



Eastwords: news from Eastern Synod July 2009

E-eastwords

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Rural Church Conference 2009

A good number gathered at Halstead URC on 16th May for the first Rural Conference, the folk at Halstead made everyone very welcome. The day included worship, teaching, sharing times and social opportunities. As well as this, all participants left with an armful of new resources and ideas to take back to their local churches.

See more pictures and a full report on the Synod website at urc-eastern.org.uk.

Picture: Peter Ball

'Do Nothing To Change Your Life'

Doing nothing is not part of my usual way of life - there always seems to be a sermon to write, emails to send, problems to solve. The "to do" list is endless, even without the inevitable household chores.

But finding time for this compact and very readable book by Stephen Cottrell, and reflecting on its content has been refreshing and revitalising. I cannot say it has stopped me rushing around altogether, but it has helped me look at situations with fresh eyes, and appreciate more this life which is God's gift to us. We are made in the image of God - the God who "saw that it was good" and then rested on the seventh day. Stephen Cottrell encourages us to do the same - to have time to see what is good with fresh eyes, to enable us to follow in a more fulfilling way our calling from God on the other six days, whether that is in voluntary church or community activities, paid employment or both. Those six days are still likely to be busy, but we may find we have a new way of approaching the busyness and being revitalised in our God-given tasks.

Enjoy doing nothing!

Milly Dalgleish. Synod Lay Preaching Advocate

Do Nothing To Change Your Life, Discovering what Happens When You Stop.
Stephen Cottrell, Church House Publishing, £6.99



STOP PRESS: October Synod will be held at Chelmsford, Christ Church on the 17th October

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN CHAPPEL nr COLCHESTER



Tony Percival has been playing the organ at Chappel URC for 50 years. To celebrate the occasion he decided to do an 8-hour Sponsored 'Play-In' (organ/piano) on Saturday 6th June.

The event proved to be a great success. Lots of people from far and near came to the Chapel to listen, sponsor and enjoy refreshments which were served throughout the day. At the time of writing, sponsorship is in excess of £2,300 and with gift-aid tax refund is estimated to exceed £2,600. Tony is grateful to all who sponsored and supported him in any way.

The amount raised will be equally divided between St Helena Hospice, Colchester and Chappel United Reformed Church.

Tony Percival



1ST HAVERHILL BOYS' BRIGADE CELEBRATES FIRST QUEEN'S BADGE

1st Haverhill Boys' Brigade celebrates its first Queens man with Joshua Snape. He was presented with the award by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant on Sunday at the Old Independent Church. This award is the highest badge attainable in the Boys' Brigade.

Joshua, who has been a member of 1st Haverhill Company since it was formed in 2001, has gained many badges whilst working towards his Queens Badge. To gain his badge he has helped out in the company on a weekly basis and undertook various voluntary work in the community.

Joshua said "I am very proud of what I have achieved and hope to become an officer of the brigade." Captain Kathy South said "I am very pleased for Joshua gaining this award through an exciting and challenging programme of activities, he has shown potential of becoming a Brigade Officer."

Picture: Kathy South - Captain

Advance Notice

The next edition of *E-astwords* will contain information on the new York Course materials for Lent 2010.

The Revd Michael Rigney, Mrs Heather Brown and the Revd Allen Morton on the occasion of Heather's commissioning as Local Leader for Southminster on 4th April 2009.



The next issue of ***E-astwords*** will be available in October, please send your contributions for future editions to Linda Hack at eastern.pa@urc.org.uk