truth is we are all created equal; we are just not born with equal share of money, fame or love. No one is better than you but you are not better than anyone else. God will test us to see what we do with the gifts and blessings that put us in a position over others. Do we use our gifts and blessings to help others or to trample over others? How we use what God has given us will determine how God will use us here as well as when we get to Heaven.

Since the creation of mankind, we have been trying to get into a position of power over others. We can only truly worship God and see God when we are at a place of peace and holiness with all people.

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

Even if we did not lose our soul, we separate ourselves from God and His blessings. Let's not get caught up in the label and grouping other people together for the sole purpose of making us think that were better than someone else. Whether by race, sex, religious belief, financial or work status.

God bless everyone today who knows God's truth, that we are all created equal and who pursue peace and holiness with all people. May we always know that all men and women were created equal, with the courage of David for having great faith to triumph over even bigger giants and overwhelming odds in their own lifetime.

Let's all pray together this month that we don't drown in the great adversity of the unforgiving and ruthless ocean of man's pride, prejudice and ignorance so that the world can be a better place for you and me.

"What's it matter to gain the whole world and still lose your soul?" Matthew 16:26

God believes in you!

FINANCIAL REPORT— JANUARY 2020

BUILDING ACCOUNT

Income

Building Fund box	£119.00
Commission from High Street Vouchers (Sue Taylor)	£300.00

Expenditure

NIL

Balance as of 31/01/20 + Balance B/F **£20067.28**

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income

Offertories	£1719.05
Donations	£35.00
Youth Pastor envelopes	£100.00

Expenditure

Monthly Ministry & Mission	£1847.80
6 Baptismal Bibles	£53.94
50 CDs for recording and 100 paper sleeves	£25.98
Church gas for the month	£645.72
Church electricity for the month	£109.03
Rest Routine Items	

Overall Income in January 2020 **£2016.00**

Overall Expenditure in January 2020 **£4862.98**

Balance as at 31/01/20 + Balance B/F **£9322.98**

(Includes £1627.85 for Youth Pastor & Youth Mission Work)

COMMUNITY CENTRE ACCOUNT

Income

Room Hire	£112.00
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Expenditure

Sanitary Hygiene	£55.10
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Balance as at 31/01/20 + Balance B/F **£5489.75**

Ray Clare & Wendy Conboy

WEEKLY MEETINGS

TUESDAY

9:15 a.m. Mothers and Toddlers (pre-school age)

2:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

6:30 p.m. Junior Youth Club (ages 5-11)

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group

2:00 p.m. Young at Heart

6:30 p.m. Girl's Brigade (ages 5-18)

THURSDAY

9:15 a.m. Mothers and Toddlers (pre-school age)

FRIDAY

7:30 p.m. Sweaty Church once a month (ages 11-16)

SUNDAY

10:45 a.m. Family worship and Sunday Club (ages 3-16)

6:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service (1st Sunday of every month)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Sat 14th	9:00 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Sat 28th	3—5:00p.m.	Messy Church—Easter themed

APRIL

Sat 4th Apr	9:00 a.m.	Church work day
Fri 10th Apr	10:00 a.m.	Good Friday service at Haresfinch URC
Sun 12th Apr	10:45 a.m.	Easter Sunday
Fri 24th Apr	9:00 a.m.	Table Top church fundraiser
Sat 25th Apr	9:00 a.m.	Table Top church fundraiser

MAY

Sat 2nd May	3:00 p.m.	Messy Church
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MARCH'S SERVICES & ROTAS

Sun 1st	10:45 a.m.	Tony Cunliffe
Sun 1st	6:00 p.m.	David Faulkner (Communion)
Sun 8th	10:45 a.m.	Cathryn Cunliffe
Sun 15th	10:45 a.m.	Rev. Malcolm Fife
Sun 22nd	10:45 a.m.	Phillip Fell
Sun 29th	10:45 a.m.	May Clare

Vestry
Debbie Bold

Communion
Betty Gregg
Paula Davies

Porch
Betty Gregg
Alan Sterriker