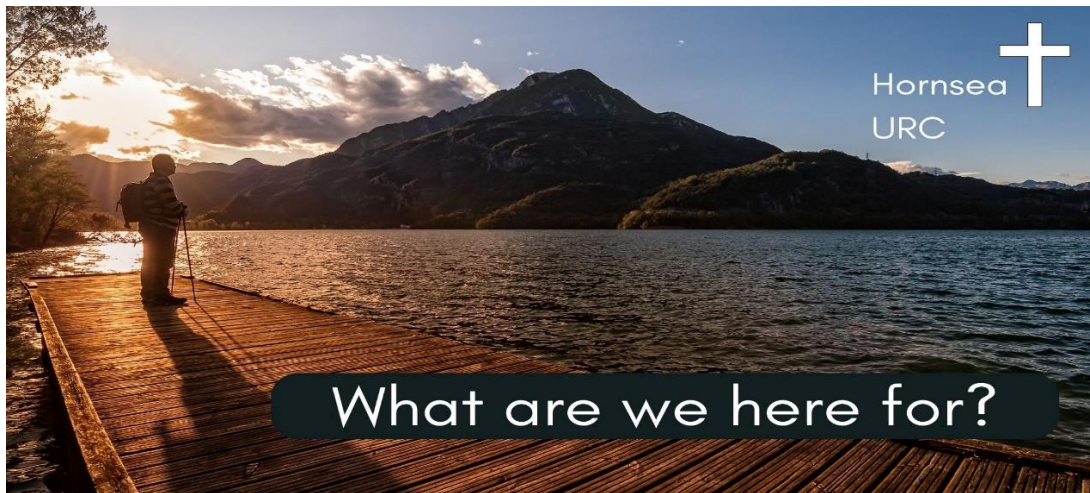


## Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter January 2024



Steve introduces our new worship series for January: -

### What are we here for?

One of the big questions we have to ask ourselves as Christians, as churches, and as individuals is what are we here for?

Being a Christian can mean lots of things but it is more than just going to church on Sunday. And our churches exist for more than just having nice buildings and a service each week. Christians believe that the world is not working the way God intended, something has gone wrong. We also believe that God has been acting all through history to make the world right again. The turning point was when Jesus became human and made God's kingdom real.

Jesus offered the people he met new lives through forgiveness and healing, and he still does today. We can see around us that the new world (God's Kingdom) isn't completely here yet. God's mission in the world is still going on. It is part of our lives as Christians and as churches, to join in with that mission too. That can feel like a huge responsibility, but we remember that it is God's mission, and we try to do our part.

What does this look like in practice?

During this series, we will be using the image of 'five threads' to describe our part in God's mission for us today as we explore this together.



### Worship services-

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Sunday January 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Joining in God's mission (including Holy Communion) |
| Sunday January 14 <sup>th</sup> | Sharing our stories                                 |
| Sunday January 21 <sup>st</sup> | Building justice and peace                          |
| Sunday January 28 <sup>th</sup> | Partnering with other Christians                    |

Our services are 'live streamed' so that you can join us from home, and if you miss any of the services you can find them on our dedicated YouTube channel - just search Hornsea URC on YouTube to find us.

## **Regular events**

Every Tuesday 2p.m. Faith and Fellowship in the Hall (restarts on January 9<sup>th</sup>)

Every Thursday 9.30- 1pm Coffee/warm space

Every Friday 6pm Pilots in term time

Every Saturday 10 am Christianity Explored group in the Hall (restarts on January 6<sup>th</sup>)

## **Bible Book Club**

Our Bible book club continues, always on the last Wednesday of the month, so in January it will be on **Wed. 31st January at 2pm and 7pm**. Throughout January we will be reading Matthew's gospel.

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.

## **Church website**

Happy New Year!

2024 comes around and, all of a sudden, festive shop windows and snowy displays change to advertising a whole range of different January sale offers. In the last year, our church 'shop window' has also had a considerable overhaul - instead of buy-one-get-one-free banners, we are now better showing off our particular approach to worship, fellowship and who we are. In becoming much more street-facing, we are working to make our 'products' much more accessible to our congregation and visible to the wider community - people can now see what we have on offer.

### **Question 1: What are the most important things we need to have on display?**

A lot of thought, prayers and hard work has gone into the ongoing building work. The same now needs to be done with the church's website - the online equivalent to our physical presence within the community. As a congregation, we need to consider how our 'products' can be made more accessible and visible online and develop a new website in the coming months.

### **Question 2: What information about our church life would you find helpful or useful?**

### **Question 3: What information or features do you think would be useful or important to someone new who is thinking of joining us?**

The options, much like when the designs for the building work were first discussed, seem limitless and, I think, a little intimidating. However, I think considering these three questions will help us get started.

New year is also a time for resolutions, reflections, but also challenges. Building up to the next church chat, my challenge to you, over the next few weeks, is to have a conversation. Have a chat about these questions with someone - anyone!

**What are the most important things we need to have on display?**

**What information about our church life would you find helpful or useful?**

**What information or features do you think would be important to someone new who is thinking of joining us?**

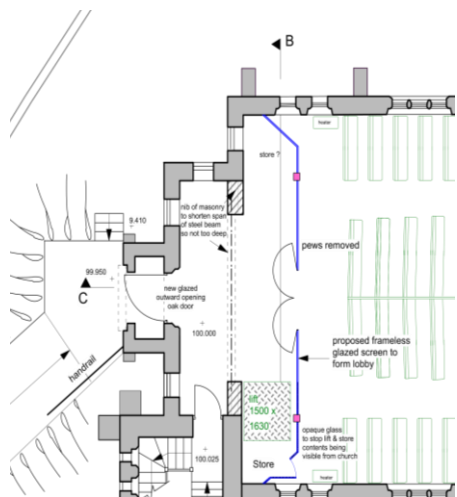
For our new online 'shop window' to truly reflect who we are, and what we do, we all need to be a part of this conversation.

Lauren.

## Looking back on 2023- What were we doing?

What an exciting year we had! Here are 12 picture clues of what we were doing- can you remember what we did? Answers at the end of the Newsletter.

## January



## February



## March



## April



## May



## June





**July**



**August**



**September**



**October**



**November**



**December**



***“And it’s from the old we travel to the new,  
Keep us travelling along with You”***



## Eco Church Corner

The Eco Church group has been a little quiet for the last couple of months so I thought I'd pass on a few ideas as we take down our decorations and get our homes cleared and tidied after Christmas.

Most importantly don't forget to think about recycling and reusing what we can.

Make gift tags for next year from this year's cards

Save and reuse wrapping paper where you can.

If you can't reuse it, recycle it. Paper can be put in the blue bin, but check its 100% paper first. Do the "scrunch" test- if it stays scrunched up, great- into the blue bin; if it doesn't stay scrunched up it contains plastic so has to go into the green bin.

Take unwanted presents to charity shops to be rehomed.

Here is the beginning of a guide from "Everyday Plastic" with 52 ways to reduce your plastic. I thought this might be good to think about as we start the new year.

Ann x

### EVERYDAY PLASTIC

## 52 ways to reduce your plastic

January

1

#### Tackle one room at a time

Attempting to reduce plastic throughout the whole house at once is overwhelming and unmanageable. Instead address each room individually. The bathroom is a great place to start.

FREE

2

#### Plan your purchases

Plan your weekly meals to make a supermarket shop less wasteful. Knowing exactly what you're going to eat can prevent the need to throw out gone-off produce.

FREE



3

#### Refillable water bottle

These are great to refill at home or on-the-go. It only takes a few refills before you begin saving money you would've spent on bottles of water.

££



4

#### Remove stubborn smells

Spoon 3-4 tbsp bicarb of soda into the foot of an old pair of tights, tie a knot in the end. Put in a shoe cupboard to remove all stinky odours.

£



#### How to use:

These tips are here to help you continue along your less plastic journey. Either begin in the current month, or get started wherever you fancy. Check out the price guide for an indication of how costly each tip is likely to be.

February

5

#### Don't buy cleaning cloths

Cut up old clothes or towels that aren't good enough to pass on or donate and turn them into cleaning cloths / rags.

FREE



6

#### Use what you have

Buying less, saving money and being more resourceful with what you have is the best way to avoid waste. Use up all your toiletries before you buy alternatives.

FREE

7

#### Choose loose produce

Most larger supermarket stores offer a range of loose produce including potatoes, carrots, broccoli, apples etc.

£



8

#### Keep reusable bags handy

Always take reusable bags on supermarket trips. Keep some in your car boot or near the front door for impromptu shopping jaunts.

FREE



Food / drink



Cleaning



Hygiene



Shopping





### **Puppet Nativity**

Thank you to all the puppeteers, narrators, tech people, musicians, costume sorters, welcomers, 'people herders'(!), and many others, who made the Nativity Services happen. Your help is very much appreciated. Well done to Margaret and Steve Seal for organising it all.

### **Carol Singing and Socks!**

Thank you to the musicians and singers who turned out on a very wet Saturday, and the following Saturday, to sing on Newbegin. A total of £170.63 was raised and has been sent to the Rootless and Homeless Project in Hull, along with 67 filled pairs of socks, a dozen more brand-new socks; spare soaps, extra sweets and a BIG box of biscuits!!



Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the work of the **Leprosy Mission** this year. The total raised for the year is £484.30- a wonderful amount which will help change the lives of people with leprosy.

Well done!

Carol

Thank you to all the members of the **Prayer network**, for your faithful praying throughout this year for the people mentioned in our Prayer Book on Sundays, as well as other requests sent in. If anyone would like to join the network, please have a word with Jean.



## **Looking back on 2023-**

This is what we were doing-

**January-** the plans for the building work were displayed in the 'old' porch. Is it what you imagined it would look like?

**February-** you may recognise some canine friends! A few owners got together for a dog walk; a reminder that 'church' does not just happen within the building, but in lots of ways throughout the year.

**March-** did you recognise the service sheet from the World Day of Prayer? This happens every March and allows us to join literally 'across the World' in prayer.

**April-** Brian Massey made us this beautiful cross, which we used in our Lent and Easter services.

**May-** Heather created this lovely flower arrangement for our celebrations of King Charles' coronation- were you singing in Memorial gardens afterwards?

**June-** this is a Join the Family leaflet. We welcomed more new members into our church family in June. We have welcomed six new members in total in 2023.

**July-** we celebrated obtaining our Bronze Eco Church award. Have you remembered the pledges made in September and displayed on the Hall noticeboard?

**August-** the tractor may be a giveaway! Here we are in the barn at Rolston Woods, for the first of our Alternative August services. What did you think of them?

**September-** (can you spot Val having a good time!) We are in the Hall, as the building work had started, and this was taken at the baptism of Mandy's granddaughter. There have been 5 baptisms this year, including that glorious Sunday in October when Jeff was baptised in the leisure centre pool.

**October-** did you recognise this image, used for our October Bible Month series on the book of Revelation? How brave were we!

**November-** this is what the church looked like! Many thanks to all who joined the mad scramble to get it ready to open the doors on the town's 'Lights Night', and what an extraordinary amount of people we welcomed in.

**December-** the puppets made a return to tell the Nativity story. Many primary school children accepted our invitation to come and see the Puppet Nativity done for them, as well as performing their own Nativities for their parents and guests.

For all who came through our doors in 2023, as 'regulars', visitors, or newcomers, this is our prayer-

***May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you,***

***May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm***

***May He bring you home rejoicing, at the wonders He has shown you***

***May He bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.***