

Silent Visitor



**October
2018**

Who's Who at Bradleigh Avenue

Minister: Rev'd David Coaker
Mobile No: 07378 348191
E Mail: drcoaker@gmail.com

Secretary: Mrs Elaine Barcz 01375 400903

Treasurer: Mr Alan Beckley

Serving Elders: Mr Alf Pryer & Mrs Denise Beckley

Organist: Mr Richard Wade

Facilities Manager: Mrs Charlotte Webb
& Mobile No: 0784 3559011
Hire of Halls: graysurc@gmail.com

Silent Visitor: Mrs Janet Semain 01375 373532
geojan321@sky.com

Leaders of the Uniformed Organisations:

Group Scout Leader: Mr Tim Webb
Tel: 01375 391031

Guide Leader: Miss Gill Davidson
Tel: 01375 384253

Brownie Leader: Ms Madeleine Loin
Mobile No: 07971 139384

Harvest Thanks



How we engage with Harvest Festivals has changed over the years in response to our relationship with the land. Before the rise of intensive and global farming, which has made food cheap and plentiful for us, we had a much closer relationship to our food. Now our food is uniform, plastic wrapped, washed and may have travelled further than we ever have to reach the supermarket shelf. Some of us may remember a time when a large proportion of the population worked on the land and you knew the name of your grocer, but now much of the work is done by machines and the contents of the shelves determined by accountants.

The tradition of Harvest is fundamental to our culture and to the culture of the Bible. Soil was prepared, seeds planted, crops tended and harvests gathered, all trusting in God that the land would produce enough to support us. Each year when harvest was finished that trust was celebrated by giving thanks. We give thanks by bringing a portion of our Harvest and offering it back to God.

For us that used to mean digging up some crops from our gardens, allotments or fields, but now it just means buying something extra on a routine trip to the supermarket. The Harvest gifts used to be sold to raise funds, but now rather than being able to buy something different that a neighbour has produced we just have a different item someone else placed in a trolley. In many places sales of Harvest goods have died out because the excitement and novelty of the produce is no longer there. In response to this many congregations fall into our pattern of gathering non perishable goods for local food banks and taking up a collection for charity.

What we do at Harvest Festival had changed, but our reason for doing it remains. We could also argue that the change has been a beneficial one, as the gifts we share now directly support those that are in need. The reason we have Harvest festivals is to give thanks to our Creator God. We celebrate the beauty, wonder and generosity of Creation and give thanks that we are able to enjoy it. How we give thanks has changed, but not our reason for doing it.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker



Baptism of Siphesihle Liyana Nkungu

On Sunday 16 September we welcomed Siphesihle into the family of Christ when her mum, Nollie and her dad, Derrick brought her to be baptised along with her brothers, other members of her family and friends. She was introduced to the congregation by Rev'd Dave and then baptised. At one year old, Siphesihle took it all in her "stride"!



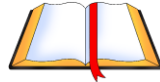
Our Harvest Service was also on Sunday 16 September. The Women's Refuge and St Luke's Hospice both benefited by receiving the harvest gifts. Both charities were extremely grateful – St Luke's Hospice for the fresh produce and the Women's Refuge for the dry goods and £180.



After the service a Harvest Lunch was enjoyed.

Many thanks to Kee for taking these photographs.





INTERNATIONAL BIBLE READING ASSOCIATION 2019

I should like to remind readers that the order for I.B.R.A. 2019 Bible Readings will be sent off on the 1st November.

Books for present members will be ordered as for 2018 unless I hear to the contrary. New members are always welcome.



Again they are producing just one set of daily bible readings and notes for adults, called **Fresh from the Word: the Bible for a Change.**

It offers a fresh approach to Bible reading and is written to support all readers of the Bible, from new Christians to those seeking to deepen their faith and relationship with God. Bringing together over 50 international writers to give you new insights every day, Fresh From the Word contains Bible verses, notes, prayers and action points

Fresh From the Word gives global perspectives on carefully selected passages from the Bible. The writers include theologians and biblical scholars, church leaders and activists for peace from across the world, all of whom share a passion to bring the Bible into conversation with day-to-day concerns. This helps you grow in your knowledge and appreciation of the Bible and carries on the 135-year-old IBRA tradition of encouraging people around the world.

IBRA International Fund

Giving through the International Bible Reading Association (IBRA) International Fund enables you to help spread the Word across the globe.

Our partners are based in 11 countries but benefit flows over borders to at least 32 countries. They work tirelessly, driven by their hope and their passion for distributing good teaching through Fresh From the Word. They organise the translation, printing and distribution of IBRA Bible study notes and lists into many different languages from Ewe, Yoruba and Twi to Portuguese, Samoan and Telugu!

We guarantee that 100% of your donations go to support our international brothers and sisters in Christ.

An envelope will be included with your readings, or you can give your donation to me before 1st November. The subscription cost is £10. If you want to know more please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ruth Hunwick

Eastern Synod Faith in Action Forum Church in Society

**Anne Barton, Facilities Manager, URC (as a member of the above Forum)
has asked for the attached report to be included in Church Magazines**

Of the Five Marks of Mission recognised by the URC three are concerned with action. These are:-

- (3) to respond to human need by loving service
- (4) to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- (5) to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

These are the issues addressed by the 'Faith in Action' group, on behalf of Eastern Synod. It is clear from these that the agenda of the group is wide-ranging and complicated and we may call upon the expertise of various members of the group to inform our reports to Synod. My special interest is with refugees and asylum seekers, which includes those who have been trafficked for sex or for labour. It is said that there is at least one brothel in every village, and in many streets in all towns. In these "establishments" there may be trafficked young people, some of them "minors", from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. There are very sad stories of young people being promised a good job here, only to find themselves being sold as slaves. If they do not speak English they may not know where they are and be terrified of their captors, so do not find escaping an option. There are various charities which help those who do manage to get away, such as Red Cross, Save the Children, the Salvation Army and Freedom from Torture. One of these, The Medaille Trust, has a specific role in providing "safe houses" where the complex needs, including physical and psychological rehabilitation, are met in a safe, secret, caring Christian environment.

There are many ways in which we can help to tackle the scandal of modern slavery, including being alert to the problem, informing the police if we have suspicions, campaigning for an end to the demand for brothels, supporting agencies which work to end modern slavery in all its forms.

This is just one of the subjects on the ongoing agenda for the Faith in Action Forum. There is much to be done and many opportunities to make a difference. We hope you may like to join in this important part of our URC Mission. To get in touch with us please ask the Synod Office for our contact details.

Study Groups

Don't forget that over the next month or so there is a chance to learn more about the happenings of World War 1 by coming along to the church on a Wednesday afternoon from 1pm – 2.30 pm

The first of three sessions commenced on the 12 September with a look behind the closed doors at the discussions being undertaken in the final weeks before the outbreak of war – "**37 Days**". The third session concludes on **Wednesday 3rd October**.

Then on **Wednesday 10th October 1pm – 2.30 pm** there is a chance to watch a film about the "**The Last Day of World War One**". It recounts the events and hours leading up to the last morning.

"The Passing Bells" Commences **31st October until 14th November on Wednesdays at 1 – 2.30 pm**. These sessions will follow two teenage boys – one German and one British – who sign up to fight in WW1.

Each Session will involve watching a film followed by some discussion.

All are welcome.

Look out for more information on the next study sessions in November's Silent Visitor. There are flyers in the vestibule about them.



The Last Day of World War One

A chance to watch together the BBC documentary and reflect on the story it tells.

**Wednesday
10th Oct
1.00-2.30pm**

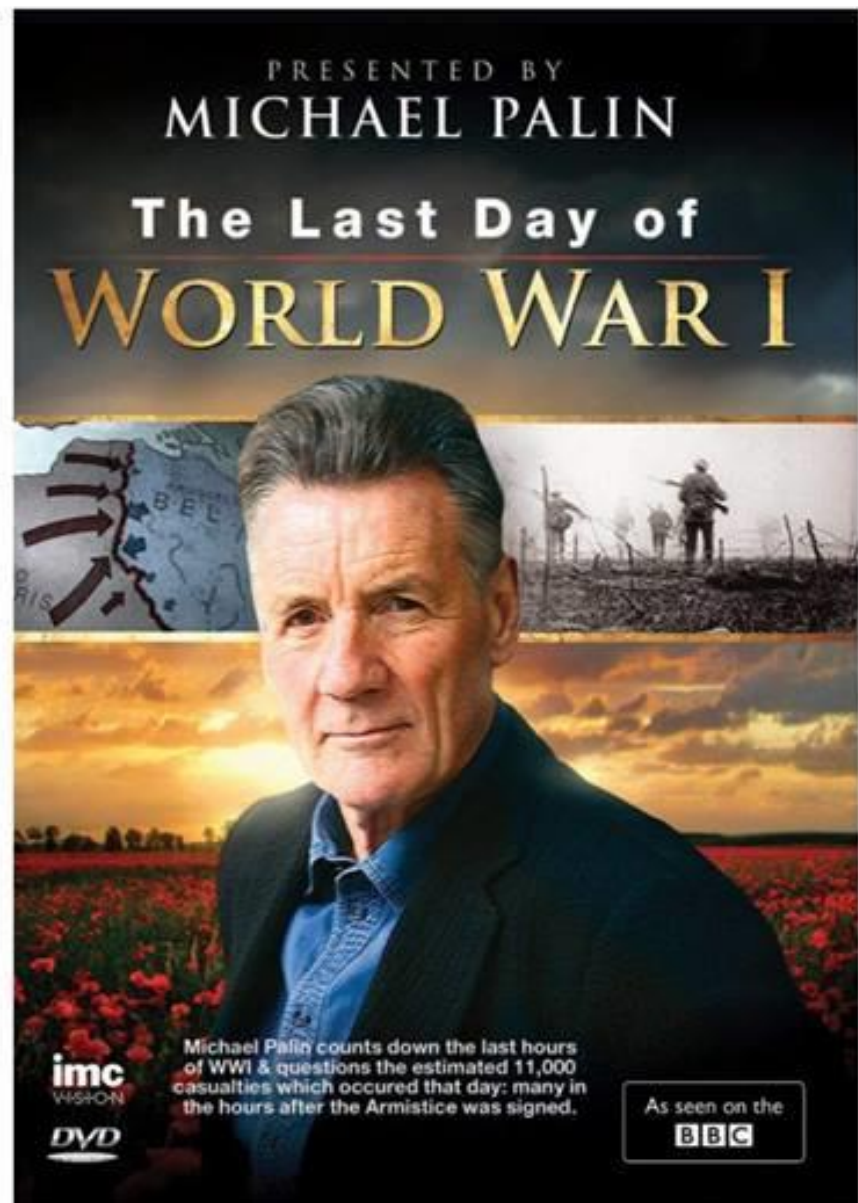
**Grays United Reformed Church
Bradleigh Avenue, RM17 5XD**



Michael Palin tells the story of how the First World War ended on 11th November 1918 and reveals the shocking truth that soldiers continued to be killed in battle for many hours after the armistice had been signed.

Recounting the events of the days and hours leading up to that last morning, Palin tells the personal stories of the last soldiers to die as the minutes and seconds ticked away to the 11 o'clock ceasefire.

Outline of time together:
Welcome & refreshments
Watch episode (1 hr.)
Brief closing discussion





Christmas Market

Whilst I think it is too early to be thinking about Christmas, many places such as garden centres are already getting ready for the festive season. However, it seems appropriate to mention now that the Christmas Market will be held on Saturday November 17th.

The usual array of stalls will be displaying their wares so add this date to the diaries so that it is not forgotten. Nearer the time look out for posters and notices about any help that may be needed as well as confirmation of the time of the event.



--- --

Church Meeting : please note that there will **not** be a Church Meeting during October.

--- --

Ernest Crosby 1856 – 1907

At a recent morning service taken by George, a poem was included at the end of the address. Some of the congregation remarked afterwards that it would be interesting to know what the rest of the poem said. However, it is just a short poem of three lines – "The Search" by Ernest Crosby:-

The Search

No one could tell me where my soul might be.
I searched for God, but God eluded me,
I sought my brother out, and found all three.



CHURCH CALENDAR

SERVICES

SUNDAY	10.30 am	FAMILY SERVICE
HOLY COMMUNION	10.30 am	1 st SUNDAY EACH MONTH
	6.30 pm	3 rd SUNDAY EACH MONTH
PARADE SERVICE	10.30 am	3 rd SUNDAY EACH MONTH

MEETINGS

COFFEE MORNING	10.30 am	EACH WEDNESDAY
BOWLS	2.00 pm & 7.30 pm	EACH MONDAY
PRAYER MEETING	10.00 am	2 nd WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH (before coffee)
	6.45 pm	EVERY FRIDAY
MESSY CHURCH		AS ANNOUNCED

You can find us at: Bradleigh Avenue, Grays, RM17 5XD

On our website at: Graysurc.org.uk



URC Grays