

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



### **Psalm 65 v9-11**

*You take care of the earth and water it, making it rich and fertile.*

*The river of God has plenty of water; it provides a bountiful harvest of grain,  
for you have ordered it so.*

*You drench the ploughed ground with rain, melting the clods and levelling the ridges.*

*You soften the earth with showers and bless its abundant crops.*

*You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.*

Creationtide, Creation Time or the Season of Creation is the name given to the period from 1 September to 4 October each year. During this time, churches are encouraged to have a focus on creation, with all the joys and responsibilities that being part of God's creation brings to us.

### **Worship services-**

All services to be held in the Church Hall this month, and all are welcome-

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Back to School service and baptism
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Giving Service, including Holy Communion
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Celebration
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Eco church service

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

In September our worship is centred around appreciating all that we have been given, and celebrating Harvest. We also look forward to learning new things, and meeting with others in Hornsea to pray together as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as well as all our usual events. Details in this newsletter.

Last month we were-

## *On Safari*

Worship in August, for Hornsea URC, has become 'alternative'. So, what does that mean and why?

August is a time when some people go away on holiday, others 'unhook' from their usual routines and patterns of work to have a change. It is the same in many places of worship too, when the 'usual' providers of worship are not available or are in need of a well earned rest. So what better opportunity to do something different!

This year we went 'On Safari', getting closer to God's created world, as we thought about the elements of Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water and concluding with Songs of Praise – worshipping in outdoor spaces, which for me was amazing ..... *We would love to hear what you felt about it too.*

You could say that God smiled on us too with the first week at Rolston Wood - where John and his grandson prepared their barn for us, as heavy rain was forecast, and then shared in the service of praise for God's Wonderful World. And yes the sun did shine ....



Those unable to access Rolston Wood had a wonderful time, back at church, following the service on video – thanks to Margaret and Alan videoing it in advance and Jackie doing the techy bit.

Week two was in Elim Gardens – thinking about Wind and Fire – and was a beautiful sunny day with a lively breeze suiting the message perfectly – Praise God!





Week three took us to the Mere where we considered the element of Water and what it would be like for the disciples out on the lake in the middle of a storm ...

We also had time to wonder and wander (and have a cup of tea and cake too).



Week four was a wonderful gathering in the Memorial Gardens where we joined together in Songs of Praise through the journey of Jesus life, death and resurrection.



As mentioned earlier, we would love to hear your thoughts - what were the highlights for you, things that could be better etc. and your thoughts for August 2024. No doubt these will be a topic of conversation at the Church Chat – but why wait till then – any excuse for a reminisce!

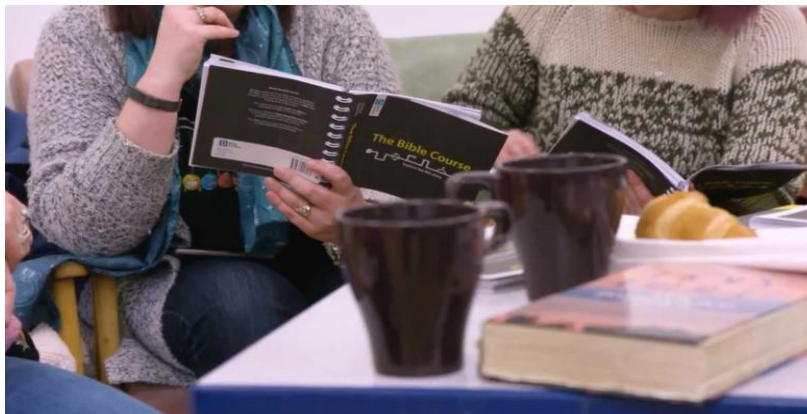


## This month at the U.R.C we will be: -

### Looking ahead to the Autumn

The Elders would like to know if there is something you 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. Here are some ideas: -

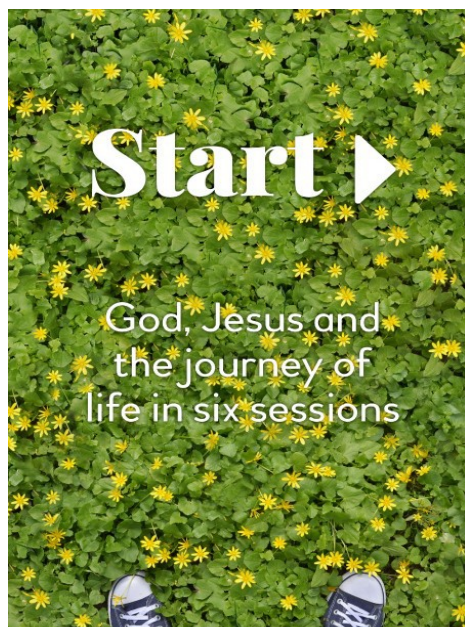
### **The Bible Course**



An eight-session course helping you explore the BIG story.

Big, complex, old ... just some of the words people use to describe the Bible. Sound familiar? That's where *The Bible Course* comes in. The course will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. The course provides a birds-eye view of the world's bestselling book. Over eight interactive sessions, it combines video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings.

You may like to do this with a friend or two in your own home or with others at church.



### **For those new to the Christian Faith**

Start! introduces Christianity through six DVD based interactive, small-group sessions. The Start! course makes no assumptions about participants' background or experience or knowledge of Christianity or the church. It really does start from scratch.

The down-to-earth interactive approach of Start! has proved a winner throughout the UK and overseas - and in every kind of setting: rural, urban and suburban churches, schools, the armed forces, prisons.

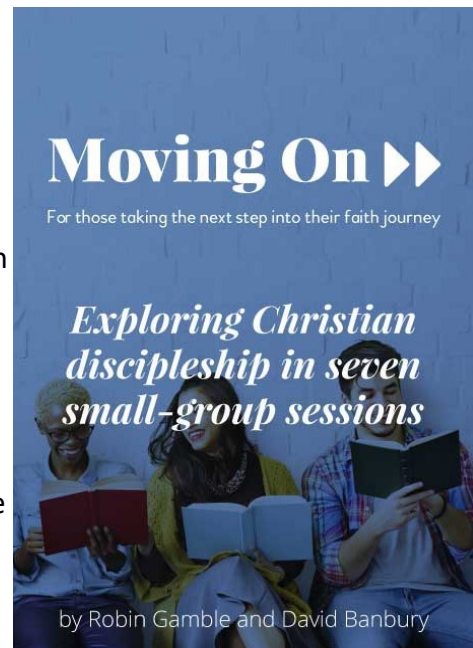


### **For those taking the next step into their faith journey**

Moving On! is a seven-session sequel to the Start! course. With a similar down-to-earth approach, the course helps people explore Christian discipleship in a relaxed, small-group setting.

Moving On! is for anyone who wants to explore what it means to be a Christian disciple today.

Quite simply, Moving On! is perfect for people who want to grow in their relationship with God, going deeper in to prayer and the Bible. In fact, it's for anyone who just wants to move on.



If you are interested in, or would like to know more about, these courses have a word with Jean, Carol or Margaret who will be happy to discuss the options.

These are by no means the only 'study' materials available – so 'watch this space' or have a chat with an elder....

Not all 'learning opportunities' need to be a course or programme of study – here are a few that you may like to try ..... You would be VERY WELCOME at ALL OF THEM

### **Bible Book Club** – meets monthly in the afternoon and evening.

We get together and talk about what we thought of a book, what we liked/didn't like, and what we learnt from it- just like a regular book club. You can come regularly or occasionally; it is very informal.

Our Bible book club restarts, always on the last Wednesday of the month, so in September it will be on **Wed. 27th September at 2pm and 7pm**. For September we are reading the book of **Titus**.

### **Faith and Fellowship** – meets on Tuesday's at 2.00pm

We are a small, self lead-group who meet to talk about many and varied things in the light of the teachings of the Bible. It is very informal and topics are chosen by the group. It is a wonderful mix of fellowship and faith where all can contribute and journey together.

### **Saturday Chat** – meets on Saturday mornings at 10.00 am

Again, this is a small group who meet, initially, to discuss the previous Sunday's service – what they may have learnt; what has stayed with them during the week/influenced their thoughts; things that may challenge or give momentum to find out more etc. etc.

Conversations morphs into things that are happening in the wider church and from this meeting several seeds have been sown that grow into wider conversations about the mission, provision and direction of the church – useful ideas to bring to the Church Chat and Church Meeting.



## **Looking ahead to October**

As in past years we plan to offer, in conjunction with other Hornsea churches, an alternative to Halloween 'trick or treating'. We have done pumpkin trails and parties in the past. There will be a meeting in our hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 a.m. for those who would like to be involved. If you can't make the meeting please chat to Margaret Knapton about this.

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

How should we celebrate together? What will our Nativity services look like? If you have ideas and would like to be involved, we will be planning on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7p.m** in the hall. Your input is valued, in the planning, as well as for the actual Nativity. Welcomers and 'behind the scenes' people are required as well as 'performers'- it is a real team effort. There is a rumour that the puppets may come out of retirement!

## **Eco Church**

Do join us on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September to plan an eco-church service for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September. We will meet in the hall at 7.30 p.m.

## **Pilots**

Pilots meetings restart this month; please pray for our young people as they gather together again to enjoy being with their friends and learning about Jesus. Please remember the leaders as we plan the Autumn programme, and seek more leaders to expand the team.

## **Policies and procedures-**

Last month we looked at our church Equal Opportunity Policy and this month here is a note about our Safeguarding Policy-

### **SAFEGUARDING**

I have been asked to say a few words about Safeguarding and how it impacts on our Church life.

Until the late 1980's and early 1990's the term 'Safeguarding' in the context in which we now think of it, was unused. The Children Act 1989 established the framework for the current Child Protection System in England and Wales. Over the past 30 years or so further policy and reforms have created our current Safeguarding Legislation. Sadly, amendments and reforms have often come about as a result of exposure of abuse or death.

What is Safeguarding?

*-Safeguarding means protecting a citizen's health, wellbeing and human rights; enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.*

Isn't it just about making sure children are protected?

*-No, Safeguarding involves protecting all children, young people and adults at risk. Anyone might at some time become vulnerable/at risk due to physical or psychological illness or loss of mental capacity.*



But abuse is rare and not something I'm likely to encounter?

*-Abuse can take many forms, not just Physical or Sexual. It can include Domestic Violence or Abuse, Psychological or Emotional Abuse, Financial or Material Abuse, Slavery, Discriminatory Abuse, Organisational or Institutional Abuse and Neglect including Self-neglect.*

Isn't it just something that Elders and Church Leaders need to be bothered about?

*-Everyone should be mindful as to the possibility of a Safeguarding issue. Unless we all have it on our radar, we might assume that someone else has raised a concern and it might be overlooked. Since voluntary organisations are dependent on goodwill, they are particularly at risk and indeed can be targeted by those whose intentions are not good.*

So, if I have a Safeguarding concern what should I do?

*-If you have a concern that a child or an adult is in immediate danger, contact the Police by calling 999.*

*In non-urgent situations:*

*-If you have concerns relating to a Safeguarding issue at Church or just want speak to one of the Safeguarding Officers at Church we are - Julia Clifton and Ilona Williams.*

*-For Safeguarding concerns elsewhere contact East Riding Safeguarding **Children** Partnership 01482 395500 (Mon-Thurs 8.30-5 and Frid 8.30-4.30) or 01482 393939 (out of hours duty team). East Riding Safeguarding **Adults** Board 01482 396940 (Mon-Thurs 9-5 and Frid 9-4.30) or 01377 241273 (out of hours).*

Where can I get more information and possibly training?

*The URC has Safeguarding information on our local Synod website at <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/safeguarding>. Here you can access the booklet Good Practice 5, which details the latest policy and good practice which we follow at Hornsea URC.*

*A link to Foundation Training as an e-learning module and information about other upcoming local training (Safeguarding Intermediate Level dates in September) can also be found here.*

*There is further information on the URC website <https://urc.org.uk/safeguarding> where other guidance and links to National Training dates can be found.*

Julia Clifton



## Be-Longing:

### Praying for Unity amidst Injustice

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY,

SEP 17<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup>

**Week of Prayer  
for  
Christian Unity**

This is a national initiative which takes place every year, usually in January, but being different we have ours in September in Hornsea!

We are **all** invited to join these short (Approx 30 min.) gatherings with other Christians in Hornsea at the following venues. **All start at 9a.m.**



#### VENUE

MON 18 <sup>TH</sup>	Roman Catholic Church
TUES 19 <sup>TH</sup>	United Reformed Church
WED 20 <sup>TH</sup>	Methodist Church
THURS 21 <sup>ST</sup>	St. Nicholas church
FRI 22 <sup>ND</sup>	St. Nicholas church
SAT 23 <sup>RD</sup>	United Reformed Church



## Prayer Focus - September

**For the Young People in  
Pilots and Junior Church  
for**

**New leaders and helpers  
to enrich the team**