

Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter
November 2021



Apart and Together Worship in November

Services will take place in the church building and also broadcast live on Zoom this month: -

November 7th Journeying on with Jesus
November 14th Remembrance Sunday Communion Service
November 21st Shoebox service
November 28th Advent Sunday

If you missed any of the October services you can find them on our dedicated YouTube channel - just search Hornsea URC on YouTube to find us.

Sorrow is fleeting

Today there is only sadness and pain
But tomorrow the sun will shine once again
Family and friends are there just for you
Their love and support will carry you through
Sorrow soon fades into the past
Sweet memories come and forever they last

Margaret Hodgetts

October Highlights



The Pumpkin Trail

This Christians together event last Sunday was enjoyed by around 60 children and their families. It proved so popular the 'list' had to be closed! The trail finished at Sacred Heart church hall, with snacks and a very popular game of doughnut on a string! Many thanks to all those who helped.

A visit to Wydale Hall

For 24 hours from lunch on 30th September to lunch on the 1st October 5 of us from Hornsea URC found ourselves at Wydale Hall. The Hall is the retreat and conference centre for the diocese of York. We were there for an Elder's Development event looking at the Psalms. We were ably led by our Synod Moderator, Jamie. He helped us explore the Psalms using Walter Bruggeman's idea that they can be divided into Psalms of orientation, disorientation and reorientation. We had lots of conversations with others from around the synod exploring these ideas. We were asked to reflect in word and poetry, drawing and modelling. We had some lovely times of worship where modern settings of the Psalms and hymns based upon them helped us think more deeply about what those songs of the Jews meant then and can mean for us now. It was clear they have a lot to say to our present condition both as individuals and as a society.

We are finding in our Bible Book Club how just looking at a few of the Psalms has got us talking and thinking about our world and our part in the loving purposes of God.

The setting of Wydale Hall certainly helps in any reflection. There are amazing views all around and the grounds are stunning. I came away refreshed and renewed. I am reading a Psalm or part of a psalm every morning and I am finding it rewarding. I cannot say, having been away, I have any answers but I am thinking more about what those words mean for me. So, I am so grateful to all those who were there, to my friends from Hornsea who put up with me, to Jamie for leading so well and to the Yorkshire Synod for paying for it all.

Steven

A Lament;

This was used in our service on October 17th, and included here for those who missed it or wanted to look at it again:
- Steven writes

" I surrounded the Lament with quotations from the Psalms that were full of sorrow and sadness. I wanted that to be the context in which I wrote my reflection."

Once, Lord, you gave us Paradise:

And we knowing better rejected it,

And wondered why?

Once, Lord, we spoke with one voice:

And we knowing better chose our own words,

And wondered why?

Once, Lord, we lived in harmony; with creation; with one another; with you:

And we knowing better made our own sounds,

And wondered why?

So:

Once again Lord, you gave us the Promised Land:

And we knowing better developed it our own way,

And wondered why?

Once again Lord, you gave us the Law:

And we knowing better made our own rules,

And wondered why?

Once again Lord, you gave us judges and rulers to reign in peace:

And we knowing better fought for dominance and control,

And wondered why?

And so you came in Jesus to usher in your kingdom of justice and peace:

And we.....

Lord how I weep at the way we have treated your creation made with such love.

Lord how I weep at the way we have treated one another made with such love.

Lord how I weep at the way I have treated my life made with such love.

And I cry out!!

Save the world: Rescue the world: Enfold the world in your love.

Save us: Rescue us: Enfold us in your love.

Save me: Rescue me: Enfold me with your love.

And you look at me, and say to me....

I have and weep.

Post Pandemic and Pastoral Care?!

Discussions around the Pandemic and, the course of action to take, has defined a significant part of our elders meeting for some time. When is the right time to relax the compulsory wearing of face coverings; what about singing, social distance and socialising – when is the right and safe time to 'open up'?

All questions which are difficult to answer but one question which occupies quite a lot of the elder's time even before the pandemic was that of pastoral care within the church.

The elders are ordained by the church to carry out certain roles and responsibilities – there are 12 in all and No. 3 reads: - *to ensure pastoral care of the congregation, in which the Minister is joined by Elders having particular responsibility for groups of members;*

For years, this responsibility has not been fulfilled as we would like – even with full time ministry! Each elder has a list of around 12 people. Some elders work full-time; others carry important, time consuming, responsibilities essential for the life and worship of the church, and to be honest, pastoral care is not the natural gift of every elder.

BUT – the pandemic shone a light on what we always knew but never really acknowledged – and that is the strength of pastoral care within our church fellowship.

During the first lock-down' the elders took on the task of ringing every attender of the church and it soon became evident how many of the church members were doing just the same – there was in fact a spontaneous network of pastoral care taking place 'without being organised'.

At our elders meeting in October – pastoral care was one of the major topics on the agenda. The value and quality of pastoral care shown by the congregation during the pandemic, where small groups of three or four people took it upon themselves to 'look out for each other', seems to work so well and build deeper friendships at the same time.

We would like to explore this further as a way of ensuring the best pastoral care we can provide for everyone in the congregation – it will need time and prayer to move from, *a decades old way of operating*, to a, *closer knit, flexible mode*, where both new and old members can feel they belong and are valued. Some suggestions made already are small groups – either by friendship/interest/locality – groups connected to an elder (if extra prayer or help needed) – a way to monitor that no one is missed or excluded - a way to welcome in new members to the church

Pastoral care is not the only big question facing Hornsea URC and as, in the early days of Eldership lead ministry, we need to come together in the 'Church Chats' to work out the best way forward for us. We are looking to start these in the New Year but in the meantime could you think and pray about some of the suggestions above and share your thoughts with each other?

Many thanks.

Bible Book Club

In October we read the Psalms 42-52. We then met to chat and share what we had read and learned. It is great to hear other people's ideas and thoughts about what we read; none of us are 'experts' but we all have something to offer. We had so much to say that we didn't get very far! So, during November we will continue with the Psalms reading Psalms 46-54.

Join us if you can- our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 24th November at 2pm** in the church hall. If there is a demand, we will hold another book club that evening- do let us know if you would be interested.

Congratulations

Here is Amber Louise at her graduation ceremony on gaining a BSC in Applied Animal Behaviour and Training. Well done from us all!



The Spire

The spire was repaired and re-pointed during a very windy week in October. Thanks to all who donated, and to the August sales people particularly, to make this possible.





Annie's Eco Corner

No one can fail to be aware of the climate crisis that currently faces us and the planet. As I write, the COP26 summit has started today, where world leaders will come together to (hopefully!) agree on a worldwide plan to limit global warming and discuss the introduction of new, “green”, eco-friendly solutions to our energy and food production challenges, our travel and transport habits and our lifestyles, in order to minimise the effect they are having on the planet we call home.

I recently attended an “eco summit” arranged by Christ Church, Bridlington. There were many attendees, along with representatives of local businesses and organisations all trying to work to help reduce our waste, energy use and plastic. It happened to be the same weekend that the Pilots held their ‘creation’ service, and the combination of both events hit home with me and made me think about what we can do as individuals, the church, and even the town, to address the issue of how we are destroying the beautiful world that God gave us to care for.

I’m sure I’m not the only person who feels frustrated that what needs to happen is on a huge scale, and it is in the hands of politicians and world leaders whose motivations, priorities and loyalties are so often at odds with the plans needed to facilitate the necessary changes. We can feel “helpless”, wondering “What difference can I make in the grand scheme of things when so much needs to be done on such a vast scale?”

To quote zero-waste chef Anne-Marie Bonneau

“We don’t need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly,

We need millions of people doing it imperfectly”

We can’t each of us save the world on our own, but if we all do the best that we can, collectively we can make a difference, but we need to do it now-

The future of our planet and indeed all life on Earth depends on us”

Sir David Attenborough

Genesis 2 v15, tells us

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it”

We are the custodians of God’s wonderful, amazing creation and we are destroying it, and not slowly. With this in mind and having spoken with several of the Elders I’ve been asked to write for the church newsletter, giving some simple, easy ideas we can all use to “do our bit “for the benefit of the planet. Panic not, I’m not asking everyone to go vegan (but if you’d like more info....)!

This month's easy swaps to make...

Loose tea instead of tea bags

Did you know, most teabags use a plastic-based glue to stick the edges of the bags? This plastic is not biodegradable, so doesn't break down in the environment. Using loose tea doesn't cause a problem, and you can put the used leaves in your food waste/compost bin, plus I think it tastes much better when the loose leaves are left to mash/brew/stew (depending which part of the country you hail from) in a teapot too. Loose tea is available in supermarkets, and is also available via Fairtrade and at the Leafy Seadragon Refill shop down Newbegin

Soap bars/liquid soap refill

Do we really need to use lots of plastic bottles of hand wash/liquid soap? Yes, you can recycle them, but even better is not to use them in the first place, or else refill them. Good old-fashioned bars of soap, especially if wrapped in paper, avoids the plastic, but if you like liquid soap, refill the bottle instead. Soap/handwash refills are again available at the Leafy Seadragon, along with 'naked' soap bars in no wrapping at all. If you don't like soap bars because they go soft and mushy, try a coconut fibre soap stand/dish (non plastic of course) to allow it to dry out between uses. This can then also be composted when it's worn.

I look forward to giving more tips next time, plus updates of what else we as a church might have planned. If anyone is interested in being part of an eco-group, please have a word with Margaret, Jean, Carol or myself.

Thank you for reading, God Bless

Ann

Coming up in November

Remembrance Sunday November 14th

Following a service in St Nicholas church, which will be mainly 'invite only' due to Covid restrictions, there will be a laying of wreaths in Memorial Gardens at 11am. This will be followed by a short Remembrance service including Holy Communion in our church, to which all will be invited. (We are not able to offer drinks beforehand as in previous years due to Covid restrictions), and the service will NOT be on Zoom.

Lights night Nov 26th

The church will be open on Lights night and decorated, with music playing and notices/invites to our Christmas events on the screens. Complimentary hot drinks will be given out.

Home Communion

Is available for anyone who is unable to attend the building. Please put any requests to the Elders.

Christians Together in Hornsea

A joint meeting of representatives from all the churches in Hornsea proposed a series of prayer meetings to pray specifically for our town and the people in it. During November there will be two meetings-

November 3rd at 2pm in the URC

November 17th at 7.30pm in the Methodist church.

You are most welcome at either or both.

Christmas planning



Stockings for the homeless

Please buy a warm pair of socks, put one inside the other and fill the sock with packets of sweets, biscuits, gloves, chocolate and packet soups or anything you think would be a treat or warming. Kathy will collect up all the socks and ensure that they get to recipients for Christmas Day.

They were very much appreciated last time we did this and we need about 50 socks of which about a dozen are for women.

Shoeboxes

We are preparing shoeboxes as in previous years to send out through Samaritans Purse. Items to go in the shoeboxes and donations towards the cost of sending boxes would be welcomed. Please see Kathy or Mandy for more details. Our Shoebox service is on Nov 21st.

Messy church 12th December

This is part of the Christians Together in Hornsea four Sunday afternoon services, running during Advent and taking place in the different churches around Hornsea. Our church is hosting this first one on 12th December in the afternoon, which will be a 'messy church' style service involving a Bible story, crafts and food. Please let Margaret know if you are able to help. You are encouraged to support this new venture by attending the services in the other churches too. More details next month