

## Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter November 2023



### Worship services-

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

- 5th November Bible Sunday, followed by coffee and cake
- 12th November Remembrance Service including Communion - **10am** start
- 19th November Celebration of giving, including Shoebox Sunday (potentially in the church)
- 26th November Taking Stock - as we begin a new church year

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

We remember those who have served in past conflicts, and all those caught up in present day wars. As decided at our recent church meeting, our Remembrance service will start at **10a.m.** to enable those who want to join the gathering in Memorial gardens (just before 11 a.m.) to do so.

As the church year draws to a close, we give thanks for all we have been given, and remember those in need through our Shoebox appeal.

We celebrate a baptism and bringing new people into membership this month and we hope to celebrate a return into the main church space on 19<sup>th</sup> of this month. (The Christmas Fairs mentioned in the last Newsletter, due to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of this month, will not now happen)

Details in this Newsletter.

**We remember** the sacrifice of many-



Eternal God,  
As we are overshadowed once again by war,  
We lift up before you  
The innocents and vulnerable,  
The victims of violence and cruelty,  
Along with all who continue to sow the seeds of hate.  
In the fog of war  
Where truth is the first victim,  
May your light, which cannot be overwhelmed,  
expose the truth.  
Grant to world leaders and all in positions of power today  
Not only the wisdom  
But also the courage  
To do what is right in your sight.  
Grant all who turn to you  
your strength and fortitude,  
Your inner peace,  
Along with a continuing faith in your sovereign power,  
In the face of military might.  
All this we pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, Our living Lord and Saviour  
**Amen.**

By the Revd Dave Herbert, Northern Synod Moderator

## Samaritan's purse Operation Christmas Child



[www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

Our grateful thanks to Mandy Hood and friends for organising the filling of shoeboxes for us, and all who have contributed. We will dedicate these during our service on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Mandy writes “thank you to everyone who helped in any way towards the Christmas shoebox appeal. 70 boxes were filled and £228 collected towards shipping”.

### **Thank you**

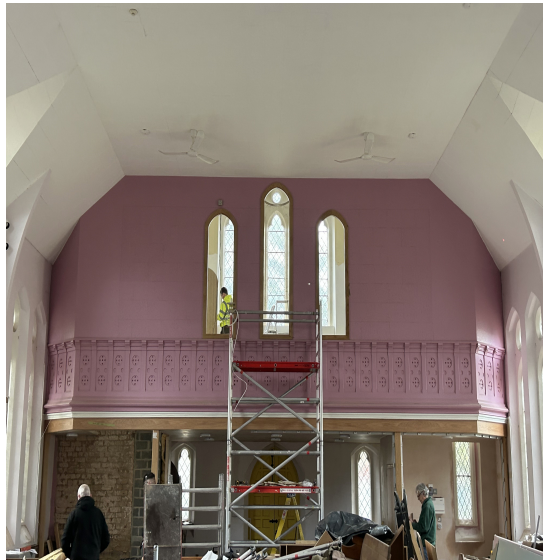
You may have noticed at the end of the services, our church contact details appear on screen, including our website address. Our grateful thanks go to Kristan Webb for looking after the church website for a lot of years. We are now looking for a team of people to take on the important job of updating and maintaining the website, with help from the Synod ‘ichurch’ team. Interest and enthusiasm will be required more than technical expertise. Please speak to an Elder if you are interested. Thank you.



## **Bible Course**

The Bible course has started but it is not too late if you would like to come along: - 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.

**The Building Work** continues and nears completion this month: -



**Looking towards the front door**



**view from the new upstairs windows**

As a result, we are asking for willing volunteers to make up a cleaning crew, to prepare for us using this space again. We have set aside Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11.15 a.m. and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 10 a.m. Please 'sign up' on the sheets in church or let Margaret know if you can help. Refreshments provided!

## **Quiet Day**

For those who like to spend a bit of time in a quiet space, we will be holding another Quiet Day on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, at the convent on Eastgate.

This will run from 10a.m. till 1 p.m., and there is the option to bring your lunch and share together till 2p.m.

There will be some scripture to look at and think about, and you are welcome to bring any craft of your own to do in the quiet. Thank you to the Sisters who always make us welcome into their home.

## **Bible Book Club**

Our Bible book club meeting is always on the last Wednesday of the month, so in November it will be on **Wed. 29th November at 2pm and 7pm.** For November we are reading the rest of 1 Samuel (chapters 9-31). We get together and talk about what we thought of the 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.

## November Dates for your Diary

And for prayer.

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Coffee morning from 10 a.m. Bible Course- session 2 at 12.30
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Course -session 2 at 10a.m.
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Service in the Hall, followed by coffee and cake 10.30
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Please pray for the Elders as they meet
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee morning from 10 a.m. Bible Course session 3 at 12.30
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Pilots meet 6 p.m.
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Course session 3 at 10 a.m. Church cleaning from 11.15
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance service in the Hall at <b>10 a.m.</b>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Church cleaning at 10 a.m.
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee morning from 10 a.m. Bible Course session 4 at 12.30
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pilots meet 6 p.m.
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Course session 4 at 10 a.m. <b>Quiet Day 10 a.m. at convent</b>
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Celebration Service including Baptism and Shoebox Sunday
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Christians together in Hornsea meeting 10 a.m. Parish Rooms
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Coffee morning from 10 a.m. Bible course session 5 at 12.30
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lights night- church open for visitors
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Course session 5 at 10 a.m.
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Taking stock service 10.30
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Book Club at 2pm and 7pm in Hall
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee morning from 10 a.m. Bible Course session 6 at 12.30

## **Toilet Twinning**

At the October Church Meeting it was agreed to 'twin our toilet' with one in Nepal. At the time of writing I cannot confirm just where this will be – but you may find the account of this lady interesting.



Her name is Ratna Khawas. She was born into the privilege and comforts of a high-caste Brahmin family in Nepal, life changed drastically when she got married to someone outside her social class, in 1968.

She and her new husband moved to his home village in Belbari, where there were no toilets or handwashing facilities.

“I got the shock of my life,” she said. “I had to go to the open field for defecation, as there were no toilets in the whole community.”

That shock set her on what became a lifelong quest to improve sanitation for her and her neighbours.

Everything about her new family was different — their habits, their cuisine, their culture. The adjustment was made even more difficult because her father-in-law refused to allow her to continue teaching. For him, a strong advocate of a patriarchal society, it was unimaginable for women in the community to step outside their household for any kind of income-generating work.

“I felt that my world had collapsed. I did not know what to do. I had nowhere to go, as the doors of my parents’ house were closed to me,” says Ratna, recalling the consequences of marrying outside her caste.

The most glaring challenge confronting Ratna in her new life was the complete absence of sanitation and hygiene facilities, which she knew were important for good health and personal dignity. Dharan, where she had lived as a girl, was a developing city where most of the houses had toilets. She recalls: “I tried to convince my husband to build a toilet in his house, but he refused to go against his family’s tradition.”

Ratna was frequently ridiculed by neighbours as an outsider and as someone “always talking about feces and urine.”

In 1975, after her father-in-law’s death, Ratna’s husband allowed his wife to participate in a women’s empowerment programme. After her training, she became a public health professional for the Belbari constituency, working for the family-planning division of the Ministry of Health.

“I saw that women there had no idea about malnourishment during pregnancy, or hygiene and sanitation.”

Over the next ten years, Ratna visited 250 households in the community, educating women about reproductive health, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, and other health topics.



At that time, sending girls to schools was seen as a waste of money because, when they were married, they would simply go to live in someone else’s house. Seeing that not a single girl in the village had been educated, Ratna convinced villagers to send their daughters to school.

Still, sanitation remained her top priority. Faced with opposition from her extended family, she was unable to build a toilet at home. In 1989, she rebelled and left the family home with her four children. They settled on a piece of land that was owned by her husband, where they built a latrine and then a home.

It wasn’t long before her husband joined her. Then her nephews started building toilets for their homes. Slowly, as they could afford it, other members of the community also began to install latrines, because they had learned that access to a toilet gave them a safe space to manage their sanitation needs. Life in Belbari now is a far cry from the situation Ratna found when she arrived in the village over half a century ago. Today, with Ratna’s help and inspiration, nearly all of Belbari’s 250 households have toilets. “My only wish now is to build toilets for the seven remaining households,” says Ratna.