



The Apostle John, one of Jesus's original disciples, is the last surviving disciple of the twelve. He previously served as a pastor and leader for a number of churches in Asia Minor, including the city of Ephesus. But now, he is eighty or ninety years old as he writes the letter known as 1 John. He writes because a group has split off from the church and is teaching things contrary to what John has taught. He writes to address the confusion and insecurity that has developed and to give them confidence in the truth he has taught.

As we spend the next five weeks in 1 John, we will see its importance for us today. Those of us exploring faith or returning to faith may have questions or doubts. Others of us believe and call ourselves a Christian, but we have nagging doubts about that belief: Am I really a Christian? Does God see me as a Christian?

John's letter answers these questions and gives us the confidence we need to live securely in Christ. We will see that God's desire is for us to have assurance and peace because he loves us.

Sunday Worship

(6th September-see next page)

13th Sept- 10.30 a.m. Confident Faith - (including Communion)

6pm – Week of prayer for Christian Unity- Joint Service at the URC

20th Sept- 10.30 a.m. The character test.

27th Sept -10. 30 a.m. Know God's love.

Our September services will be '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.

What is happening on 6th September?

Harvest will look a little different this year:-

The prolonged spell of very dry weather has made life very difficult for farmers and producers and we are told that fruit and vegetables could be in short supply this winter.

We have decided not to have our usual harvest collection of fruit and veg and would ask that you make your own donation to a local food bank or charity of your choice.



We will have a bowl available for cash donations throughout September and these will go to The Pantry in Hornsea. Christine uses cash donations to buy supplies which are passed on to the users at a much reduced cost.

We will however, still be giving thanks to God for all that we have. At the URC General Assembly this year churches were asked to celebrate '**Christ in Creation**' on the first Sunday in September each year. The Feast of Christ in Creation is a day to praise God as creator and ponder the great mystery that everything was created in and through Christ. In response we are inspired to care for the created world in these times of ecological crises.

After our service on the 6th September, which will include our Quarterly Church Meeting, we will be sharing lunch together using all locally sourced ingredients and we hope you will all stay and celebrate with us.

Men's breakfast

The next breakfast meeting will be **on Saturday September 26th**, from 10 a.m. in the hall. Do give it a try!

Bible Book Club

During August and September, we have been reading the book of Ecclesiastes.

Eugene Peterson introduces this book by saying "Ecclesiastes actually doesn't say much about God; the author leaves that to the other sixty-five books of the Bible. His task is to expose our total incapacity to find the meaning and completion of our lives on our own."

Come along and join in our discussion of what we discovered. There will be two groups- 1.30 pm and 5 pm, meeting in the Hall on Wednesday **30th September**.

Open Church

The Church building will be open again for quiet and prayer each Thursday till 2 p.m., restarting **on 3rd September**. If you can help to host this, please see Carol. Thank-you.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity- September 13th-20th.



"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." (Ephesians 4:4)

For this year, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and

Evangelical Churches. These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

In a world with diverse and often divided traditions and expressions of Christian faith, Ephesians 4:4 reminds us that all believers are part of the 'one body' of Christ. This unity is not about uniformity but a common commitment to the core truths of the Christian faith. It serves as a powerful witness to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit when Christians of varied backgrounds come together with a shared goal and vision.

In Hornsea we join together each morning at the following venues, for around half an hour-

(Sunday 13th at 6pm- Joint service at United Reformed Church)

- Monday, 14th at 9:30am – Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 15th at 9:30am – St Nicholas's Church
- Wednesday, 16th at 9:30am – United Reformed Church
- Thursday, 17th at 9:30am – St Nicholas's Church
- Friday 18th at 9:30am – United Reformed Church
- Saturday 19th at 9:30am – Methodist Church
- Sunday 20th at 9:30am – Church Without Walls

All are welcome to any of the gatherings, please come along if and when you are able.



Meet the Elder — Mark Parker-Randall

Hello! I'm **Mark Parker-Randall**, and although most people at Hornsea URC will already know me, here's a little about the person behind the Elder!

I grew up in a Christian family and made my own commitment to Jesus at seven. At fourteen, during a Salvation Army Youth Rally in London, I experienced a clear call to Christian ministry. I later trained at the Salvation Army's William Booth Memorial Training College and was ordained and commissioned as a Salvation Army Officer in 1995.

My working life has taken me through **nursing, Christian ministry and secondary education**, before retiring from teaching in 2023. Looking back, a common thread has run through it all: **caring for people, encouraging them to flourish, and creating opportunities for them to encounter Jesus.**

I came to **Hornsea URC** through the invitation of a teaching colleague, became a member in **2017** and an **Elder in 2018**. Since then, I've enjoyed leading worship and preaching, sharing in pastoral care and contributing to the life, mission and development of our church.

I'm married to **Kate**, and away from church I enjoy **gardening, beekeeping, the gym and aquafit**. Another important part of my life is my long-standing involvement with **YMCA Hope School in Kenema, Sierra Leone**, which has grown from just 35 children to more than 700 pupils since my first visit in 2013.

A new door opening

This September also marks an exciting new chapter for me. Alongside continuing to be an Elder at Hornsea, I begin the **URC Church Leadership Programme at Luther King Theological College in Manchester**, as I prepare to serve **St Andrew's URC, Scarborough, as an Elder in Local Leadership**.

It is a new door opening in a journey of calling that began when I was fourteen. Following training and commissioning, the intention is that I will take specific responsibility for St Andrew's as its recognised Church Leader, under the authority of the Yorkshire Synod Ministries Committee.

I'm enormously grateful for all that **Hornsea URC has given me and continues to mean to me**. It has been a place where my faith, ministry and calling have been nurtured and encouraged, and I look forward to seeing where God leads in this new season.

I love God, I love people, and I remain thankful for the privilege of serving as an Elder within the Hornsea URC family.

All Aboard Holiday Club

What an amazing three days!

And what a wonderful return of summer holiday fun in our church building. It is 14 years since we last held a Holiday Club at Hornsea URC!

Huge praise needs to go to Olivia who, after receiving the Lundie Award, proposed the idea and then set about organising the programme, crafts, PowerPoints, activities etc. and then led each day with great clarity and confidence.



Our senior Pilots, Jenna, Elizabeth, Evie, (Lily and Molly) were truly amazing - coming alongside the young people, encouraging and supporting them in all stages of the club. There was much conversation and fun and when things proved difficult, or out of the children's comfort zone, our young leaders were able to come alongside and find the right words or actions to reassure them and get them smiling again.

So proud of them



The rest of us, more *senior* leaders, : Stacey, Mandy, Jill, Ann B, Jean R, Julia, Steph, Lauren and me took the back seat and enjoyed the activities - without having to worry about the logistics of the day.

There are lots more pictures and crafts in the hall so please do take the time to have a look

A couple of things to think about-



Hello everyone,

We are thinking about starting up a "Bible Journalling" group, and I have had a chat with a few people who think it would be a great idea.

I'm a complete and total novice, and the thought of writing and drawing in a bible is something that I struggle with- even at school I felt guilty just writing study notes in the margins of textbooks and my grandmother, a devout Methodist, wouldn't let you put anything on top of a bible- it showed utter disrespect- so what she'd make of bible journalling I can only imagine!!

Consequently, I have found the idea very challenging, but those I have spoken to really would like to explore the concept as a way of deepening our faith and our understanding of scripture.

If you want to find out more about what it is, there are lots of groups and videos on social media; I found a good group on You Tube called "Growing your Faith" and they have a series of videos called "Bible Journalling for Complete Beginners" which are very good- it starts off with the fundamental basics like what bible journalling is, what sort of bible to use, what materials you need to get started etc. so please have a look.

We're planning our first meeting at church on **Wednesday 23rd September at 2pm**, so do come along and find out what it's all about even if, like me, you're a complete beginner, or if you want to know more just ask and I'll do my best to answer any questions you might have.

Ann B

Offering a Sacrifice of Praise

There is an old saying many Christians use: 'Offer the Lord a sacrifice of praise', referring to Hebrews 13 v. 15. In many circles this notion of a 'sacrifice of praise' almost becomes a cliché. (Perhaps because worship does not often come at much cost, especially compared with the sacrifices of saints who've gone before us.)

But when we worship with folks of various traditions, there are times when we may hear a prayer that uses language we might not naturally use or sing a song that isn't really our style. That is part of what it means to be a member of a community as diverse as the church is. And perhaps that also helps to shed some light on why it might require some sacrifice for us to give up ourselves.

When a song isn't working for you, consider praising God, because that probably means it is working for someone else who is very different from you. Offer your worship as a sacrifice rather than requiring others to sacrifice for your pleasure or contentment.

There is something to the notion of becoming one as God is one; it doesn't mean that we are the same; it just means that we are united by one Spirit. After all, we can become one only if there are many of us to begin with.

(Quoted from 'Common Prayer' by Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove and Enuma Okoro)

