FREE – Please take one

August & September 2026

The Messenger

Newsletter of Brightlingsea United Church
(Methodist and United Reformed Church)
Chapel Road
Sunday Service @ 10.30am



Reverend Luke Smith
Tel: 07376248147
Email: luke.smith@methodist.org.uk

Minister's Letter

What a year!

Did you know I have been the minister at Brightlingsea United Church for almost a year? The congregation is lovely and have made me feel very welcome.

There have been many high points over the year where I have met so many people from the wider community and got to know folk.

The Town Carol Service in December gave me a chance to dress up in a silly costume, which I think "broke the ice" and was an opportunity for people to get to know I have a sense of humour. It's always a pleasure to spend time with those we love at Christmas, and it was a joy to lead the Christmas Day service.

How many readers were present at our Pets Service where we had had dogs and a pony, it was a time to give thanks for our much-loved furry friends.

Our church has seen growth as new members have been welcomed, we had a wedding blessing and have a wedding planned in August.

The Choir Concert with Tendring Male Voice Choir was marvellous and I have enjoyed writing articles for the Messenger.

I have to mention when we were open for the Sale Trail, our presence at a Car Boot sale and the Carnival.

Working ecumenically is something I always look to do and thank Caroline, Judith and Fr. Mark for their fellowship.

On top of this we have seen improvements to our building including the installation of emergency lighting, Wi-Fi and a more controllable heating system.

Sadly, earlier this calendar year I was asked to lead funerals and memorial services for people in the town who had passed away, those families I often remember in my prayers. This was not a high point at all, but I do hope our church was some support to grieving families.

Please forgive me for what I might have missed. But looking to the future, yes, we have a wedding in August, I will be leading the harvest festival on 18th October and we have a memorial service planned for 29th November.

For me, it's been an exciting year, thank you to those who worked alongside me and I look forward to seeing what God has planned for us in the future.

Blessings – Luke

NOTICES

Our Morning Worship is always held at 10.30am,
unless otherwise stated
Steward contacts: Rosina and Barbara
Property Steward: Tony

Baptisms: Weddings: Funerals
contact Revd Luke Smith
07376248147 or email: luke.smith@methodist.org.uk

HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAYS

August 16	Revd. Graham Edwards
September 13	Pastor Nigel Lindsay

Tendring Methodist Circuit Meeting
14 September 2026
7pm for 7.30pm

Brightlingsea United Church Hall

Simple Lunches: organised by Churches Together, every first Friday, **12.30pm - 1.30pm**, in St James'**(NOT AUGUST)**. Homemade soups, roll, butter and cheese, and tea or coffee, open to all, and are very convivial occasions. Donation for Christian Aid, £3. Friends and anyone interested in calling in for lunch are always welcomed.

Friendship Club: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday **10.30am to 12.30pm,** United Church Hall, £2.50 per session

Open House: Janet Russell holds her informal mornings for coffee and chat in her home between **10.30am -12.00**pm every 2nd Monday - all are warmly invited

Christians Together Lunches: Every 3rd Tuesday in the Victoria Café, from **12.15pm** onwards.

Weekly Wednesday Prayers: House group. You are welcome to join us or request a prayer. Contact 01206 305472

Items and information for inclusion in the Messenger are warmly welcomed.
Please send them to Carole Goodwin caroledgoodwin@hotmail.com and
Babs shalom41@hotmail.co.uk



All Saints Church Summer Fete

The day of the All Saints Church Summer Fete is now drawing near! On the 8th August, the lovely old Church on the hill is set to be a hive of activity and fun. There really is something for everyone, whether it's looking around a variety of stalls, or tapping your feet to some live music by Fiddlers Elbow, followed by a musical tale performed by The Tiles Along the Wall Project. Maybe the Colchester Morris men's dancing will catch your eye, so too might the splendid collection of old Brightlingsea photographs. Perhaps you enjoy the tradition of 'hooking a duck;' 'splatting a rat,' or 'shying' a coconut.....then for the more daring amongst us, there are reptile encounters, a 24 foot climbing wall (from 11am)....and if that's not high enough, then there's a specially priced trip (children free) to the top of the 97 foot church tower, where you're met with the most fantastic views. *Please don't wear open backed shoes if hoping to climb and you must be aged 8 or over, with children accompanied by an adult.

Budding artists amongst us can show off their talents with some Pink Parrot pottery painting and if the artistry extends to floral arrangements, then please enter the 'Best Brightlingsea Bunch of Blooms' competition, to be displayed and judged at the fete by Springmead Gardens Head Gardener, Julie Ford. Bought, home grown, home-made....it's up to you. Prize for the winner. Entry forms at Little Boat Gifts, or enter on the day - £2 per entry.

What would a fete be without a Tombola and don't forget to buy a ticket for the raffle which will be drawn at the end of the day. More prizes have been added to the James Dodds, framed and signed print; a weeks beach hut hire (between the Sailing Club & swimming pool); afternoon tea for 2 up in the most photographed building in Brightlingsea (i.e. Batemans Tower) and a Gillian Gianni framed digital print. There is now a 2027 Season Ticket (adult, or child) courtesy of our fabulous Lido; a wine tasting tour for 2, thanks to the generosity of Thorrington Mill Vineyard; a 'small dog' groom voucher from the wonderful pup pamperers at 'Reds Groom Room;' a Harbour Tour for 2 - shout out to the Harbour Office.... plus more. Tickets are £1 each and available at Spirals and Little Boat Gifts where the James Dodds picture is up on display.

Whilst getting involved in what's on offer, why not pause to enjoy a cuppa and a cake, or a hot dog and an ice-cream. Happy Days Creations will be on hand to cover an array of sweet toothed temptations. If the mood takes you, a visit to the Prosecco bar in the area that boasts the sweeping view down to the creek, for a tipple with some strawberries, could round this lovely Summers day off nicely. 'Nozeco' and soft drinks are available too.

Lastly and hot off the press, All Saints has just got its first very own Teddy Bear, who is rather sad as it has no name, so we are looking for a special person to choose the name and if it's you...then you can take this dear little bear away on a trip with you, for the first chapter of its travels, which will be documented.

The money raised from the Fete will go towards the upkeep and maintenance of this beautiful 13th century building that welcomes everyone as they come into the town. The church is increasingly used for community events and is a significant part of Brightlingsea's heritage. Please come and enjoy some time here, knowing you are helping preserve this landmark for generations to come. Free entry from 10am to 3pm and a free shuttle bus is running from outside St James Church in the High Street - ALL WELCOME.

Daily Devotion

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

Reflection

“I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?” Psalm 121 has taken on new meaning for me since leaving Eastbourne, a place shaped by hills, cliffs, and long horizons. Those landscapes are woven into my sense of home, and whenever I hear this Psalm, they rise in my mind again, providing a sense of familiarity and comfort amid life changes. Lifting eyes to the hills, the Psalmist had not yet reached the destination but strongly trusted in God’s divine presence to sustain through the journey, no matter the challenges or circumstances lying ahead. Similarly, having started my first year of ministerial training, I find myself looking at the journey ahead.

Training often encompasses moments of uncertainty and new ways of navigating through the different responsibilities to carry, the times of stillness and the joys of the unexpected and unknown. In those moments, the Psalm’s assurance speaks deeply: “He will not let your foot be moved.” God’s keeping is not fragile or sporadic; it is firm, protective, and unwavering. We are reminded that our foundation is not our own competence or confidence but God’s faithfulness and grace, on which we are able to balance firmly, while environments around us are constantly changing. When everything around us feels in motion, God remains the ground on which we stand.

This Psalm also invites us to trust in God’s constant presence: “The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in.” There is great comfort in knowing that we are never walking this journey alone. Whether we are stepping into something new, finding our way through uncertainty, or simply learning to grow, God is both companion and guardian.

As I continue in this first year of training, Psalm 121 anchors me. Whatever road you are on, trust in the solid foundation and the promise of God’s watchfulness in your journey of life, having the courage to take the next steps.

Prayer

Faithful God,
as we lift our eyes to the hills,
steady our steps and strengthen our hearts.
In moments of uncertainty,
be our sure foundation;
in times of change, be our constant guide.
Keep our going out and our coming in,
that we may walk with courage, trust, and hope.
Lead us onward in your presence, now and always.
Amen

© United Reformed Church Devotions.urc.org.uk

WOMEN

God gave Women the will and Women the power,
To chat on the telephone, hour after hour.
Each one has beauty, as does a flower,
Maintained by a habit of hogging the shower.

In a world that is dying, unclean and corrupt,
Where hatred and violence continually erupt.
Our Women pour love into life's dry cup,
But God help the Man who leaves the toilet seat up.

Weather a Man is a Preacher, Politician or Stargazer,
Weather he works with his hands, or on the theories of Laser.
Weather his name is Smith, Jones or Fraser,
He'll always have leg stubble stuck in his razor.

In the chill of Winter when darkness unfolds,
The Woman demure becomes sneaky and bold.
The blankets she steals from hubbies sleeping hold,
And when he asks why she says, "I was cold".

When goodies like chocolates are kept in the house,
They disappear slowly, as if from a mouse.
You search for the proof of a chocolate stained blouse,
But you find only smiles from an "innocent" spouse.

Our Ladies of poise and graceful gait,
Have their own idiosyncrasies and personal traits.
For what they'll do next their men watch and wait,
But our love for our Women will never abate.

AUTHORS NOTE:
Enough said. I'm in enough trouble already!!

by Peter Fraser © 2007

A Letter to the new Prime Minister

Leaders from the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches have written to Andy Burnham as he takes up office as Prime Minister, assuring him of their prayers and offering partnership in pursuing justice and peace.

The letter, signed by the Revd Mark Slaney and Caroline Stead (President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference), the Revd Neil Thorogood (Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly), and the Revd Lynn Green (General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain), emphasises partnership, explaining that:

'As Church denominations, we share a vision of a society where the poorest and most marginalised are at the centre, where refugees are welcomed, where the environment is renewed, where a just economy enables the flourishing of all life, and where politics is characterised by listening, kindness and truthfulness, and of a world that actively works for peace. Where there is common ground around this agenda, we are committed to seeking a constructive relationship with your government which will help to enable those hopes to be fulfilled.'

In the letter, the church leaders note the many challenges facing government and local communities, from the cost of living to the impacts of global conflict and emphasise the urgent need to restore faith in politics:

'You take up office at a time when there are many challenges facing government and many strains evident in local communities, from the cost of living to the impacts of global conflict. There is also an urgent need to restore faith in the ability of politics to meet these challenges. You know from your time as Mayor of Greater Manchester that churches – and other faith and civic groups – are willing and capable partners in much of this work. As we and our predecessors said when this government was first elected two years ago, we will pray for God's blessing to be on all endeavours to seek peace, justice and the wellbeing of this nation – and where we can embody that blessing, we will.'

The leaders have also written to Sir Keir Starmer as he steps down from office.

The signatories commit to praying for God's blessing on all endeavours to seek peace, justice and the wellbeing of the nation.

We invite JPIT supporters and churches to join us in prayer for Andy Burnham and the new government at this time of transition.

Brightlingsea Library

Free Regular Events

Day	Activity	Time	Suitable for...
Wednesday	**Baby and Toddler Rhymetime** (with Stay and Play after second session) A fun, friendly, interactive session with songs, rhymes and stories	Weekly – 9.30-10.00am and10.30-11am	All pre-schoolchildren and their parents, grandparents, carers or childminders
Thursday	**Healthy Family Drop-in** Baby weighing, support and advice	Weekly – 10.30am-12pm	Families with young babies
Friday	**Friday Singalong** Fun, informal singalong. No singing experience necessary. Followed by tea and coffee.	First Friday of the month 2.30-3.15pm	All adults
Friday	**I.T Support** Bring along any device and our volunteer will help you with I.T related issues	Weekly 5-6pm	Everyone
Saturday	**Minecraft club** Join in with other children to create a Minecraft world	Monthly – 1st Saturday of every month, 2-4pm	All children aged 5+ (children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult)
Saturday	**Coffee and Crafternoons** Come and try a new craft and meet like-minded people, all craft materials provided	Monthly – 2nd Saturday of every month, 2.30-3.30pm	Adults only

FREE SUMMER HOLIDAY CHILDREN'S ACTVITIES

Join the Travelling Librarian for a joyful and interactive sensory story celebrating this year's Summer Reading Challenge theme! The Travelling Librarian is having a bit of a bad day — she's full of big feelings that just won't go away. But with the help of her magical music playlist, she discovers ways to move, feel, and find her rhythm again. Come along, join in, and help the Travelling Librarian turn a tricky day into a sensory musical adventure!
It's a great opportunity to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge too!
No booking required. Suitable for children of all ages - Free event

2:30PM - 3:30PM
Tuesday 4th August 2026

Come along and join in with our fun free music session with local music teacher Melanie. Learn how to make rhythms and sounds alongside a story, then make your own instrument and hunt for picture clues around the library to see what songs you can find!!

10:00AM - 11:15AM
Saturday 15th August 2026

2:30PM - 3:45PM
Tuesday 25th August 2026

Services Available at Brightlingsea Library:
Printing, Photocopying, Computers & WiFi
Food Waste Caddy Sacks - £1.80 per roll
Battery and small electrical recycling

For more information visit: https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/events **Email–** brightling.library@essex.gov.uk
Library opening hours: Tuesday 2-5.30pm, Wednesday 9-1pm, Friday 2-7pm, Saturday 9-5pm

The Methodist Church

Tendring Methodist Circuit

Summer celebration service
&
Afternoon tea

Sunday August 30th 2026

3pm

Frinton-on-Sea Methodist Church

Ashlyns Road, Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9ET

We are looking forward to each of our churches in the circuit sharing their mission over the last year and telling us a hymn that best describes their mission.

Dietary requirements to your **church contact** or direct to the Senior Administrator, Lin. At: circuitadmin@tendringunited.org.uk

Daily Devotion

Psalm 134

O come, bless the Lord,
all you who serve the Lord,
who stand in the house of the Lord,
in the courts of the house of our God.

Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the Lord through the night.
May the Lord bless you from Zion,
he who made both heaven and earth.

Reflection

I find this comparatively short Psalm intriguing. It exhorts us to bless the Lord but doesn't say much else. Perhaps because if we truly bless the Lord all else falls into place.

Many years ago, when I was a student and a member of MethSoc I took part in a 24 hour silent prayer vigil. We were provided with comfort breaks and basic food and drink; we developed a sort of primitive sign language. We prayed in a church, finding it far more demanding physically, mentally, and spiritually than we thought. It's uncomfortable sitting on a pew for hours. You find yourself praying the same thing over and over; 03.00 all you want to do is sleep.

I remember looking around, seeing my friends and blessing the Lord. When I ate and drank I blessed the Lord for the basics. I was thankful that I did not have to worry about what I would eat. I even blessed the Lord for a flushing toilet and a place to wash. I looked around the building and felt that undefinable feeling that comes from many years of worship by many people and felt it almost like a hug wrapping around me.

We are prone to assume our lives will go on much as usual, however, we see refugees / migrants desperate to escape what was their lives. Would I, in that situation, still bless the Lord? I would be terrified to the core of my being but would still hope to feel the Lord upholding me.

How many in the world can bless the Lord with all their being? People are hungry, frightened, homeless, and desperate. There is illness and despair and there are people imprisoned and with no rights. There is always strife and warfare.

Let us strive to bless the Lord in all we do so that we can be empowered to love all people, care for our planet, and proclaim the coming Kingdom of God.

Prayer

Lord,
help us to bless you
that we may all look forward to a better future,
to a time when all will be loved and cared for
and peace and harmony may abide
in the beautiful world you created.
Amen

© United Reformed Church Devotions.urc.org.uk

ALWAYS FRIENDS

THE time has come
THE time is near
THERE'S nothing left
FOR me to fear.

Forever dreams is where I drift
Across the distant hiss of mist.
Where I go, human eyes cannot
See me
Human ears cannot
Hear me
But you can feel me
Deep within your heart.
You know we are not apart.

Do not let your precious tears flow
But look back to how I was before
And how I will be forever more.
The laughs, the smiles
We've shared over the time.
The things which were once mine
But now they're yours, yours to keep
Even share with the new friends you meet.

DO not cry, do not weep,
You know I am not asleep.
I have gone to a better place
Where life has no haste.
This place is peaceful.
This place is mine.
It's where I'll be for all time.

(This was written by Joyce House's Aunt Alice in November 2002 to comfort her family and friends. Aunt Alice was married to a Methodist Minister based in Dovercourt - Reverend Wass. Aunt Alice was Matron of the Methodist Care Home).

****

BRIGHTLINGSEA MUSEUM

Messenger August/September 2026

There's always something going on at the Museum

June was such an exciting and busy month. The first two weeks were taken up with daily school visits as part of a programme working with the Brightlingsea Harbour Commission, the Pioneer Trust and the RNLI.

The youngsters from schools in Colchester and surrounding villages really enjoyed experiences out on the water and coming to the Museum, where are apart from trying out all the interactives they had to look for objects that did a similar job to the modern version they might use today. Lots of fun and squeals, especially when they had to find a toilet from the past – yes, it is on display!

It was while they were at the museum they heard about water safety and the importance of floating as promoted by the RNLI, and of course that can be noisy when you practice calling for help! Such an important lesson,



The rest of June was taken up with installing a new exhibition about the Aldous Shipyard. Looking at what started off as a family business about 190 years ago to one that went on to export its entire annual production - an amazing achievement. From barges and smacks, to streamline yachts to River Police boats protecting our oyster trade. The yard's wartime role and how women were an essential part of the workforce, followed by the years building vessels that saw service in many parts of the world.

During August we will be open, Saturdays, 10.30am – 4.30pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday afternoons 1.30 to 4.30pm and Bank Holiday Monday 10.30am – 4.30pm. The Waterside Artists will be holding their grand Summer Exhibition until 23rd August which will be followed by a pop-up display in reception of Chris and Sarah's Glass and Mixed Craft. In September the Museum reverts to Saturdays and Sundays. As always, the museum is free to enter (donations are welcome and appreciated).

Number Please

One day I had to make a call
To a business pal of mine
But though I called back all I got
Was a busy line

Next I called my doctor
And I heard someone say
"Oh, I am so sorry.
The doctor isn't in today

I called my Mom long-distance
Put all my quarters in the phone
A voice on a machine said
"Sorry, we're not home."

A lively game of telephone tag
It went on like that all day
It seemed that no-one cared to hear
A word I had to say

So I called my local company
A voice told me what to do
"If you have never bought from us
Please push button two

Please push button number three
If you have bought from us before
To speak to a real live person
Push button number four"

So I tried, but no-one answered
There was nothing to be done
Except to leave a message
So I pushed button number one

Thank God I have a Savior
Who is always there for me
I can always call to Him
And the call's toll-free

I can always reach Him
When I call to Him in prayer
There are no recorded messages
For He is always there

Would you like to call Him?
He'll answer one and all
Just open up your heart to Him
He's waiting for your call

by Deborah Anne Wilson

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Creator God, we hear the groaning of the earth.
Forgive us for the ways we have taken more than we needed.
Guide us back to our true calling to better care for Your creation with love.

Lord in Your mercy: HEAR OUR PRAYER

We pray for the leaders of the nations.
Turn their hearts away from the idea of shaping relationships for their personal advantage.
Grant them wisdom to listen with care and to choose that which leads to life and dignity for all.

Lord in Your mercy: HEAR OUR PRAYER

We pray for those who are suffering:
For those affected by floods, fires, droughts and every manner of loss.
Be a shelter for those who have been displaced and open our eyes to see them as family; Your human family.
Move our hearts to offer compassion and help.

Lord in Your mercy: HEAR OUR PRAYER

We pray for our church here in Brightlingsea:
Though we may feel small just like a mustard seed,
Bless our daily acts of care and compassion.
Help us to plant Your seeds of hope and peace in the lives of our neighbours and throughout this town.

Lord in Your mercy: HEAR OUR PRAYER

GOD OF LIFE AND LOVE, RECEIVE THESE PRAYERS.

RENEW OUR SPIRITS AND RENEW YOUR BEAUTIFUL CREATION IN THIS PLACE AND THROUGHOUT YOUR WORLD.

AMEN

Tea Dance

On a warm July Sunday afternoon, the YMCA car park was filling up with cars as people made their way into the YMCA hall for an afternoon of dance music and fun, raising some funds for Brightlingsea United Church maintenance, getting to know each other and to build friendly relationships within the wider community.



The YMCA hall is spacious and welcoming, its internal dimensions forming a cross acknowledging its original purpose as a new build Chapel in Victorian times.

We were welcomed at the door and taken to our allocated tables. As the hall filled up with people who were happily greeting friends and family and looking forward to the entertainment a tangible warmth and bonhomie pervaded through the building.

The kitchen was a hub of activity and before long, out came the volunteers with trays laden with sandwiches and other goodies and teapots. A teatime banquet brought to our tables. We were joined at table by Bobby's wife Joan who entered into the spirit of the afternoon. Good fun!



Our entertainer, Bobby Francis was already playing well-known dance tunes on his electric piano:
"I am the music man" "Pack up your troubles" Y.M.C.A". plus hand signals! plus "Always be the best of friends" as an example with many more. A very talented chap.



Our church Minister, Revd. Luke Smith, walked the hall and met and chatted with everyone. A people person, Revd. Luke is a relaxed and naturally social minister. Luke thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone.

We were also happy to have an unexpected visit from two of Brightlingsea's Community Policemen. They sat round different tables getting to know those there, answered questions, joined in the fun and enjoyed a "high tea". Such a good way to get to know us and vice versa. A raffle wound up the celebrations.

Our thanks to church members, particularly Joyce (who thought this event up), Jayne, Tony, Tracey, and Jill and her friend Irene for all their hard work in the background with the setting up and the kitchen duties.

Thank you, Luke for supporting this event despite your busy life as our Circuit Superintendent and minister of four churches throughout Tendring. Very appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who attended enabling us all to spend such a happy time together. Brightlingsea at its best!

BUC/BB

HOPE FOR US ALL

IF only our arms could reach you
They would give you a hug and say,
How our hearts are going out to you
In your time of need today.

There is hope for us all
And now we are reaching out to you
To let you know you are not alone.
We will be there for you, it's true.

Clouds can look their darkest
When they are looming up ahead.
But after the rain, the sun will shine
And something brighter will come instead.

So this message is here to let you know,
We are all in this together.
We all will make it through,
If we stand united in kindness;
If we stand united in friendship;
Sending our love to you.

ANON

****

ODE TO BRIGHTLINGSEA [C. SPAIN (1992)]

Drive into town, there's only one way.
Glad that you came, please enjoy your day.
You'll find the folk friendly, with plenty to say.
With tales of the past, and what happens today.

War memorial in the centre, reminding us all
Of those serving their country when they did fall.
Looking around d you will see many pubs all waiting for you.
The King's Head, the Swan and the Brewers too.
Shops and cafes with lots to do.
Everybody will be pleasant to you.

Down by the 'Hard', you will see all the fun
Of sailing and swimming, that's where it's done.

Walk round by the Tower, along to the beach
A nice casual stroll, it's not far to reach.

At the end of your day, when it's time to go home,
Remember Brightlingsea wherever you roam.

The Prom and town centre, the sailing boats' tack
Look forward to greeting you, when you come back.



Community News

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 August	**BRIGHTLINGSEA FREE MUSIC FESTIVAL** Hurst Green. Music starts at 12pm
Saturday 8 August	**ALL SAINTS CHURCH SUMMER FETE**
Saturday 15 August	**BRIGHTLINGSEA PRAM RACE 3pm start Hurst Green** Teams of two are invited to dress up and compete in decorated prams, with stops at local pubs along the route.
Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 August	**BRIGHTLINGSEA FOOD & DRINKS FESTIVAL** Western Promenade
Saturday 31 August	**TOWN HORTICULTURAL & PRODUCE SHOW** Town Show produce & craft competitions at Community Centre with family Dog Show and outdoor activities.
Sunday 6 September	**SCOUTS CLASSIC CAR SHOW & FUN DAY** Lower Park Recreational Ground 10am to 5pm
Wednesday 9 September	**PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR THE WINTER** Expert advice. Brightlingsea Parish Hall 10am to 12pm
Saturday 12 September	**FRESH AIR FESTIVAL Western Promenade 11am start**
Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September	**ALL SAINTS in STITCHES** Textile Festival with displays and workshops
Sunday 13 September	**ANNUAL JOG, WALK, RUN. Start All Saints** Registration 10am to 10.45am. 11am start In aid of Essex and Herts Air Ambulance
Thursday 22 October	**ALL SAINTS 7pm** restored bells will be blessed by Bishop Roger
Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 October	**ALL SAINTS 'Autumn Colours' Art Exhibition**

****

BOOKINGS for Tower tours at All Saints at 2pm on the following dates – August 8th, August 15th & 16th, August 30th , September 6th, September 13th and September 26th.

cost £7 per adult and £4.50 for children 8-18 yrs., as long as Health & Safety principles met.

Daily Devotion

A Compassionate Community in Practice

Romans 12:9–13

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Reflection

I wonder if you look back through rose coloured spectacles when it comes to remembering the past. The young respected their elders, churches were full, the world was simpler and happier etc. Some of that may be true for some people.

Thinking of what it means to be a Compassionate Community, we can recognise that the way care and support was found in the past was very different from now. Much of the way we find support now is through professional services, from healthcare to planning your wedding; there is always a professional on hand. When we're experiencing tough times including serious illness or bereavement, we've become dependent on professional care which in most cases is not what is needed. Only around 3% of people will experience complex grief that needs professional input. For the rest, the best possible support comes from our family, friends, and colleagues.

It's said that 'it takes a village to raise a child', we become more rounded people when we have input from a broad range of influences. The joys in life are celebrated better, and the lows are held better in community, surrounded by positive relationships. Some will naturally have lots of friends and a close family and others only a few friends, we're all different. We don't all need lots of people supporting us. What we do need is people around us who give us time, prepared to listen – and keep listening for however long is needed.

We can fear saying the wrong thing, or imposing in other's business, but if we all do that, we're all more likely to struggle. There are lots of ways for a community to become more compassionate. Jesus showed the way by how He valued people, loved all people, never hid away from the less desirable, he showed kindness and accepted people whatever the state of their lives. We flourish, not by the survival of the fittest, but by the survival of the kindest.

Prayer

We pray for the communities we belong to,
that these would be places where all can grow and flourish.
We ask for confidence and a willingness
to support those who are in need around us.
We pray for a world, not where the strongest prosper,
but one built on kindness and compassion
where all can live life in all its fullness.
Amen

© United Reformed Church Devotions.urc.org.uk

Wordsearch

Beach Summer Word Search



A	B	K	Y	D	S	W	I	M	S	U	I	T	H	W
D	O	V	P	Q	C	O	N	P	Y	F	G	U	A	T
K	P	Q	Y	J	K	D	I	S	A	N	D	A	L	S
V	E	N	D	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	A	K	R
G	S	U	N	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	A	B	I	E
N	U	S	R	U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A	A	L	B
R	R	Y	E	J	G	E	R	C	Y	T	H	T	I	H
Y	F	S	K	A	E	C	K	E	H	C	S	Q	F	V
I	B	E	Y	B	S	L	A	G	K	A	P	Z	E	K
D	O	Y	S	N	U	H	W	C	C	O	L	T	G	C
J	A	I	U	Y	O	C	E	A	N	E	A	O	U	S
C	R	S	Y	B	M	D	K	L	V	O	S	W	A	F
F	D	K	W	S	H	O	V	E	L	E	H	E	R	L
R	V	J	D	U	D	Z	S	F	T	U	S	L	D	K
B	E	A	C	H	B	A	L	L	R	W	P	G	B	L



SUNSCREEN
UMBRELLA
WAVES
SWIMSUIT
FRISBEE
SANDALS
SURFBOARD
TOWEL
SHOVEL
SUNGLASSES
LIFEGUARD
DECKCHAIR
BUCKET
BEACHBALL
SEASHELL
SWIMMING
CASTLE
SPLASH
FLOAT
OCEAN

The First Day of School

A rat and a bat were out chasing a gnat
Which was flying so fast in pursuit of a cat.
They were all on their way to their first day of school
To learn letters and numbers and The Golden Rule.

And then came Penelope Sylvie von Swirl
Who's a pinkish and purple rhinoceros girl.
She was running past Roger, the rat, and the bat;
Every one of whom thought they'd catch up with the cat.

And suddenly there came Count Frederick McCoy,
Who's a silly but smart hippopotamus boy.
He ran fast to catch up with Penelope Swirl,
Who's the pinkish and purple rhinoceros girl.

"How great it will be," said the Count to the cat,
"When we get to the schoolhouse with Roger the rat.
Because then we will learn about letters and rhymes
And we'll all have the gayest most wonderful times."

"It's great to be learning and playing with friends,"
Said the cat to the rat as they ran 'round the bends
Of the trail and the pathways that led to their school
Where they'd learn about numbers and The Golden Rule.

"How lucky we are," and they all did agree
"To be learning and playing and dancing with glee;
Because learning will make us so smart we will know
Why the pussycats purr and the howling winds blow."

"We'll learn about porcupines, parrots and whales
And we'll laugh as we see wagging puppy dogs' tails;
We will learn about stars that shine bright in the sky
And we'll catch lighted fireflies -- at least we can try."

"The whole world is waiting for us to grow up
When we'll learn to be serious, and to shut up.
But for now, in the meantime, we'll play as we learn
And we'll dance and we'll sing and we'll not be too stern."

"We're glad," they all said, as they sat on a stool
In their very first class on their first day of school.
"We can learn and make friends and pray that God above
Will now help us to share and to learn how to love!"

by Robert Deimel © 2020

THE WEDDING

by Peter Fraser © 2001

The day has arrived, all the planning complete,
A couple in love but run off their feet.
The to-ing and fro-ing and paying of bills,
The phone calls, the fretting and clashing of wills.

He waits in his suit with a cold running sweat,
His palms are all greasy, his feet are all wet.
The Minister's face says "I'm glad it's not me",
The best man and groomsmen tend to agree.

All dressed up in silk on her way the bride rides,
She's dizzy and nervous, her mouth is all dry.
The matron of honour is shaking her head,
The bridesmaids all think that there's trouble ahead.

Fashionably late she walks to the groom,
But he can be seen nowhere in the room.
And as she arrives at last down the front,
She trips on an object and lands on her butt.

Shaking her head to clear out the shock,
She ignores the crowds laughter, who're they to mock.
But it soon becomes clear what had caught on her boot,
'Twas her fiancee; out cold; she'd tripped over the old coot.

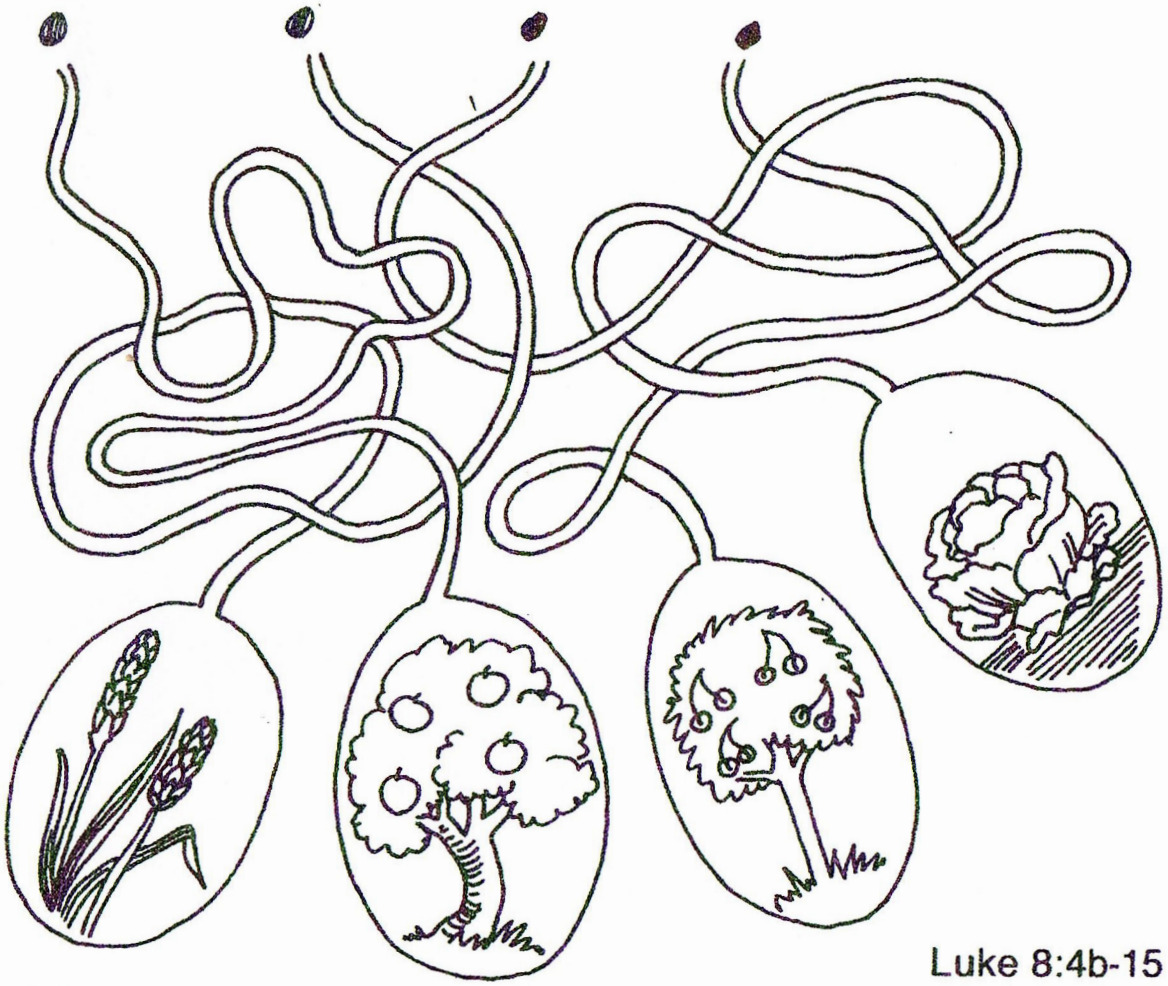
Despite all the troubles the wedding took place,
A husband and wife gaze at each others face.
But the groom is uptight for he's going to bruise,
The one who wrote H-E-L-P on his shoes.

But at the days end, with all jokes aside,
We've got a proud husband, who has a new bride.
And God the Most High will bless never ending,
The man and his wife who survive THE WEDDING.

AUTHORS NOTE:
Any similarity to persons or circumstances real or fictional are totally co-incidental.

SOME SEED FELL INTO GOOD SOIL AND GREW.

What will these seeds grow into?



Luke 8:4b-15

A	C	F	I	O	K	G	R	S	V
F	A	R	M	E	R	A	M	E	T
B	O	B	U	E	E	I	D	E	L
N	I	H	W	P	H	T	Z	D	N
Y	S	R	P	H	T	A	P	E	F
L	G	S	D	J	I	H	V	K	U
E	K	E	B	S	W	L	I	O	S
K	C	W	Y	J	Q	C	W	H	G
R	O	T	I	U	R	F	M	C	Q
S	R	D	T	H	O	R	N	S	X

FARMER
SOW
SEED
PATH
WITHER
THORNS
CHOKED
SOIL
BIRDS
GREW
ROCK
FRUIT