

## **Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter August 2023**



### **Strange goings on at the URC!**

You may soon think the building is closed – but things are not as they seem .....

Work will begin on the 24<sup>th</sup> July, blocking the access to the front of the church, while a ramp is installed, the entrance extended, and central doors fitted – all of which will make getting into the building much easier.

The work is expected to take several months, and during this time the church hall remains open for worship on Sundays\* and regular weekly events.

### **Worship services-**

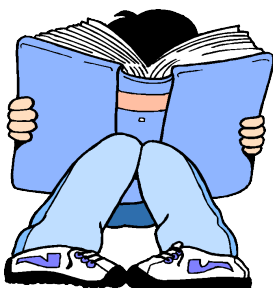
**\*In August we are planning 'Alternative Worship'** – weather permitting (*if wet we will be in the church hall*) – gather about 10.15 for a 10.30 start

- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August – The Community Wood, Rolston HU18 1XH
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August – Elim Gardens, Esplanade, Hornsea HU18 1NB
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August – Hornsea Mere, just beyond the boathouse and café.
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August – Songs of Praise – Memorial Gardens HU18 1PG

More information on our Facebook Page - Hornsea United Reformed Church

Please come along and join in – you will be most welcome- full details later in this Newsletter, for you to cut out and keep.

### **Read on:**



What a busy July we had preparing (for the builders), partying, training, praying, worshipping; read all about it here! Plus, a look ahead to August and beyond.

## Last month we were-

### Attending General Assembly

Steven and Margaret write-

Without doubt, General Assembly, which is the ultimate body in the church for taking decisions in the URC was busy over the 4 days that Margaret and I were there as representatives of the Yorkshire Synod. There were some important matters regarding our continuing journey to be an anti-racist church and some preparatory work on how to develop the vital work with children and young people. Last year the General Assembly agreed to set up a working party entitled the church life review. This has looked at all the aspects of the life of the URC which is now 51 years old. There were many recommendations from this review for us to consider. There is a lot more work to make the vision into a reality but the emphasis is always to be on supporting the life and mission of the local church. The review group commissioned a report from the Christian 'think tank' Theos. There are copies for people to read if they wish. For both of us the best part is meeting other people from the URC in Great Britain but also from all over the world. Some did join us via zoom but 6 overseas visitors were there in person for the whole assembly. The worship is always inspiring and the reflections by a visiting speaker, challenging. Please do ask either of us if you want to know more.

### Enjoying Quiet day

On the 15<sup>th</sup> July 15 people, from three Hornsea churches, gathered at the Eastgate Convent for a Quiet Day based on the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm.

It was a beautiful day of worship, space and time with God and fellowship - much appreciated by all.

There were various reflections and activities to choose from - one being psalm 23 itself – these are just two re-phrasings of the psalm .... You may like to have a go at writing your own – we would love to print some in the next Newsletter.

### **Psalm 23–Mummy Holds my Hand**

*The only way to paraphrase such a familiar psalm is to take a totally different metaphor that still conveys the wonderful sense of trust of the original. One image that came to me was a small child walking down the street holding its mother's hand.*

1. God is like my Mummy.

**My Mummy holds my hand;**

I'm not afraid.

**2. She takes me to school in the mornings;**

she lets me play in the playgrounds and the parks;

**3. she makes me feel good.**

She shows me how to cross the streets, because she loves me.

4. Even when we walk among the crowds and the cars,

**I am not afraid.**

If I can reach her hand or her coat, I know she's with me,

**And I'm all right.**

5. When I fall down and I'm all covered with mud

and I come home crying, she picks me up in her arms.  
**She wipes my hands and dries my tears, and I have to cry again, because she loves me so much.**

6. How can anything go wrong with that kind of Mummy near me?

**I want to live all my life with Mummy,  
in my Mummy's home for ever and ever.**

*Taylor, James. Everyday Psalms. Wood Lake Publishing*

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### **Psalm 23—Looking Back on a Full Life**

*During a memorial service, John Smith suggested that Psalm 23 could have been written by an older person, reflecting on a long and full life. The first line of verse 6 is adapted from "A New Creed" of the United Church of Canada.*

1. God has walked with me; I could ask nothing more.

**2. God has given me green meadows to laugh in,  
clear streams to think beside, untrodden paths to explore.**

3. When I thought the world rested on my shoulders,  
God put things into perspective.

**When I lashed out at an unfair world, God calmed me down.**

When I drifted into harmful ways, God straightened me out.

**God was with me all the way.**

4. I do not know what lies ahead, but I am not afraid.

**I know you will be with me.**

Even in death, I will not despair.

**You will comfort and support me.**

5. Though my eye dims and my mind dulls,

**you will continue to care about me.**

Your touch will soothe the tension in my temples;

**my fears will fade away.**

I am content.

**6. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with me.**

All through life, I have found goodness in people.

**When life ends, I expect to be gathered  
into the ultimate goodness of God.**

*Taylor, James. Everyday Psalms. Wood Lake Publishing*

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Our grateful thanks go to Margaret Preece and Margaret Knapton for leading us in the Quiet day, and for the sisters for making us welcome in their home.

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### **Attending a Worship leaders conference**

Kath Lonsdale writes-  
Everyone agreed that the venue, the group gathered and Meg's sessions came together to make an excellent weekend. Open conversations, the feeling of a safe space, being part of the wider URC family, being with old

and making new friends made for a good balance to the time together.

### **Psalm XXX**

LORD, you are Wisdom, and Love, and Peace.  
You are local, global, and universal.  
There is nothing you do not know.  
There is nothing you cannot do.

So why, O why- do you allow countries to oppress other countries?  
Why, O why- do you allow adults to abuse and groom children?  
Why, O why- do you allow poverty to thrive?

I'm sick and tired of BBC News articles  
Showing bombed-out homes,  
And hearing stories of victims of modern slavery,  
And seeing snotty-nosed kids with swollen bellies and stick thin arms.

In time, I will die and come to see you face to face.  
I will be in glory with you  
While on earth these dreadful things will continue.  
Must we wait until hell freezes over before we see change?

But I suppose I've answered my own question:  
Yes, it will go on until WE make the change,  
And that change will start when all the world falls on its knees  
In prayer and praise before you.

For you are Lord, are Wisdom, and Love, and Peace.  
You are local, global, and universal.  
There is nothing you do not know.  
There is nothing you cannot do. Amen.

*Margaret G Preece's 'homework' after listening to Dr Meg Warner talking about Reading and Preaching through the lens of Trauma*

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## **Praying for Kathy**

Kathy writes-

I hope it is not too late to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes. I really have felt that everyone is behind me. The doctors have mentioned today about sending me home. Which is quite a turnaround from previous comments. I will do my best to keep up with you all and maybe get to some services in August. Look forward to seeing you all  
Love Kathy

## **Celebrating with Allan**



Allan writes-

Dear all,

In the third year of His ministry, Jesus fed 5,000 people who flocked to see and hear him (or 'harken to his voice' as they would have you say), without the aid of a microphone. In 1971 the Shah of Persia flew in 18 tons of food for a party to celebrate the 2500 years of Persia's existence after Cyrus the Great. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2023, these were overshadowed by the sheer hard work of the organisers, and the dogged spirit of you the guests, not to be daunted by a 'spot or two' of rain, to give me the party of a lifetime. Both

Margot and myself were really overcome by your greetings (cards and pressies- you shouldn't have but thanks) -may we now say thank you to each and everyone there in person and in spirit.

Quid De Proximo Anno

Peace and happiness to you all  
Margot and me.

## **A Note from Lynn**

Dear Friends, on behalf of Yuliya and Bohdan, my Ukrainian guests, and myself a huge thank you to everyone who supported us as they recently moved to a 2-bed flat of their own in Hornsea.

They hope in time to write thank you notes but it's going to take some time not least because so many helped them in one way or another.

So please accept this thank you in the meantime and, if you feel moved, do continue to pray for them as they settle in their new place, for Bohdan as he moves to secondary school in September, and that Yuliya may find regular local work.

Lynn (Hellmuth)



## **Checking and revising Policies and procedures**

As any organisation we have policies and procedures that govern the way we operate as a church (e.g., Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Data Protection, Equal Opportunities, Lone Working and more). It is the responsibility of the Elders to keep these up to date and revise them if necessary, and we have been doing that over the past couple of months. They are all available to read on our website- [www.hornseaurc.org](http://www.hornseaurc.org).

Here is a short extract from the Equal Opportunities policy so that you can see what they look like-

Hornsea U.R.C believes that this church is only whole when it includes everyone. There may be barriers, visible or invisible, of which we are not aware and so we will address this by putting in place the following measures: -

## **Equality of Opportunity**

In line with U.R.C. policy, this is how we will ensure equality of opportunity to minister within the church:

**Membership-** it is the responsibility of **the Elders** to invite people to consider membership, and the responsibility of **church members** to consider and pray for those wanting to join.

**Eldership-** when it is felt that we need more serving Elders, the whole church membership will be asked to prayerfully consider who could be being called. Anyone suggested will be asked if they wish to be considered. If necessary, the names will then be taken to the church members for a 'vote'. This process will be made open and clear to all via church meeting and the newsletter. However, the decision will be made **by the Elders** according to 'what seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us'

**Our life together-** Regular Church meetings and Church chats take place throughout the year to hear the voices of all attending Hornsea U.R.C. these will be advertised in the Newsletter and announced in worship services.

(A 'glimpse' of another policy coming next month)

## **This month at the U.R.C we will be: -**

### **Having a cuppa**

With most regular groups having a break during August why not call in on Thursday mornings for coffee and a chat?



### **Giving the 'tech team' a break**

Steve seal writes-

From a tech perspective we don't have the same tech available in the church hall so this will affect our ability to stream and record the services as follows:

23rd and 30th July - **these services will not be streamed or recorded**

6th, 13th, 20th and 27th August - we are running our "Alternative August" services during August - **These services will not be streamed or recorded**

From September onwards - Sunday worship will remain in the hall until the building work has been completed. **We are hoping from September to be able to start streaming and recording the services and making them available on YouTube.**

We will send an update out on this in the coming weeks. You can still access all our recorded services up to and including the 16th July 2023 via our YouTube channel - just search Hornsea URC on YouTube

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch

## **Camping!**

### FRONTIER CAMPS

## **Camp Week – 5<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

Camp Pack up 12<sup>TH</sup> AND 13<sup>TH</sup>

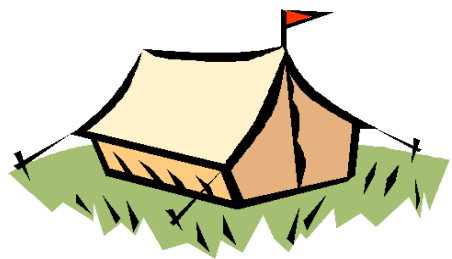
We write this with the request and hope that you would support us in prayer for Frontier Camps through the week of camp. We believe it is a real privilege to spend time with over 85 young people and to share what Christ has done for each of us and for each camper. It is also our privilege to have you pray with us as your prayers are a foundational and core element of camp. Without prayer camp cannot succeed. So, we are hugely thankful for your contribution. Camp can be of eternal importance in the lives of the young people who come away for a week of fun, excitement and action, and to hear the good news of Jesus' story. For the staff it is an exhausting but refreshing week!

Our aim is twofold: -

Telling Jesus' story

Providing a great holiday

**At time of writing, we are pleased to be taking 9 people from Hornsea URC this year - a mix of staff and campers. Hopefully they will find the experience fulfilling and exciting.**



### **Who to pray for and give thanks for?**

- 30 young campers aged 9 – 14. Praise God that we have many campers from all sorts of backgrounds – for quite a number this will be their only holiday of the year.
- 'The Crew' – 12 young people aged 16 to 19 ish whose duties are serving food, helping with activities, peeling tons of spuds, serving meals and many other things. Camp is an opportunity for them to grow in their often young faith, and to grow in service. This is active discipleship. For some of the Crew this is their only contact with Christian community. Please pray for the Crew Leaders.
- Tent Leaders – a crucial role spending most of their week with the campers. Their witness and love is really important. It is an exhausting and immeasurably important job.
- Leaders who will be teaching, nurturing and encouraging the campers and staff.

Thank you again for joining with us in prayer. You are a key partner on the journey through which God will change the lives of young people of this generation and they in turn will influence others. God bless.

website at [www.frontiercamps.com](http://www.frontiercamps.com).

## **Looking ahead to the Autumn**

It is our custom to have a 'back to school' service in September, as the young people take up their lessons again. The Elders would like to know if there is something the adults would like to learn? This could be practical things e.g. How to use the microphones in church, how to

operate the dishwasher/coffee machine etc; it could be you would like a short course on faith/belief/ starting a Christian journey. Do have a think and let us know, it would be good to learn together. Every day is a school day, as they say.

### **Looking ahead to Christmas!!!**

How should we celebrate together? What will our Nativity services look like? If you have ideas/would like to be involved, we will be planning soon and your input is valued, please speak to Steve Seal.

### **Carrying on praying**

Requests for prayer are written in our prayer book each Sunday and then sent by e mail around a group of people who faithfully pray through the week for those mentioned. If you would like to be included in this group- the prayer network- please let Jean have your e mail address.

## *Eco Church Corner*



*Hello Everyone,*

*As we move forward with the planned building work, we will be holding services in the church hall, with Alternative August services held outside in different open spaces- a wonderful way to celebrate the beauty of God's world.*

*The group have been discussing ideas to move our church forward on our Eco- church journey, and one thing we have talked about is 'twinning'. You may have noticed that there is a poster on the wall in the hall saying we have twinned a toilet. We donated a sum of money to allow a community in a poor country to be able to have a toilet. Can you imagine what it would be like not to have the use of a toilet? We are so fortunate to have use of this facility, yet we take it for granted. The poorest countries consider a toilet a luxury, so we have decided that as we have two toilets in our church, we would like the church to twin with both, not just one. For this reason, there will be a collection box in the hall, and later in the church once we move back, for donations towards this. We need to raise £60, and if successful we could look at twinning a fridge, a bin and eventually the garden!*

*In September we are having an Eco-church focused service, and then in preparation for Christmas we are hoping to hold some **workshops** and groups to look at ideas for having a more eco conscious, 'green' Christmas; so, watch out for the next couple of Newsletters for more information.*

*Blessings to all,*

*Ann*



## **About the U.R.C.**

The URC is a family of Christians who meet in local churches across England, Scotland and Wales, part of the worldwide family of Reformed Churches, a group of more than 70 million Christians.

The URC has around 40,000 members in about 1,300 congregations, with more than 600 ministers. More than 60,000 people worship in our churches each week, and many more take part in the weekday activities of the churches.

## **What we believe**

God loves you. And as Christians, we do too.

Regardless of who you are, your background, your family, your past, your present or future, we are in this church because we believe that God is alive and listening to us through prayer, guiding and speaking to us through the Bible, forgiving us for what we have done wrong, and waiting for us in Heaven after we pass away.

A lack of hierarchy, and a respect for individual principles, means that the URC is not rigid in the expression of its beliefs, and embraces a wide variety of opinions.

## **You are welcome here**

We are proud to be an intercultural Church, where people with varied ethnic and cultural roots meet, worship, discuss and learn from one another. We were pioneers in ordaining women- our first female minister was ordained more than 100 years ago in 1917.

Most jobs and roles in the URC, whether voluntary or paid, are open to all.

## **Our roots**

Being reformed sets us in a stream of tradition that goes back 500 years. In 1517, Martin Luther launched a movement of challenge in the Church that we call the Protestant Reformation. Being reformed means that we delight in exploring the Bible, we do not fear change, and we try to run our churches in ways that take everyone's insight and contribution seriously.

## **The history of the URC**

The creation of the United Reformed Church in 1972 formally merged the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church in England and Wales. One Member of Parliament at the time described this merger as "one of the most historic measures in the history of the Christian churches in this country".

The denomination expanded when Churches of Christ joined it in 1981, followed by Scottish Congregationalists in 2000.

The URC is committed to working closely with churches of all traditions, in prayer and social action, and many of our local churches are now united with local churches from other traditions (Baptist, Church of England, or Methodist to name a few).

## **Becoming a member**

People often ask whether they need to 'join' their church and become a member. This is not essential but, for those who decide to take this step, it can deepen their sense of belonging and it entitles a person to share in decisions about the life and future of the local church.

The URC encourages regular attendees to consider church membership when they start to think of a particular place of worship as 'their church'. If you would like to know more about becoming a member, please speak to an Elder- they will be delighted to answer any questions. [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

# Services on Safari

6th



## [The Community Wood, Rolston](#) HU18 1XH

Hornsea Community Woodland Walk has benches/seats every 400 metres for resting and watching - come see what nature can do for you as we worship God in His creation. You may even want to go on the circular walk of 3 kilometres through 16 acres of different age Woodlands with Ponds and Picnic Areas.



13th



## [Elim Gardens](#), Esplanade, Hornsea HU18 1NB

Worshiping God in His creation a little closer to home this week.

Easy access – park along Esplanade -  
Bring a chair if you would like

20th



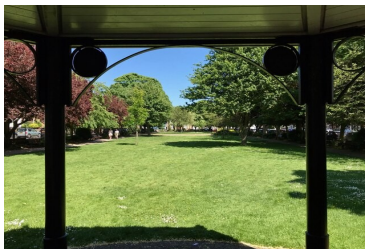
## [Hornsea Mere](#), HU18 1AX - just beyond the boathouse and café.

Worshiping God in His creation with an exhilarating view this week.

You might want to buy a coffee and share in fellowship after worship.



27th



## [Songs of Praise](#) – Memorial Gardens HU18 1PG

A fabulous place to gather and sing our praises as we worship God in His creation.

Church lunch afterward.

We will gather from around 10.15am with the aim of starting worship at 10.30am.

Services are outdoor so come appropriately dressed.

If wet they will be held in the HALL at the United Reformed Church, New Road,  
Hornsea HU18 1PG

[We look forward to welcoming you.](#)