

Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter July 2021



This time next year?

June 2020

I wondered what our worship was like a year ago? (You can find the 20th June 2020 service on the church website) Well, Margaret had led a wonderful Pilots service, asking “What does church look like?” Past and present Pilots told their stories. At that time, we were not yet ‘live streaming’, who would have thought we could do that? And who would have thought we would still be doing that a year later?

June 2021

The above photographs were taken on 20th June and show our worship taking place in the church building- albeit with restrictions- and on Zoom at the same time. The service is also available on our YouTube channel, which in the last month has added 2 more subscribers, had over 250 views of our videos and nearly 2,500 minutes of content has been watched.

June 2022

What will June 2022 bring I wonder? That 2020 Pilots service closed with the new Pilots prayer which I think is worth repeating here-

Lord help us to be-
Prepared for adventure
In all we do
Loving and caring
Open to others
Together as one community
Sharing the love of Jesus Christ on the way.
Amen.

Church Meeting

What a very different year it has been for the fellowship and direction of Hornsea United Reformed Church. We have travelled a long way this last year and you are encouraged to attend the next **Church Meeting** scheduled for July, either in person or via Zoom. The date and time will be confirmed by e mail (and announced in church). Newsletter articles are no real substitute for hearing and contributing first hand to the aims and aspirations we may have for the future- hope to see you there!

Apart and Together Worship in July

Services will take place in the church building and also on Zoom this month: -

July 4th	Journeying with John- Chapter 13
July 11th	Journeying with John- Chapter 14(including Holy Communion)
July 18th	Journeying with John- Chapter 15
July 25th	Journeying with John- Chapter 16

During July we continue our 'journeying with John', looking at four more chapters of John's gospel, before we take a break for an exciting 'alternative August': -



In August our worship will be on the theme **'This is my story; this is my song'**.

What is your story I wonder? Have you a story about your journey with Jesus? or maybe a song/hymn with a special meaning that you could tell us about? We need your contributions to put together a series of informal services including pictures, songs, thoughts, poems- whatever you can offer, however short.

We are looking forward to sharing together. Please get in touch with what you would like to be included.

Book Club

In May we completed our reading of the book of Galatians, and met to chat about it. It is great to hear other people's ideas and thoughts about what we read; none of us are 'experts' but we all have something to offer. During June we have been reading Habakkuk and we will meet on June 30th at 2p.m. in the church hall to share our findings. There are only 3 Chapters to read, so there is still time to join us if you can!

Flower rota.

Now we are back in church 🙏 we are going to put flowers in every week. Please sign up on the new rota if you would like to donate to provide flowers on a particular date. I know things are different and not everyone is confident yet in coming to church so I don't mind if you want to ring me with a date you want instead, and I will come and collect the money from you. (01964 533852) Thank you. Take care. Ann

Remembering Dawn Cantwell



Dawn was a local girl born and raised in the area. She joined the RAF because she was attracted to the blue of the uniform. She worked as a telegraphist based first in RAF Coltishall and later at RAF Pitreavie. Many years later on a family holiday in Scotland she visited the site of her RAF base. It was now a housing estate. Dawn was not impressed and it brought forth one of her looks. She had a fine line in looks and this was a major look.

All of her life she was passionate about the Archers. There was silence in the house during that sacred time and she was part of a small but vigorous group at the URC for whom the events in Ambridge were the discussion after the service. Unless of course the hymns had not been, in Dawn's opinion up to much. Cue another look.

Dawn had a great sense of supporting those in need. She would think long and hard about whether this was a genuine and serious need. Once convinced she championed the underdog and was relentless in seeing justice was done. With her family she was a supporter of Canine Partners, homing and undertaking that early training of puppies. Being an inveterate walker, the question was never who tired first, it was always the puppy. She loved Hornsea library and woe betide anyone who inadvertently sat in her seat. Major, major look would follow. She read the newspapers and had a cheery wave for passers-by. The result was a well read and extremely knowledgeable person. She surprised many and from her armchair triumphed in many TV quizzes, unbeknown to the contestants.

She had a sweet tooth and an eye for a freebie. The house is full of bags and pens as proof. At the URC friendship hour no-one escaped paying when Dawn was in charge of the collecting pot. Yet here her dry wit came out and her one liners or a look made many a meeting memorable. She did believe in good manners so the time at the panto she was squirted with water from the stage produced a mega look.

Dawn was fiercely protective and immensely proud of her family. Sharlah and Amber-Louise both knew the looks but they also knew the love and care she lavished upon them. Their independence of spirit, their individuality is a fitting legacy.

Yet Dawn was above all else a faithful disciple of Jesus. A disciple in that she always was seeking to know more. She attended Bible study whenever possible and always listened to the heartfelt comment and the knowledgeable remark. She was never partisan in her faith as her funeral service confirmed. It was at St. Bartholomew's Parish church in Aldborough and was conducted by the parish priest Revd Ann White. The address and prayers were given by Revd Steven Knapton from Hornsea URC and amongst the congregation were members of Aldborough Methodist church. Dawn touched many people's lives as the numbers at the service showed. How appropriate there are so many canine friends as well. Dawn would have given a look at all the fuss but also a quiet smile that her love was seen in all those who came to celebrate her life and to give thanks for all the ways she has blessed us.

Letter from Synod

From the beginning of the pandemic the Yorkshire Synod have been very supportive of its churches. They have helped with the rules around lockdown and our buildings, with technical help to provide services online and with financial help for churches who are struggling because of loss of income.

This is a letter to all the congregations thanking them for all we have managed to keep doing during this time.

From:
The United Reformed Church Finance Committee

May 2021

To:
**All members and adherents of
United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

It would be fair to describe the year-and-a-bit since March 2020 as having been “different”, wouldn’t it? Lots of us have experienced loss of loved ones, loss of income and perhaps jobs. All have experienced periods of lockdown; periods without ‘non-essential’ shops; and continuous and extensive disruption to our ‘normal’ social interactions and relationships. The world we thought we understood and could take for granted has been utterly transformed. How many of us imagined at the start of 2020 that we could go months without a haircut or without people not in our ‘bubble’ entering our homes?

As members of United Reformed Church congregations ourselves, we understand much of what your church community has experienced since March 2020. The absence of what is now regularly labelled “in-person worship” for much (or all) of this time has compelled us to turn to other ways of being church. Buildings in which we used to praise God regularly have been shut, both to regular worshipers and others who might have sought solace within their walls during these desperate and troubling times. It has been hard to maintain close fellowship with people we only meet over Zoom (or the like) – if we are digitally enabled.

Financially, things have been extremely tough too. Plate offerings have collapsed; some regular givers have had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God’s work; and those churches which hire out their premises have seen income from that source disappear.

At denominational level, we feared that these financial troubles would spell disaster for the URC’s Ministry and Mission (‘M&M’) fund through which the URC has always supported and developed our stipendiary ministers and Church Related Community Workers. It would have been all too easy for congregations to forget that for almost 49 years this fund (under various names) has provided stipends, pension contributions and training for all ministers throughout the three nations in which the URC operates: so that ministry reaches where synods judge it to be most needed and is paid for according to each congregation’s ability to contribute (though the ways of determining that vary from synod to synod). It was all very well to remind ourselves that the M&M fund is meant to be the first call on every congregation’s resource if the undertaking to financially support our ministers is to be honoured. We feared that drastically reduced income would make that impossible and that, because the need was less visible than the other calls on your diminished resources, payments to the M&M fund would have stopped first.

We are sorry if we ever doubted you.

It quickly became apparent that, although some congregations had to reduce their pledged giving to the M&M fund, many more of you were continuing to meet the 2020 commitments you had made during better times, despite the struggles that required. At the start of that year, we had been expecting churches and synods to contribute around £18.5 million to the fund. By the year end, all but half-a-million pounds of that had been received. Since Church House staff and committees managed to reduce their budgeted expenditure by almost £1 million, your money enabled us to meet the full costs of our Ministries, Education & Learning, Children's and Youth Work and Mission departments in 2020 as well as covering amounts spent on safeguarding, denominational governance and communications.

What is perhaps even more amazing is that, collectively, you have pledged to give £17.3 million during 2021 despite the financial problems caused by the pandemic being fully apparent well before your offers for this year were made.

We are always grateful for the financial support given each year to the M&M fund by all of you; but this past year has been phenomenal.

Thank you to those of you who have been able to maintain or increase financial support for your church congregation through this difficult time. That has enabled those responsible for your congregation's finances to keep more money flowing to the M&M fund than we expected.

Thank you for all your previous financial support to those of you who, after prayerful consideration, have had to reduce or stop giving in response to your changed financial circumstances.

Thank you for the pledges your congregation has made about contributing to the M&M fund during 2021 even though you were by then aware of the impact the pandemic was having on your local congregation's finances.

Thank you in anticipation for what you agree to offer to the M&M fund during 2022 to enable the denomination to deliver ministry, education and learning, children's work and mission activity on God's (and your) behalf.

We are aware that synods have played a significant part in encouraging and supporting many congregations with their contributions to the M&M fund. We have separately written to Synod Treasurers to express our thanks to them and their colleagues too.

Of course, our giving for God's work is in response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nonetheless, it is important for us to thank every one of you for what you do for God, your congregation and its and our denominational finances.

Thank you!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Treasurer) and John Piper (Deputy Treasurer)

- **On behalf of the whole United Reformed Church Finance Committee**

Saturday Sales at the URC



The 1st of May heralded the start of our, out door, **Saturday Sales** and what a wonderful day it was - not just for the amazingly warm, sunny weather but more for the joy and delight of seeing smiling faces and holding conversations with people we had not seen for months. As several people remarked, "It is so good to be doing something normal again". It was not quite the old normal as hands had to be sanitised and social distance observed but the delight of communication was quite infectious.

Mandy Hood floated the idea of the sales to help the church recover funds needed for repairs and development and what a success they have been with £1,598 raised to date.

There is an ever-growing team of volunteers (not all church members) who come and 'man the stalls', ably assisted by 'lifters and shifters', who help set-up and pack away the goods.

If you would like to join in, please let Mandy or Margaret K know and we will be **delighted** to add you to the team.

There is no shortage of interesting, varied and sometimes valuable donations and for me, in the process of moving home and 'down-sizing', it has been a fantastic service – I just have to remember not to buy anything else!

The Sales are far more than just fund raisers **they are a service** – people are visiting regularly just for a chat; many on low income can take advantage of modest prices; they provide an opportunity for people to give and out of our income the church has been able to

- buy an acre of fruit trees in Tanzania - <https://traidcraftexchange.org/plant-an-acre>
- give a donation to Bounce Back Hornsea to help the Carnival and Bike Event generate the funds needed to start up again
- provide funds to help re-locate the women of the Liberty Project in Mozambique as they flee insurgents <https://www.the-libertyproject.org>
- support the work of Christian Aid <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>
- and support the Garage Sale organised by Hornsea WI which raised funds for the WI and Inshore Rescue

We hope to give £50 each sale (£250 distributed so far) and if you have a charity you would like the church to support, please let us know.

Sales will be **Every Saturday (weather permitting) throughout the summer between 9.00am and 12.00pm** with the occasional extended one. Hope to see you there

The Spire

Two estimates for the work on the spire have been sourced – they are poles apart in price – with the lower estimate coming in at just over £10,000.

We are now in the process of looking for grant support and as you may have read from the Saturday Sales, £1,598 has already been raised.

The bulk of the work is for removal of algae, loose mortar and re-pointing but also includes the removal of a small tree above the clock, lots of pigeon poo the replacement of three sections of Perspex in one of the windows and replacement of a number of brackets on the lightning conductor.

This picture, from the top, will give you some idea of the task ahead.



Open Joints 3.5m Down

Living Well

The Living Well telephone network service would welcome more people to join their team of volunteers. At present Covid safe practice guidelines are followed to keep volunteers safe. As we have progressed through this pandemic, there has been an increase in isolation and loneliness so the calls are even more essential. Please get in touch if you can help.

June Barton

'Technical' Team

We are hoping to expand the team who do all the technical work involved in our online services, (and 'in house' services), also our website/ Facebook page etc. If you feel this is something you could get involved with, please speak to Steve Seal.

Who's Story?

Here are 11 'stories' - facts about themselves told to me by the Elders, all true!

Can you match the correct story to the person?

Answers/full story in next newsletter.

- 1) *I have been presented with an award at Buckingham Palace.*
- 2) *In the past month I have looked after 8 babies.*
- 3) *I love reading, especially novels by Val Woods*
- 4) *I once tried a culotte dress on, putting both legs down one leg hole, and wondered what the material flapping about waist was! (Clue- it wasn't Mark or Steve!)*
- 5) *I once stayed in the personal residence of the Sultan of Brunei*
- 6) *My favourite food is jam sandwiches.*
- 7) *I once attended Merlin parachute club and jumped out of a plane.*
- 8) *I am one of six children and at one time I worked for a mechanic in Withernwick.*
- 9) *I once met Jimmy Cricket in Bridlington*
- 10) *I once spent a penny in the casino at Monte Carlo*
- 11) *I am pretty handy with the hedge clippers.*

Elders:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a) Jean Barrett | g) Carol Rutherford |
| b) Steve Seal | h) June Barton |
| c) Margaret Knapton | i) Val Pearson |
| d) Marion Clubley | j) Mark Parker-Randall |
| e) Kathy Webb | k) Jill Fletcher |
| f) Ann Jordan | |

Newsletter

We have been delivering printed Newsletters during this time 'apart'. As restrictions ease would you consider receiving an electronic version? This would help in our work towards becoming a 'greener' church. Please let one of the Elders know. Thank you.