

Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter
December 2021



Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing.

Apart and Together Worship in December

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

December 5th Christingle service

December 12th Carols and Communion Service

December 19th Nativity service

December 25th Christmas Day service **at 10am**

(December 26th No live service)

If you miss any of the December services you can find them on our dedicated YouTube channel - just search Hornsea URC on YouTube to find us.

We are now settling back into worship in our building and getting to grips with our technology. We have been pleased in recent weeks to be able to include singing without masks as part of our worship. We are looking at different ways of delivering the music each week, whether it is delivered live with musicians, the piano, via Gloria (our Hymnal) or whether we use music sourced online. As this evolves, we are keen to include any favourite hymns or songs you would like to sing. If you have a favourite, please speak to Steve Seal to let him know, or email urchornsea@gmail.com. If you have found a particular version or rendition of the song online, please pass this on too and we will look to incorporate it into one of our services. Thanks

Carol Service

We are starting our Carol singing earlier this year! Jill will be leading our service on December 12th. Please speak to her if you have a favourite carol that you would like including in the service.

In addition, we are hoping to Carol sing in Newbegin on Saturday 4th and Saturday 11th December, all welcome. Meet at 10a.m.

Additional Advent Services

Christians Together in Hornsea are offering Sunday afternoon services during Advent in the venues as below: -

December 5th Muddy Adventure service starting at U.R.C. finishing at St Nicholas Church – **3.00pm**

You will need suitable outdoor clothing and a torch as we will be going on an adventure...

December 12th Messy Church at United Reformed Church - **3.00pm**

There will be crafts, activities and food!

December 19th Carol Service at the Methodist church – **4.00pm**

A traditional carol service to enjoy singing together.

Please support these opportunities to worship all together if you are able.

Christmas in the porch!



The church will be decorated in time for Lights Night on Nov 26th. The porch will be left for YOUR contributions! We thought it would be good to leave space for any individuals or groups to add their own contribution- maybe a picture, or a poem, or something you have created together? Let's make this a welcoming display for those entering our building. Thank you

Thank you

A huge **thank you** to all who donated money, time and effort, both in our church, the Methodist church, and the wider community to enable over 200 shoeboxes to be collected this week and start their journey. Donations towards the cost of transporting the boxes totalled over £800. (If you still have a donation Kathy says it's not too late to get it to her)

Kathy adds - "we do not know where the boxes are going to, but can be sure they will go to children who very much need our love. I always ask people who have given something in a box to remember their gift on Christmas Day and think of the child receiving that present."

More Thank you's-

"A big thank you to all my friends at the U.R.C. for your many cards, flowers and best wishes on the occasion of my 'big birthday'. I felt very touched by them all. Also, another big thank you for all the cards, flowers and best wishes Richard and I received on our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We felt truly blessed. It's been a busy year. We thank the Lord we were able to celebrate both occasions with family and friends. God Bless and take care."

Ann and Richard Jordan.

Bible Book Club

In November we read the Psalms 46-54. We then met to chat and share what we had read and learned. 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.

Join us if you can- our next meeting will be **in January**- so you have plenty of time to read the book of James! If there is a demand, next year we will hold an additional book club in the evening- do let us know if you would be interested.

Flowers in church

A big thank you to all who have donated towards the cost of having flowers in church this year. The rota is now on the notice board in the hall for next year's dates. Please sign up or contact Ann Jordan if you can help. The flowers are taken out to people after the service and are much appreciated.

Ann writes,

"It has been a very different year again for us all. I am delighted we are back in church and able to put out flowers in again. As you read this church will be decorated for Christmas- what a joy and blessing to be able to do this again. I would like to say a big thank you to Heather, Mandy and Jean for helping me once again, I couldn't do it without you. Also, a big thank you to Marion for helping to arrange the flowers and distributing them. Wishing you all a peaceful healthy 2022."

Stockings for the homeless

Please buy a warm pair of socks, put one inside the other and fill the sock with packets of sweets, biscuits, gloves, chocolate and packet soups or anything you think would be a treat or warming. There is a box in church to put them in, and Kathy will collect up all the socks and ensure that they get to recipients for Christmas Day. They were very much appreciated last time we did this and we need about 50 socks of which about a dozen are for women. Thank you

Kathy

Coffee morning is back!

Spread the news!

Coffee morning is running again on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon.

Do call in for a chat and a 'catch up'. You will be most welcome.



The Leprosy Mission

Many of you will remember James Greig and his visits to Hornsea. James retired from his work at the Leprosy Mission last May due to ill health and sadly he died on 31st October.

James Greig
Regional Manager
North East England



James was the reason I became a volunteer speaker for TLM and I will always remember his encouragement and support and his enthusiasm for the work of the mission.

But above all that was his faith and his love for Jesus which always shone through any conversation with him.

Please remember his family in your prayers.

Carol



Annie's Eco Corner

No one can fail to be aware of the climate crisis that currently faces us and the planet. As I write, the COP26 summit has started today, where world leaders will come together to (hopefully!) agree on a worldwide plan to limit global warming and discuss the introduction of new, "green", eco-friendly solutions to our energy and food production challenges, our travel and transport habits and our lifestyles, in order to minimise the effect they are having on the planet we call home.

I recently attended an "eco summit" arranged by Christ Church, Bridlington. There were many attendees, along with representatives of local businesses and organisations all trying to work to help reduce our waste, energy use and plastic. It happened to be the same weekend that the Pilots held their 'creation' service, and the combination of both events hit home with me and made me think about what we can do as individuals, the church, and even the town, to address the issue of how we are destroying the beautiful world that God gave us to care for.

I'm sure I'm not the only person who feels frustrated that what needs to happen is on a huge scale, and it is in the hands of politicians and world leaders whose motivations, priorities and loyalties are so often at odds with the plans needed to facilitate the necessary changes. We can feel "helpless", wondering "What difference can I make in the grand scheme of things when so much needs to be done on such a vast scale?"

To quote zero-waste chef Anne-Marie Bonneau

"We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly,

We need millions of people doing it imperfectly”

We can't each of us save the world on our own, but if we all do the best that we can, collectively we can make a difference, but we need to do it now-

The future of our planet and indeed all life on Earth depends on us”

Sir David Attenborough

Genesis 2 v15, tells us

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it”

We are the custodians of God's wonderful, amazing creation and we are destroying it, and not slowly. With this in mind and having spoken with several of the Elders I've been asked to write for the church newsletter, giving some simple, easy ideas we can all use to “do our bit “for the benefit of the planet. Panic not, I'm not asking everyone to go vegan (but if you'd like more info....)!

This month's easy swaps to make...

Loose tea instead of tea bags

Did you know, most teabags use a plastic-based glue to stick the edges of the bags? This plastic is not biodegradable, so doesn't break down in the environment. Using loose tea doesn't cause a problem, and you can put the used leaves in your food waste/compost bin, plus I think it tastes much better when the loose leaves are left to mash/brew/stew (depending which part of the country you hail from) in a teapot too. Loose tea is available in supermarkets, and is also available via Fairtrade and at the Leafy Seadragon Refill shop down Newbegin

Soap bars/liquid soap refill

Do we really need to use lots of plastic bottles of hand wash/liquid soap? Yes, you can recycle them, but even better is not to use them in the first place, or else refill them. Good old-fashioned bars of soap, especially if wrapped in paper, avoids the plastic, but if you like liquid soap, refill the bottle instead. Soap/handwash refills are again available at the Leafy Seadragon, along with 'naked' soap bars in no wrapping at all. If you don't like soap bars because they go soft and mushy, try a coconut fibre soap stand/dish (non plastic of course) to allow it to dry out between uses. This can then also be composted when it's worn.

I look forward to giving more tips next time, plus updates of what else we as a church might have planned. If anyone is interested in being part of an eco-group, please have a word with Margaret, Jean, Carol or myself.

Thank you for reading, God Bless

Ann

Advent and Nativity Services

Pre Covid our church welcomed literally 100s of school children, staff, parents and grandparents into the building to celebrate the story of the Nativity.

This year will be similar – but different.

Instead of the schools asking to use our building and bring their own performances of the Nativity Story - the church has offered to do one for them.

An offer that was received with enthusiasm.

We are in the process of finalising dates, scripts etc. but if you would like to be involved, just have a word with Steve Seal or Margaret Knapton.

We would ask that **all our members** pray for the children attending these performances - that they may grasp what Christmas is really about and that they are able to share this with others in their family, who are unfortunately unable to attend.

The script will be interactive with a great line repeated throughout - so that when the word Christmas is mentioned, the whole church shouts:-

Christmas – It's about Jesus!

Don't worry – you wont miss out on the fun if you attend worship on the 19th December.



Wherever you are spending Christmas this year - may the Blessing of Jesus touch your heart.

Next year's newsletters

As we work towards becoming a 'greener' church, next year the Newsletter will be sent out electronically to save paper and ink.

However- if you still want to receive a paper copy, that is fine. It is important to us as well, that what we do as a church is accessible to all.

If you would prefer to keep getting a paper copy, please let one of the Elders know and we will make sure you keep getting it. Thank you.

Jean