

Hornsea United Reformed Church January Newsletter



The church building remains closed, empty of people, as you can see from this picture which was used in our Nativity Service. However, the online service has been viewed 327 times and the Lessons and Carols service 76 times- a total of over 400 views of the two Christmas services, something to be thankful for and excited about! As we begin a new calendar year, we begin a new series in John's Gospel, and for Lent a short series entitled 'Lent in plain sight'.

With COVID restrictions still in place, we will continue to stream our services live on Zoom 10.30am every Sunday morning, and make it available on Hornsea URC's YouTube page and in PDF format on our website. When it is safe to do so, we will open the church building again for Sunday worship, to gather together in person. We will let you know as soon as this is possible.

2020 was not delivered in the way we expected and had planned but we have been blessed in so many different ways and give thanks to God for his love and care.

Psalm 40 vs 5

*"You have done many things for us, O Lord our God; there is no one like you! You have made many wonderful **plans** for us. I could never speak of them all— their number is so great!"*

We can take comfort that in our uncertain time, God is unchanging and has a plan for Hornsea URC and for each one of us. We pray that all we do will be for His glory and will see His Kingdom expanding.

Thanks, Steve

Apart but Together Services in January

January 3rd	Epiphany Service
January 10 th	Journeying with John- an introduction- includes Holy Communion
January 17 th	Journeying with John- Chapter 1
January 24 th	Journeying with John- Chapter 2
January 31 st	World Leprosy Day service

Simple Things

When we welcomed the year 2020 no one ever imagined what devastation it would bring to so many people throughout the world.

The lockdown brought much despair to many, the loss of loved ones without the chance to say goodbye; the feeling of loneliness and isolation especially for those who had to shield themselves as a result of underlying health issues.

Whilst some experienced the worse effects of the pandemic, others experienced the opposite finding the enforced lockdown gave them a chance to evaluate their lives and realise the positive aspects such as reduced traffic noise with cleaner air and the chance to hear the birdsong that had been missed. Time to catch up on all those jobs that were put in abeyance but most of all time to reflect on what is important in our lives.

They say every cloud has a silver lining so for our community like many others we had volunteers willing to do shopping, deliver prescriptions or meals and people willing to give support via telephone or other devices.

Our church too has played its' part in learning how to deliver a service using technology online or on zoom. All this has brought pleasure and comfort to our church family but wonderful as this technology is it has been the simple things that have meant the most.



Since lockdown a collection of homemade items have been hand delivered in order to bring comfort and a reminder that no one is forgotten.

Here is a selection of items that came through our letter box: - a simple form of the church newsletter, a dove made from a disposable paper plate, a sign of hope; a lighthouse reminding us that Jesus is our light in the darkness; a palm cross at Easter, another paper plate

symbolising harvest, a bookmark depicting both remembrance and communion; plus, pencils to colour in advent shapes and ribbon for a message to place on the Christmas tree at the front of church. A DIY Christingle kit which did not fit in the letter box but was fun to make.

Simple items made with love that have lifted the spirits to show that as a church family we care for each other no matter what life throws at us.

Let us trust in God that the New Year will be better than the last!

June

Doreen Taylor 1st May 1824 - 13th December 2020



It was once customary to have a picture of a beautiful lady on page three of some news papers – well this is ours!

It is with sadness, but with many good memories that we say goodbye to Doreen on the 7th January (if you receive this Newsletter in time and you just might be taking your lock-down exercise at about 2.30pm on Thursday – you might like to stop near the church or down Newbegin - socially distant - to applaud her).

Doreen was born in Drifffield and left school in 1938 at the age of 14 to work for a short time in a haberdashers and later that year moved to 'Polly's' Ladies Dress Shop – which was the start of her long career in fashion.

Polly's opened in Malton in 1940 just after the outbreak of war and at the age of 16 Doreen was sent to manage it.

She married her childhood sweetheart, Tommy, in 1942 and eventually found their first home on Edenfield Estate.

Doreen had a genuine interest in people. To us at the URC, she was a great listener and always had time to talk with and encourage people. She was gracious and I can honestly say I never heard her criticise or undermine anyone.

She did not shout about her faith but simply lived out the commandment "You are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself."

There are many people in Hornsea who would testify to this through the help and support she continued to give throughout her life – these are just a few who like us will be missing her smile and loving support:- Marie Curie, Hornsea Choir, Hornsea Music Society, British Legion, RNLI, Fairtrade Hornsea and many more



Thank you everyone for your continued support for the Leprosy Mission. I am pleased to say we have raised £589.71 this year which is very good considering we have not been able to have any fundraising events and it is all down to the money you collect in your boxes.

I know that some people have donated directly to TLM and this will bring the donations from Hornsea to well over £1000 which is amazing. All the staff at TLM in Peterborough have been furloughed since March with just a couple keeping things going in the office. James Grieg who many of you know as our area rep sadly had a heart attack in October and following an operation is continuing to recover at home. Please keep all the staff at TLM in your prayers as they continue to try to help people with leprosy in very difficult times.

Some good news, in October TLM received a £200,000 grant from the UK Government which has been used at Anandaban Hospital. They have used it to transform the space to include a Covid isolation ward, and a testing laboratory. Emergency food and sanitation packs have been distributed to the most vulnerable households and they had a radio campaign to raise awareness about social distancing and isolating. So once again as they did after the earthquake in 2015 Anandaban has opened its doors to the whole population not just those with leprosy.

Every donation we can send will help to transform the lives of people with leprosy. Thank you

Carol



The Living Well Telephone Support Network, like most volunteer groups, approached the beginning of 2020 with the prospect of business as usual plus the bonus of interviewing two new

enthusiastic volunteer callers who were quickly added to our rota.

However, as time progressed it became clear the changes had to be made. As well as the Government declaring a National Lockdown, we also had to take notice of the guidance from the Yorkshire Synod regarding the use of our church premises.

So, along with the rest of the country in March we were obliged to close the service. This was extremely distressing as the majority of our clients are vulnerable not just physically but also psychologically.

As a church we initiated the Hornsea Living Well Project as part of our outreach work to support the community so it was a bitter blow when we had to close particularly at a time when we were needed even more.

For five months our telephone lines were silent until the beginning of September when we were allowed to open our premises because, fortunately, we are classed as a support group. We now have telephone sessions on a Monday afternoon and a Friday morning with four supervisors but with a reduced number of volunteers made up of church members and others from outside our church. Not all volunteer callers felt confident enough to return even though it has been agreed we have a robust set of guidelines to follow at each session.

Our clients have been delighted we are now calling them again. We discovered we had lost some of our older clients due to age and infirmity, not Covid -19. We have also gained some who are in need of a call because they are struggling with the present situation but above all loneliness.

Fortunately for our clients the Hornsea Crisis Support Group obtained Lottery funding to provide hot meals for Christmas and their number was passed on to those in the

Hornsea area. We must give thanks to the Hornsea Lions for providing Christmas cards and presents for clients in Hornsea and the surrounding areas.

A team of us had the pleasure of being Santa's little helpers making the deliveries a week before Christmas Day which was much appreciated by the recipients.

We do need more volunteer callers as this service is really needed and as a church, we must put our faith into practice, so if you feel you could be part of this project, we can arrange an interview and training. Your thoughts and prayers would be greatly appreciated.

June

Bible book club

The Bible book club met online on 30th December to discuss the gospel of Luke, which was our 'set book' for December. Like any book club we talked about what we liked or disliked and what had surprised us in our reading. None is expected to have a 'right answer', we just chat. Please consider joining us next time. Our book for January is Hosea. The Bible Society has notes on all the books in the Bible online, which we can help you find if you want to use them. We tend to meet on the last Wednesday of the month so our next meeting (online at the moment) will be at 2pm on 27th January. If this is not convenient, it can be moved to an evening- just let us know. Thanks

Jean



"Oh, look Mary-They've obeyed Herod's rules and left the gifts at the door"

(thanks Allan)