



Silent Visitor



Easter

April 2019

Who's Who at Bradleigh Avenue

Minister: Rev'd David Coaker
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Secretary: Mr Ben Marshall Mobile No: 07841 06604
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Treasurer: Mr Alan Beckley

Serving Elders: Mr Alf Pryer, Mrs Denise Beckley &
Mr Ben Marshall

Organist: Mr Richard Wade

Facilities Manager: Mrs Charlotte Webb
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Silent Visitor: Mrs Janet Semain 01375 373532
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Leaders of the Uniformed Organisations:

Group Scout Leader: Mr Tim Webb
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Live the Resurrection!

Sunday 21st April is not just another Sunday. The 21st is Easter Sunday, and just as Christmas Day symbolises something we should celebrate every day, so does it. On the 25th December, we celebrate that Jesus was born and on Easter Day we celebrate, remember, and incarnate for ourselves the Resurrection.

We could immerse ourselves in the detail of the different Resurrection stories we have in the four Gospels and in Paul's letters. We could tie ourselves up in knots and be confused by their differences, or we could embrace the wonder of not truly knowing and celebrate the invitation to participate in it.

After Jesus' death, his followers and family were distraught. Their friend, brother, rabbi, the man they had declared messiah, was dead. Not a gentle or sudden death either, but a public execution after being judged guilty by both the religious and political authorities. A death reserved for the worst offenders, brutally crucified as a deterrent to others who might challenge the status quo. A mode of death common under Roman law, but not one sanctioned by Jewish law. A death that Deuteronomy 21:22-23 tells us leaves the victim 'under God's curse'.

This small group is grieving, and piled upon that is the apparent condemnation of their master by both God and society. How could Jesus' story have ended like this? What had the teacher, healer and performer of healings, done to deserve this fate? If he'd died leading a revolt against the Romans his martyrdom could have inspired them to continue the fight, but how did what happen fit with their dream of a liberating messiah? Their spirits were as low as they could be. They were bewildered by what had happened. But

The Resurrection happened! They were transformed into a band of preachers, martyrs, missionaries and leaders who declared, lived and celebrated the Resurrection. They took this message and changed the world. In spite of all worldly appearances they were liberated, empowered and inspired by the Resurrection.

This is our inheritance and our calling, as we live the way of Jesus.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker



Church News

Church Secretary:

We are delighted that in Ben Marshall we have a successor to the able work Elaine Barcz undertook on our behalf as Church Secretary. As with anyone inheriting a role they will bring who they are to the task and work their way in to it. Some of the tasks Elaine undertook, Ben will carry on. Others will be done by different people and in different ways. And it will take a little time for things to settle back into a new routine. We are thankful for Ben accepting this role and I'm sure I speak for us all in saying that we will seek to support him in it.

Facilities Manager:

In the next couple of months or so Charlotte will be taking her maternity leave, and in various ways we will be seeking to cover the tasks she undertakes for us.

We are also delighted that Elaine Barcz has agreed to continue as Charlotte's line-manager.

Authorised person(s) for weddings:

We are also pleased to share that Alf Pryer and Stewart Berry (Ben's father-in-law) are going to arrange to speak to Bob about what this role involves.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday:

We will gather at **6.30 pm on Thursday 18th April** for our **Maundy Thursday communion service** and at **2pm on Friday 19th April** for our **Good Friday service**.

For both services we would appreciate someone acting as duty steward, and there are plenty of opportunities to share a Bible reading.

Easter Breakfast:

On Sunday 21st April our Easter worship will begin at 8.00am followed by breakfast (organised by Anne French) and then we will gather again at 10.30 am for a Communion Service.

Rev'd David R Coaker

Things to ponder for Church Meeting on Sunday 28 April

At our Church Meeting on the 3 March we reflected upon our Mission Plan and deferred some questions for further reflection at our next meeting.



So please take some time to ponder the following to share your responses when we gather as Church Meeting in April.

1. What subjects, issues or parts of the Bible should we explore in study groups?
2. Retreat Days – should the focus of this be offering opportunity to the community around us or an occasional activity we go off to?
3. How do we wish to explore further being open and inclusive?
4. How regularly should we hold Lunch Club?
5. What other ways could we engage with our community / building users?
6. What other coffee mornings should we add to the calendar? (Elders to prepare a draft list.)
7. What other styles of worship would we like to explore?

Friends of Essex and London Homeless Church Charity 2019

A soup kitchen has been established at the Baptist Church, Orsett Road, Grays once a week on Friday nights.

Here is a copy of the face-book update from them:-

"Van packed with goodies destination Grays to see our homeless friends and people in need at our weekly Friday night soup kitchen.

On our arrival 8/9 services user patiently awaiting our arrival in a much smaller way just like Wednesdays in Charing Cross so good to see people know and trust we are coming rain ☁️ or shine ☀️ a real positive note that we are starting to really have an impact and making a difference and in total we saw 18 service users ranging from homeless sleeping rough to people struggling to feed there selves.

It was lovely to see HRAG volunteers mucking in serving and interacting with services users plenty of laughter and just generally niceness which was so lovely to see and hear.

We had another few new faces one lady called C who was in need of trainers and a jumper and Cheryl gladly helped her out and spent some quality time with which was obvious to see C really appreciated the time and chat. Also we had S & T, a really lovely couple who I love seeing. They both are so happy for what we have and also the company and myself and S always have a cuddle and a good lads chat as friends should. Thanks S, look forward to seeing you next week and so happy you are keeping yourself out of trouble 😊 .



So as we hope you can see and feel through our weekly updates we really are making inroads with many people each week and are so happy that we have taken on another soup kitchen and made it flourish and most importantly made a difference.....

Much Love Team FOELH ❤️ "



Lent Group The Mystery of God

Over the past few weeks the Lent Group has been following the Lent Course 2019 The Mystery of God.

We have been exploring various aspects of this course:- “The Mystery of Life and Death” was on Ash Wednesday, the “The Mystery of Good and Evil” and more recently “The Mystery of God’s Glory”. They are thought provoking subjects designed to encourage us to be aware of God at work in our lives. During the course of discussion it was mainly felt that God's Glory shines in the beauty of landscapes, flowers and fauna about us.

In the session for Week 2, “The Mystery of God’s Glory” there are two lines quoted on the pamphlet from a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins - “God’s Grandeur” :-

The world is charged with the grandeur of God,
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil*
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil.
And wears man’s smudge and shares man’s smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights of the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Gerard Manley Hopkins
(July 28th 1844 – June 8th 1889)

Hopkins explains “I mean foil in its sense of leaf or tinsel, and no other word whatever will give the effect I want. Shaken gold foil gives off broad glares like sheet lightning and also, and this is true of nothing else, owing to its zigzag dints and crossings and network of small many cornered facets, a sort of fork lightning too.”



An Unspoken Bible (Author Unknown)

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years at college. He is brilliant. Kind of esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Christian recently while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt and wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill walks down the aisle looking for a seat.

The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now people are looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill gets closer to the pulpit and when he realises there are no seats, he just squats down on the carpet.

By now people are really uptight and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the minister realises that from the back of the church, an Elder is slowly making his way towards Bill. Now the Elder is in his eighties, has silver grey hair and a three piece suit. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified. He walks with a stick and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves – you can't blame him for what he is going to do.

How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is silent except for the clicking of the man's stick.

All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the Elder does what he has to do. And now they see this elderly man drop his stick on the floor. With great difficulty he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone.

Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget. Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people ever read."

(Found on website "Gateway to Jesus.com")



Desert Island Discs

Sometimes I have to wrack my 'brain' for ideas for articles for Silent Visitor. Well here is one such idea. Most of us have heard of a programme on Radio 4 called 'Desert Island Discs'. It occurred to me when I heard it recently, which is usually whilst having a shower, that I would have no idea what eight tracks of music I would want to take with me if I was a castaway on a desert island. Quite a difficult task?

My main thought on this was how long would it be before I would be very bored of hearing the same tunes or songs over and over again. That would depend on how long I was marooned on the island before a passing ship came to rescue me. The songs would have to be very special. So, what would I choose?

My mind went back to the 1960s when I was working as an audio typist in a typing pool. It was quite a disciplined environment, with a supervisor. The system worked well and we all worked hard. In our large room there was a bank of machines at one end where the staff dictating in their various offices around the Town Hall, would engage them and record their letters, reports. etc. It was a very modern system for the day. The tapes would be marked with the time they had been dictated and we had to take them in order.

At that time I was fond of listening to John, Paul, George and Ringo (The Beatles). "My" George worked in an office down the corridor and once decided that as I liked them so much he would record one of their songs on one of the tapes for me (he doesn't remember how he did it – we are talking over 55 years ago). I had to make sure that I got that particular tape before the supervisor could ask awkward questions. I obviously managed to ensure I got hold of it and it lived in my desk drawer (and was played occasionally) for some time before it was wiped! That song was "All my Loving". I have to say I still like it!

Well, eight tracks may be too much for most people to select, but I thought that maybe if there was one or two pieces of music or a song that meant something special to you, you might like to share it with the readers of Silent Visitor and perhaps even let us know why it is meaningful or memorable so it may be included.

Don't all rush!!

Look forward to hearing from you, Ed.

Something to make you laugh!

Supermarket Sins:

Mrs O Reilly was a deaf old lady, most conscientious about going to confession. The problem was that because she was hard of hearing she talked at the top of her voice. Her confession was clearly heard to those outside.

One day the priest had an idea. After a few attempts he was able to get the lady to understand. He said to her to write down what she wished to confess and pass the note to him.

Sure enough, the next time she entered the booth she passed a scrap of paper to the priest.

He was surprised to read: Packet of cornflakes, pint of milk, cat food, sausages, eggs and so on. "Mrs O Reilly", he said loudly, "this is your shopping list".



There was another shriek from the other side of the confessional. "Mother of God!" cried Mrs O Reilly. "I've left my sins in the supermarket!"

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Young at Heart:

A church meeting was held to draw up a list of local groups that might be approached with an eye to enlarging the membership. The list was arranged in alphabetical order.

Close to the end of the list the name of one organisation was read out, only for a man who had not spoken until now to inform the meeting, "Its no use contacting the Young Wives group in the village. I know for a fact they have disbanded and joined the Over-Sixties!"

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Keeping Tidy:

First Lady: I'm sorry to hear you buried your husband last week.
Second Lady: "We had to, dear. He died!"

APRIL 2019 - ROTAS

FLOWERS		Arranged by	Supplied by
April	7	Anne French	
	14		
Easter	21	Anne French	
	28		
May	5	Elaine Barcz	
PREACHERS		Time	
Young family service	7	9.30 am	Rev'd Dave/Denise
Morning Service with Communion	7	10.30 am	George Semain
Palm Sunday	14	10.30 am	Alf Pryer
Maundy Thursday	18	6.30 pm	Rev'd Dave Coaker
Good Friday	19	2.00 pm	Revd Dave Coaker
	21	8.00 am	Revd Dave Coaker
Easter Sunday Services	21	10.30 am with Holy Communion	Revd Dave Coaker
Family Service	28	10.30 am	Rev'd Dave Coaker
May			
Young family service	5	9.30 am	Revd Dave Coaker
Morning Service with Communion	5	10.30 am	Revd Dave Coaker
READERS			
April	7	10.30 am	Jean & Janet
	14	10.30 am	Ruth & George
	21	10.30 am	Edna & Elaine
	28	10.30 am	David & Frances
May	5	10.30 am	Janet & George

Duty Steward: Elaine Barcz (Except Maundy Thursday & Good Friday)

Hymn Book Steward: Bill Boag

<p>This year's Charity is:- Friends of Essex & Thurrock Homeless</p>

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY SERVICES

Children's Service	9.30 am	1 st Sunday each month
Morning Worship	10.30 am	Each Sunday
Holy Communion	10.30 am 6.30 pm	1 st Sunday each month 3 rd Sunday each month
Parade Service	10.30 am	Next Parade Service will be on 30 th June 2019

ACTIVITIES

Coffee Morning	10.30 am	Every Wednesday
Carpet Bowls	2.00 pm & 7.30 pm	Every Monday (except Bank Holidays)
Prayer Meetings	10.00 am	2 nd Wednesday each month (before coffee)
	6.45 pm	Every Friday
Messy Church	3.30 pm	Wednesday 3 rd April 2019

- For information about Messy Church – Worship together for families – please contact Denise Beckley on 07806 739959
- All meetings take place in the Church or the Church hall unless otherwise indicated.

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

On our website at: Graysurc.org.uk



URC Grays