



## **Church Secretary's report**

Well another exciting year comes to an end. We have achieved much over this year and have plenty to show for our efforts.

We have seen new families joining our congregation week by week and more people taking part in the services.

Thanks go to our worship team who ensure that we have some purpose to our worship as we follow a theme each week.

We now have a Bible book club to strengthen our knowledge and understanding of the Bible.

We continue to meet with the Methodists for evening communion once a month and are able to invite ministers from other traditions to lead these services giving us an insight into other Christians' ideas.

We were saddened by the death of one of our longest serving members and Elder, Jane Martin. Jane had served the church for many years as an Elder, editor of the Newsletter and as secretary and is sadly missed. We are still finding out all the information she carried about the running of the church. We also saw the passing of Dee Malcom and Margaret Webster earlier in the year. All are sadly missed and have contributed much to the life of the church. This brings our membership to 89 members.

There have been many events during the year but I think Christmas services with the puppets and a real camel for the Outdoor Nativity will be remembered for a long time. It is always a joy to welcome the schools in for their nativity services and look forward to welcoming them on other occasions.

One thing that I have noticed is that the Sunday School seems to be growing again and more and more people are taking part in the services.

We continue to support Christian Aid, Shoeboxes, Leprosy and Canine Partners, World Day of Prayer and the week of Prayer for Christian

Unity. Recently we have been able to support the Pantry raising money for them by Carol Singing before Christmas. In May many of us joined the Big Day Out at Flamingo Land and our young people again spent the Summer at Frontier Camp. It seems that any opportunity to share with other traditions is keenly taken up through Churches Together. Hornsea is a small town and we need to work together.

Thank you to all who come to support and worship with us each week you are so important to us.

God bless you all,

Kathy Webb.

### **Sunday Worship** **Worship Co-ordinator Report**

It has been nearly 2 years now since the Worship Co-ordination Team was set up. The group exists to :

- Oversee and agree our approach to worship - worship being initially focussed on what we deliver on a Sunday morning
- To maintain oversight of consistency of worship in ways which are relevant, inclusive, challenging and helpful for Spiritual growth and conversion
- Plan the annual calendar for our Sunday Worship including taking ownership of booking and co-ordinating weekly speakers

Our current worship plan runs until Easter 2020, with a further meeting planned this month to discuss worship for the rest of the year. One of the areas of focus for us, based on feedback at the LYCIG and church chat sessions was increasing our biblical knowledge and understanding. Throughout 2019 we have sought to develop this in our Sunday morning worship delivering a number of series : - The Lord's Prayer series, The I AM series culminating in I am the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, our Essentials series looking at pillars for faith, our study during Bible month of Colossians, and various

independent sessions and visiting external speakers throughout the year. A highlight for me was the visit of Mary and Joseph at our Nativity service in December.

A further area of focus was ensuring that our Worship was inclusive as possible for all attending our services. One key response to this was the installation of our new screens and our new sound system. This has improved our sound quality, and the screens help to make the words and pictures more accessible for all. The use of this technology also helps to improve our worship with access to music, videos and graphics where appropriate.

We also have been using the screens to promote our activities eg advertising our Christmas programme during lights night. We used the screens successfully before all the school nativity shows during December – detailing what we offer and inviting everyone to our services. We have recently started use the screen in the Hall to detail our programme for those attending the coffee mornings on Thursday mornings. We expect that other groups will also start to use the technology and screens when they are using our facilities. For 2020, we continue to pray that God will lead us in the way He has determined.

We are all learning and developing as we go and are thankful to you all for your support so far. This year we are looking at being more **invitational** and **intentional** in our services. This means that we will be ensuring we are creating more specific opportunities to invite people to join us for Worship, especially on a Sunday Morning. We are also considering what we deliver over the summer holidays to ensure we are meeting the needs of our community.

We value your prayers at this time but have been encouraged with progress to date. Please chat to any of us should you have any queries.

Worship Co-ordination Team members: Steve Seal, Mark Parker-Randall, Steven Knapton, Jill Fletcher, Kathy Webb, Marion Clubley, Steph Selby, Carol Rutherford

Steve Seal

## Coffee and Porch Rota

I inherited this job from Jane who is a hard act to follow; I really miss her.

Thank you all for your patience and for being on the rota. If anyone feels it's something they might like to do please tell me. You don't have to do both, if you prefer doing porch duty rather than coffee that's fine. More volunteers are always welcome so please give it a thought and join this happy band.

Marion

## Flowers

Once again, it's time to say a big thankyou to everyone who contributes in any way with the flowers. There are always lovely flowers in church every Sunday These are then taken out on Monday to people who need them for whatever reason: -birthday, Anniversary or just need cheering up. Many thanks to my trusty deliverers- Debbie, Carol, Chris, Eileen, Allan and Margot.

Is this something you would like to do? Please ask me. It's on a rota so only once a month unless someone can't do them or swaps can be done

Ann takes care of the flower rota and money. There is a list in the hall where you can put your name for certain days or you can just want flowers in church. You can arrange your own flowers or give Ann the money and she will have them arranged for you. Again, many, many thanks to everyone involved with the flowers

Marion

Thank you to all of you who support our **flower fund**. Flowers are an important part of our church as I am sure most of you know our flowers are put in church every week for our service. They are then given out to people for various reasons birthday etc. I know people are happy to receive them. I enjoy organising the flower rota as I know from your comments how much joy they bring. Thank you again to Heather,

Mandy and Jean for helping me to arrange the flowers. If anyone else would like to join us you are more than welcome please have a word with me. Contributions large or small are very welcome. A date for your diaries we are planning another FLOWER FESTIVAL on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th May. Thank you for your continuing support.

Ann Jordan.

## **Looking after each other**

### **Pastoral Visiting**

The pastoral team are up and running again. We now have eight visitors on our list and we visit seven church members on a regular basis, and three in residential homes. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a visit, either as a 'one off' or on a regular basis, please contact Carol or Val who will arrange the visits.

Val

### **Prayer Network**

We daily pray for those mentioned in the prayer book and you can add a name any time, not just in a service. The book is kept on the prayer table in church It is useful, but not compulsory to know who has given us the names so that we can keep up to date with how situations are developing.

We also try to offer suggestions for prayers through the newsletter and service sheets.

We meet each month, usually on the first Thursday of the month. The group consists of Eileen Ashmead, Jean Barrett, Pam Griffiths, Margaret Knapton, Val Pearson, and me, Kathy Webb. Please feel free to speak to any of us if you wish to join us or add a name to the list.

Kathy Webb

## **Prayer Partners**

Prayer partners meet up with their partner once a week for ten minutes or so to pray together about anything they choose to. The scheme was set up to encourage us to pray together easily and often. The 'rota' to tell you who you are praying with each week is e mailed out to you and can also be found on the prayer table in church. Many thanks to my faithful 'partners' this year, I have found it a great encouragement and I hope you have. If you wish to join, or just to give it try to see if it is for you, please have a word with me

Jean

## **Faith and fellowship**

We meet every Tuesday in the church hall at 7.00 o'clock and finishing about 8.15. We begin with tea and biscuits and catch up with each other's news.

We are a group of up to 12 people, drawing some from our own congregation, some from other churches and others who don't attend a church.

We are all still learning and all at different stages of our Christian journey. We would hope it's a place where people can come and feel comfortable asking questions and expressing their opinions.

Our discussions are varied, sometimes they take the form of bible study, sometimes from current events and some discussions come from books people have read.

All are welcome so why not come along one Tuesday and see if it is something you would enjoy.

Carol Rutherford

## **The Bible Course**

In 2019 the church decided to run the Bible course. Prepared by the Bible Society it is a series of 8 meetings in which the whole of the Bible is considered to get a sense of its completeness. Each session involves following an area of the Bible with a video presentation and then time to discuss what has been presented. There is a course booklet to help

follow what is being said and to remind you about the questions. At home you are asked to look at certain passages before the next meeting and to record your findings to the following questions. What did the passage mean to the people at the time? What does it mean to us today? These then became the opening for the next session. You did not need to report your findings but I found it fascinating what other people had discovered. It was usually completely different to what I had felt was the meaning of the passage. It was illuminating and refreshing. I had the sense that everyone who came felt this was a really good course. I certainly gained a much better sense of the completeness of the whole Bible and God's plan of salvation from the foundation of the world. I really did enjoy the opportunity the course afforded to think about the Bible and share and learn from others. Is this something we should do again in 2020?

Steven Knapton

### **The Bible Book Club**

Several of the people who attended the Bible course felt they did not want to give up meeting to talk about the Bible. It so happens the Bible Society have a Bible Book Club where people are asked to read a book of the Bible every month and then meet up to discuss what they have discovered. We began by looking at the book of Colossians, which was the book of the year for our Methodist friends. As a group we took up the challenge to read Luke throughout December. Starting on December 1<sup>st</sup> and reading a chapter a day the plan was to finish on Christmas Eve. None of this is a test or examination. We come together to talk about what we have found and this always leads to a wonderful discussion. As with all meetings they are helped along by tea and a little something. Personally, I have found these meetings one of the best things I go to. What a rich treasury the Bible is and how it speaks to each one of us in so many differing ways. I am learning so much through these meetings and am excited about what will be revealed at the next meeting. The bible is meant to be read and this is such a good way of doing that. Why not come along?

Steven Knapton



## **Friendship Hour**

We meet on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm twice a month.

All our meetings start with a hymn and a prayer and we either have a speaker or a social meeting with a quiz, bingo or readings lead by our members. Our subs for next year will be £2.00 per meeting.

At the time of writing this report we are in the process of putting together a programme for 2020.

This year our meetings have carried on through the winter and this seems to be successful so we will carry on throughout 2020, breaking only in August for a holiday!

Our last meeting for 2019 was on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December when we had our Carols and Cake afternoon which we all enjoyed and we would like say thanks to Joan for coming to play the piano for us and to the members of the choir who came along and helped with the singing – we've never sounded so good!

As you read this you will have just enjoyed our New Year dinner at the Swiss Cottage in January and be looking forward to our next meeting on Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Jean Robinson is taking a well-earned rest from her duties and I would like to thank her on your behalf for all her help over the last few years.

We are now looking for someone to take over our finances and someone to organise our speakers for the year, if you think you could help please let me know.

The dates for 2020 are below and we will give everyone a list of dates and speakers when the programme is sorted.

New members are always welcome so why not ask your friends if they would like to give us a try?

Thank you for continuing to support this group.

## Friendship Hour Dates 2020:

February 5 <sup>th</sup>	July 8 <sup>th</sup>
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	July 22 <sup>nd</sup>
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	September 2 <sup>nd</sup>
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	September 16 <sup>th</sup>
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	October 7 <sup>th</sup>
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	October 21 <sup>st</sup>
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	November 4 <sup>th</sup>
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	November 18 <sup>th</sup>
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>
	December 16 <sup>th</sup>

Carol Rutherford

## Looking after our young people

### Pilots

We have had an amazing group of 25 young people attending Pilots throughout 2019.

Their commitment and enthusiasm is reflected in an 86% attendance record across the year!

So, what makes it the 'come to' event on a Friday night? In their own words:- 'It's fun', 'We always have good things to eat', 'We play games', 'I like the singing', 'I like the game in the dark', 'The barbeques are great', 'We learn things', 'We do lots of crafts' .....

All these are fabulous reasons but as part of the leadership team I would say that there has been a significant change taking place over the last two years. Firstly, through prayer, both from the church congregation and the leaders themselves. The sessions have become more bible based and intentional to include more singing and teaching/exploring – along with the food, crafts, games etc.

We are a team of seven leaders assisted by 3 young leaders – we plan the themes for the term together and deliver sessions on a rota basis.

Each session starts with the 'All Aboard' and then the group splits into two so that activities can be more appropriate to their age.

Just because we have had a fantastic year it does not mean we are getting everything right. We have 'lost' five Pilots who were once regular attendees – some having reached the more advanced 'teenage' years which raises the question – what do we need to do to make Pilots interesting and relevant for them?

We would ask for your prayers to help us discern a way forward with this and also that we can show and share the love and grace that Jesus gave to every Pilot and their families throughout 2020.

Margaret

### **Junior Church**

We are blessed to be able to continue our work in the Junior Church with a small though regular group of children attending each week. On average our numbers are between 6 and 12 with occasional boosts for Baptisms and holidays.

It is always amazing to see our children grow and move on and come back to visit. And it is also amazing to see new younger children join and continue the cycle.

My thanks go to the dedicated group of Junior Church leaders who continue to come up with stimulating, inspirational and fun ideas each week. Our Elders have sometimes taken us away from the standard lectionary but we have tried to complement their preaching with Junior Church activities relevant to their themes.

Although we are unable to offer quite so many children's groups as we used to, we try each week to give the children some activities to help them to learn more about God's word and we **always** have fun.

This year has seen us involved with many activities:

-August meant Frontier Camp for many of our young people and a chance to spend some time learning about God whilst under canvas and in the great outdoors.

-In September we joined with other URC churches in the Yorkshire Synod for a Big Day Out. This year we were back at Flamingoland enjoying all the rides and the wildlife and worshipping with friends in the wider church family.

-In October many of the children joined the Pumpkin Trail along with other churches in Hornsea to experience an alternative to trick or treating.

-And to finish/start our Church year depending on your point of view, in December we enjoyed an inspired Nativity with puppets and performers from all ages.

So, all in all a good year for us in the Junior Church and what is so great to see is our young people getting involved in the services.... reading, praying, helping with the tech and sometimes leading us. We are God's family.

Julia Clifton

## **Tuesday 'Open House'**

### Open House 2019

I took over the running of the group after Amy stepped down, since then myself and Polly have been making sure that all the children, parents and grandmas have an enjoyable time at church. We have held a Christmas party recently and have plans to do more. At present there is a healthy number attending each week, and we have posted information on Social Media trying to reach others who may be interested. Hopefully our numbers will carry on growing in the future.

Sophie Bemrose

Balance b/f	44.55
Received	289.00
Expenses	181.81
Balance c/f	<b>151.74</b>

## **Looking after the finances**

### **Church Treasurer's report**

The accounts for the year are printed in this booklet for you to have a look at.

The 'Offering' is our weekly giving on a Sunday and by standing order to our bank, this is less than last year by £2694.

Our other income comes from Funeral Fees, Donations, Room rents, and Fund Raising and this figure is much the same as last year. However, our fund-raising team will be doing less events this year as none of them are getting younger!! and its very hard work, so we thank them for all they have done in over many years which has helped keep the church afloat.

The Sundry Income this year all came from Synod:

£3000 was given to us as a mission fund to use for the benefit of our church and community.

£8065 was given towards the cost of our new Audio-Visual equipment.

As you will know our Manse is currently rented out and the rent received this year was £8274, we do have to take off the cost of the loan we had to prepare the manse for rent, ongoing repairs and letting fees. The net figure this year was £2352.

On to our expenses. The first figure Mission and Ministry, £20880, is what we are required to pay to Synod each year. Next years figure is slightly less at £19044.

Our other costs are the everyday running costs of keeping our building clean, safe and warm.

The main expense this year has been our new audio-visual equipment which cost £15975 but we had the grant from Synod so the cost to us as a church was £7910.

We have transferred £10000 to our deposit account (COIF) this year.

The figures under the heading MHIT (Money Held in Trust) are amounts received to pay over to another organisation or charity, such as funeral collections, Christian Aid and the Leprosy Mission. This money is not part of our church funds so appears as a separate item.

This year our income has exceeded our income which is always a good thing! We have a lovely place to worship and to invite the community into, but we cannot be complacent. Our building is aging and is a listed building which we are required to look after, we need to make sure we have funds in our savings to meet any unexpected expense.

The responsibility is ours.

Regular giving is our best way of budgeting for the future. What you give is a private matter between you and God. But here's a thought, we have a church membership of 80 and if we all managed to give £1 extra a week (Less than a cup of tea) it would bring in an extra £4000 per year!

If you have any questions about the accounts please have a word with me.

Carol Rutherford

**Hornsea United Reformed Church**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2019**

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	<b><u>31.12.19</u></b>
Balance as at 1st January 2019	61142.79
Excess of income over expenditure	9697.44
Balance as at 31st December 2019	<b><u>70840.23</u></b>

**Represented  
by:**

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Cash at bank		
Current Account		19689.99
Charities Deposit Account		<u>51676.20</u>
		71366.19
Less Creditors:		
Pilots Current Account	-41.15	
Money Held in Trust	<u>-484.81</u>	
		<u>-525.96</u>
		<b><u>70840.23</u></b>

## **Fundraising**

Annual report from Fundraising and Social Committee 2019

Fundraising events happen because people are willing to give of their time and donate items to help make the occasion a success.

Over this last year changes have been taking place in the way we fundraise. Our little team of four made a conscious decision to limit the amount of events we organise in future. Recently we have been more of a fundraising team as social events, enjoyable as they are, have not been well attended. We hope you will appreciate that there is just as much effort involved whether the event is large or small.

We held just two Winter lunches this year but with less people overall, requiring hot soup, possibly due to the increase in church lunches on a Sunday, however, both the Gardener's Fair and Christmas Fayre saw the takings increase from last year. Despite less events our total for the year is £4,927.19 which is an increase on last year.

Thank you to all who have supported our efforts, without you they would not have happened. Your ideas for an event are always welcome so please do not be shy and let us know, wonderful things can happen when we all pull together.

June Barton

## **Looking after the building**

We have had a very busy year to keep our lovely building safe and presentable for ourselves and all the users of the building. The building is used by many different groups and is an important community facility. We have had many changes to the building from the installing of the Audio/Visual equipment to painting the porch and the work done by Margaret, Jason and his family to make the school room looking bright. In the last few months I became the 'caretaker' for the building and gardens which covers many aspects. Since I have done this I have worked through the building and the gardens doing the jobs which had not been and needed to be done. As the caretaker I have been responsible for setting up for the church users and groups and making sure the school room and the kitchen and toilets are clean. I get satisfaction from seeing our church looking loved and hope this is another aspect to my ministry everyone can enjoy.

Jill Fletcher

## **Offering Hospitality**

### **Church Lunches**

I think these are a WOW moment for many members of our congregation who look forward to the first Sunday of the month and Church Lunch.

So why did they start and what was the idea behind them?

We have, in our church, people from different traditions and experiences – some of whom attended churches who did eat together regularly. This along with the Elders attending a Synod Elders Day at St. Andrew's, Roundhay on 'Holy Habits' in March sparked the idea that it would be a good thing for us to try.

Eating Together is one of the ten Holy Habits. Our Church Lunch was launched on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and they have grown in popularity ever since – on occasions having to overflow into the church due to lack of space in the hall ...

They now occupy a regular slot on the first Sunday of the month. The



menu is varied and ranges between 'bring and share' to a team of volunteers working together to provide a simple lunch. Many people have already helped by preparing food, serving, washing up and clearing away afterward – it is a true saying 'many hands make light work' so if you would like to volunteer occasionally please do!

They provide an opportunity for us to get to know more people, to share food and companionship as well as bringing us closer together as a family.

There are numerous examples in the bible of Eating Together Jesus shared food with all sorts and conditions of people as a sign of the inclusivity of God's kingdom, so too did the early church. Following in the footsteps of Jesus, the table fellowship of the early Christians was warm and accepting. They refused to discriminate against the marginalised. All were welcome to partake of this basic human and yet deeply sacred activity.

Likewise, all are welcome to our Church Lunches – and we hope to see you, and those you invite, on the first Sunday of each month.

Margaret

### **Thursday Coffee Morning**

What can one say about Thursday Coffee mornings?

- Well, they are a constant feature on the church calendar – taking place 50 Thursdays a year.
- We have an amazing range of *regular* guests from across Hornsea, surrounding villages and as far away as Hull, York, Beverley and Bridlington as well as visitors to Hornsea.
- There is always a buzz of happy conversation but, at the same time, a place to share troubles and concerns with a listening ear or hug of support readily available.
- It is open to all – either for a flying visit or to stay all morning.
- We serve fairly traded tea, coffee and sugar – making it a place to drink to the reduction of poverty.

- You will see from the accounts that it raises funds for the church but, if it made no money, the Thursday Coffee Morning would still be a regular commitment that the church makes to the community because it provided a vital service to many.
- It could not do this without the amazing support of 12 very regular and committed volunteers, ranging from 12 to 96 year olds, who give their time freely and make it the place to be on a Thursday morning! To them we say a very big THANK YOU.

Margaret

### **Hornsea URC Coffee Morning 2019**

<b>Income</b>	4037.29	
<b>Expenditure</b>		226.97
<b>Paid to bank</b>		3810.32
	4037.29	4037.29

Checked  
by Carol  
Rutherford

### **Looking Outwards**

#### **Mission and Care groups**

East Yorkshire Mission and Care

What a big name for a group of URC churches on the eastern side of Yorkshire. They meet twice a year to discuss issues that they all share. Recent examples have been working with children and the question of

how to respond to Synod's gift of £3,000 to each fellowship. People come from at least half the churches to share what they are doing in their own communities to make a difference. It is inspiring to hear of how God is enabling churches to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in so many different ways. To help us in all of this we have been trying to get some of the people who work for Synod to talk about their perspective on these issues.

After a consultation about the work of Mission and Care groups around the Synod the plan, in the future, is to link them with the meetings of the Yorkshire Synod which has representatives from all our churches in Yorkshire.

The next meeting of our Mission and Care Group is at our own church in Hornsea. The relatively new Synod Clerk, Tim Crossley is coming to share some of his experiences being a new comer to the workings of the Synod.

Anyone can attend; so why not come along. It is on Saturday 15th February and begins with coffee at 10 a.m. Why not bring a sandwich and share some soup afterwards? You never know what you might discover.

Steven

## **Living Well Project Report 2019**

This project was the brainchild of Jamie Kissack in 2012 or thereabouts, as part of the church's outreach. Its success has been that it is still going from strength to strength.

We continue to gain new referrals and support people finding life difficult and lonely. At present we have 91 clients on our list and this is growing. We have been fortunate in gaining funding from the Anna-Marie trust so we can continue for a bit longer. The people we ring are frequently telling us how much difference we make to their lives.

Some of our clients have now transferred across to become telephoners and some telephoners have found fulltime employment so we are always looking for new volunteers to man the telephones. We have about 20 volunteers who do this but still need more. This year we have trained more supervisors and seen many new helpers at the monthly lunches.

The aim of the project is to get people back into the community and we are certainly doing that in many cases.

Alongside the telephone support we have been able to offer people classes on living a healthier lifestyle and social events like craft sessions, tech sessions and the monthly lunches. All these have given people the opportunity to make new friends and support each other in a positive way.

Please speak to June or myself if you feel you would like to be part of our project, we still need more people phoning and to phone. If you know of a neighbor or friend who could do with a weekly contact please let us know, just give us a name and contact and we will do the rest

Kathy Webb

## **World Day of Prayer**

The World Day of Prayer for 2019 was prepared by the women of Slovenia entitled "Come – Everything is Ready!"

Slovenia, is one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe. The women who prepared the service encouraged us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They shared the challenges they had met and the hopes they had for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

The service, in Hornsea, was held at the Parish Church with a congregation of about 70 voices adding to the millions across the world - as the service was celebrated in 120 countries in many different churches, languages and dialects. It truly is an amazing event to be involved in.

I invite you to put the 6<sup>th</sup> March into your diaries when the World Day of Prayer, prepared **by the women of Zimbabwe and entitled "Rise! Take your mat and walk"** will be celebrated at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm.

If you would like to take a more active part in the service please have a word with me you will be **most** welcome.

## **North Holderness Churches Together (NHCT)**

The enthusiasm and friendship within the NHCT has continued to grow this year with the bi-monthly meetings being both productive and enjoyable. All churches have been well represented over the year and it is good to see more church members attending and not just the 'delegated representative'. This makes the discussion and vision of the meetings far wider with ideas being 'bounced around' and developed. It has been an active year and one where there has been more intention to reach out to those who do not know the Good News of Jesus.

- The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January – very well attended with more people stepping up to 'lead' sessions.
- The Easter Pilgrimage – with many conversations and booklets given out.
- The fabulous 'Pentecost Praise' and Unity Service in the Floral Hall with praise and worship shared with those of faith and none.
- The Carnival Service which set a challenge in July.
- August saw some churches supporting the Christian Biker's Service.
- The NHCT funded the popular 'It's your move' booklet for all year six pupils moving to secondary school in September.
- The Pumpkin Trail in October celebrated – Jesus the Light of the World with an excellent illustration of the difference Jesus makes.
- Advent Windows and Community Carols where 'picked-up' by Churches Together this year.
- And very importantly **regular prayer meetings** take place each week to under pin all the work that is done in Jesus name.

2020 is already shaping up to exceed this as churches begin to 'share' more of their events as well as hosting additional events, for example, there will be a Tear-fund Quiz on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February in the Town Hall at 4.00pm. – open to all.

These really are exciting times and I would encourage everyone to get involved in some way. NHCT is not made up of US and THEM we are one family – trusting and sharing with each other the task of being disciples of Jesus Christ.

## **Traidcraft**

I can start this report with the same words I used for last year's report – 'Well what a year it has been ....'

The year started with Traidcraft facing liquidation and having to reduce their staff drastically, lease out their warehouse and reduce the range of stock they were able to carry.

This had some effect on Hornsea URC Traidcraft with only £4,800 worth of purchases being made this year – almost half the amount of purchases in 2018.

The range of stock is much reduced with fewer gift items and as a consequence we have not been able to stock the monthly Market Stall or attend as many Fairs and Talks.

What has happened however, is more attention is being placed on food and drink items and I am very pleased to say that several members of the congregation and Thursday coffee morning supporters are now placing regular orders for tea, coffee, cereal and honey along with toiletries and cleaning materials.

Traidcraft themselves have been able to re-employ a good number of their staff and they did not have to lease out their warehouse. Their future looks quite bright and they are focusing much of their work on making their products Eco-friendly and, as they put it, they want Traidcraft to:-

*'create some good trouble. We want to challenge the status quo of business and continue to fight trade injustice, challenge existing norms of fair trade when needed and deliver a message of 'people and planet' as we seek to address environmental issues'.*

## **Commitment for life report 2019**

We support the Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We have supported Israel and the occupied Territories for the last three years through Commitment for Life programme. This is just one of the project that C for L supports through YMCA.

We are told that Amina smiles as she remembers how she got involved with Christian Aid partner YMCA in Raboud, a village in the Hebron governorate of the West Bank. “We were passing by and decided to join a meeting with the YMCA because we thought that we might get water tanks [for our homes], or something else... But then we heard about the approach of the project – it’s different. It has a focus on the role of women, and the importance for women to speak up and participate.” Amina joined a community protection group which involves women, men and young people. Amina is 27, she has a degree in business administration, she has four children and she wanted to see improvements in her community. The protection group discusses issues in the area; their aim is to address these issues through a community action plan that they develop together. The work is part of Christian Aid’s Participatory Vulnerability Capacity Assessment approach with partners in the occupied Palestinian territory. The approach empowers communities by giving them confidence and skills to take collective action: if they understand the risks they face, they can identify opportunities to make changes<sup>11</sup> Communities solving problems One issue that the Raboud protection group identified was that their rubbish wasn’t being collected, and their local village council wasn’t hearing their concerns about the associated health risks. “We decided that one of our group should run for the village council so that we would have more access,” Amina recalls. “At the beginning, some people discouraged me. They were saying: ‘you have children, a husband, you won’t have time to be in the village council’. But then we sat together as women in the protection group; we were thinking that there were already seven men on the council and there needed to be representation of women there. My husband has been very supportive too. With the support of the community protection group, Amina was nominated and then elected as the first female member of the local

village council. Since then, she has been an important link between the council and the group. Through the support of Christian Aid and the YMCA, the community in Raboud have improved their health clinic. They also built a culvert and bridge so that they can cross the stream of sewage running onto their land from a nearby illegal Israeli settlement, which cuts off access to their olive and almond trees. Mai, Director of the YMCA-East Jerusalem Women's Development Programme, revealed the secret to their success: "We do not do anything – we transfer the power to the people. We do not hold the control. That is the point of the approach that we have learned from Christian Aid. I hope that in the coming year we will be able to fit in a Commitment for life service as we used to and learn more about the people we support.

Kathy Webb

**HURC**  
**Donations2019**

Christian Aid	419.00
Frontier Camps	620.00
TLM	1096.00
Liberty project Africa	500.00

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**2635.00**