

Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter August 2022



Our 'Alternative August' Worship series: -

We plan to meet in the hall for the first three Sunday services and spend the last Sunday outside, as follows-

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|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7 th August | Planting | 10.30 a.m. in the Hall |
| 14 th August | Growing | 10.30 a.m. in the Hall |
| 21 st August | Maturing | 10.30 a.m. in the Hall |
| 28 th August | Celebrating * | 12 noon start in Memorial Gardens |

The services will be a little different. Following on from our series on Galatians we shall be thinking about the Fruit of the Spirit. There will be lots of ways to get involved. If you play a musical instrument you are invited to bring it along any Sunday.

We will not be Zooming our Worship services during August, nor uploading a recording to YouTube. Both these services will resume in September.

Bible Book Club

In July we read the Song of Songs. Quite a challenge!

Do join us if you can this month- for August, we are reading the book of Jonah. A well-known story you may think, but I'm sure we will find something fresh in it.

For August's meeting we are combining the afternoon and evening groups again and meeting together at 5.30pm on Wednesday August 31st to share together what we thought of this book. (Sharing fish and chips was also mentioned!) So, join us if you can; you are welcome to just come and see what Bible Book Club is all about.

Bible Course

The Bible course is currently running on Tuesday mornings at 10a.m. in the hall. It is not too late to join us if you would like to.

Time Away at Church

Steven and Margaret recently spent four days away at the **Hayes Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire.**

They went as delegates from the Yorkshire Synod to the **General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.**

It all sounds very grand and a bit remote from Hornsea URC so why were they there? Each year the National body of the United Reformed Church come together to debate issues affecting/impacting the work of the church and to discern a way forward through worship, prayer and consensus voting.



Each Synod (13 in all) send 16 representatives to the meeting of the General Assembly, these along with members of the Youth Assembly and representatives from other denominations form the Meeting. They will have read the reports (273 pages in all), have chance to ask questions, listened to the debate and then vote on an outcome. It is a bit like our Church Meeting, where those who are church members form the Church Meeting which identifies the focus and

direction of the work of our church in a prayerful compassionate way.

It was my first experience of a General Assembly and what struck me was the diversity of the representatives and the worshipful, prayerful way in which issues were discussed and decisions reached.

We agreed things, on your behalf, concerning the Legacies of Slavery and supporting the Korean Peace Appeal; a major change to the minister's pensions scheme; introductions of policies for mental health, and the environment and agreements for working parties to develop/continue work on mission, equalities, and church life review to name but a few! No doubt you will be hearing much more about these in future Newsletters, church meetings and Sunday worship.

If you have access to the internet you may like to watch an evening session of the General Assembly - <https://youtu.be/p6Uy14fec44> or part of the Bible Study on Jubilee <https://youtu.be/al7OJkLjNKg> or if you are REALLY interested visit URCUK on You Tube for the whole lot!

Four of our Elders attended the **Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers Conference** at **Wydale Hall, Brompton-by-Sawdon, Scarborough** held between the 22nd and 24th July. This was organised by the Yorkshire Synod with the aim of supporting those who voluntarily lead worship and to provide information about the opportunity of developing their skills further, should they so wish.

We have come away with ideas and possibilities to be explored so watch this space



What we have come away with is a vision of a **CHURCH DAY OUT** for us all!

Wydale Hall is a wonderful place with an ambiance you cannot really put into words. For those of us who have been before we take every opportunity to visit again – it is just one of those places.

It is place for quiet retreat and meditation, birdwatching, photography, sketching etc. with extensive grounds, walled gardens and woodland. For the more energetic - beautiful walks of varying lengths and for the younger at heart, games areas and activities.

Because of its popularity we will have to book well in advance so if you think this is something you would like to experience just let one of the elders know. The cost would be around £28 which will include morning coffee, buffet lunch (hot and cold) and afternoon tea as well as use of the centre.

Just a few photos from our visit to give you a glimpse of Wydale



Annie's Eco Corner



Great news, our Green Eco-Fair on **Saturday 10th September** is well into planning, and we already have several local businesses and organisations who have confirmed they will be attending. They range from local branches of national organisations such as the Wildlife Trust, to small, local home-based businesses selling products made from locally sourced supplies.

Please support this venture by

-Praying for those attending, and for our working with local groups.

-Attending yourself

-Assisting- particular help is needed with technology, and with being welcoming hosts

Thank you!

Until next time, Blessings to All

Ann

Fairtrade Hornsea will also be at the Green Eco Fair as care for and sustainability of the environment is a crucial part of Fairtrade. If you missed the report in the Hornsea Community News this month – these are a few of the points covered:-

How buying Fairtrade can help protect the environment

With increasing talk of a climate emergency, it seems a good time to look at what difference Fairtrade can make. In fact, environmental protection is ingrained in Fairtrade. To sell Fairtrade products, farmers have to improve soil and water quality, manage pests, avoid using harmful chemicals, manage waste, reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and protect biodiversity. Here are eight examples of how Fairtrade supports farmers to survive the climate emergency and reduce their own carbon footprint.



- 1. Reforestation projects to store carbon**
- 2. Prohibiting harmful agrochemicals**
- 3. Growing trees and crops together**
- 4. Climate emergency adaptation training**
- 5. Wildlife conservation projects**
- 6. Fairtrade carbon credit**
- 7. Switching to green energy fuels**
- 8. Reducing water usage**

We are hoping to run a '**Local and Fair**' Cafe at the event serving fairly traded drinks and locally produced bacon and egg butties – if you would like to help with this PLEASE let Margaret K know – You will be MOST WELCOME.

Carol writes-

Below is a letter from Synod to all church congregations saying thank you for our contribution to the Ministry and Mission Fund. The M&M payment is requested from all churches to enable Synod to pay the costs of ministers and church workers including pensions and training.

This year we are paying £1,414 each month.

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

Dear Friends,

Is anyone back to normal?

After two years of pandemic and lockdown, and Covid still with us (thankfully, for most, in a much weaker form), we can now worship together in person and find fellowship again. But for most of us it is not simply a return to how it used to be; some people have not returned to church, some have died or become too frail, some churches have closed and others considering it.

Now we have significant European turmoil and its likely effect on fuel and food prices for us in the UK.

Thank God that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13 v.8). Whatever else changes, He is our rock, our cornerstone.

Financially, things were extremely tough for churches in 2021. Plate offerings had collapsed; some regular givers had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God's work; and those churches which hire out their premises had seen income from that source disappear. Even those churches where the majority of the giving was by standing order or bank transfer (*if you have not considered regularising your giving in this way, please do – it helps your treasurer significantly*) may have seen a 20%+ drop in income.

If this had been replicated in giving to the M&M Fund in 2021, we might have been faced with a serious financial crisis last year.

But no, through the generosity of individuals, churches and Synods, we can report that income only fell by 4.4%. With a similar reduction in expenditure the M&M Fund result was a deficit of only £80,000 (less than one-half of one percent of income), a deficit that can be comfortably covered by reserves.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2021 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With churches and individuals under financial pressure, 2022 is not going to be an easy year either. The M&M Fund budgeted income (based on Synods' projections) will not be sufficient to cover expected costs and we are reconciled to dipping into our reserves more seriously as a result.

However, if we “ordinary Christians” are to fulfil the call of Jesus to be His witnesses in the world around us we need ministers and other workers “on the ground” and we need shared resources which are often best created centrally. That all comes from the M&M Fund.

Again, thank you all!

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), Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

Steve writes on behalf of FRONTIER CAMPS: -

Camp Week – 6TH TO 13TH AUGUST

We write this with the request and hope that you would support us in prayer for Frontier Camps through the week of camp. We believe it is a real privilege to spend time with over 70 young people and to share what Christ has done for each of us and for each camper. It is also our privilege to have you pray with us as your prayers are a foundational and core element of camp. Without prayer camp cannot succeed, so we are hugely thankful for your contribution.

At time of writing, we are pleased to be taking 8 people from Hornsea URC this year - a mix of staff and campers. Hopefully they will find the experience fulfilling and exciting.

Who to pray for and give thanks for?

- 30 young campers aged 9 – 14. Praise God that we have many campers from all sorts of backgrounds – for quite a number this will be their only holiday of the year.
- ‘The Crew’ – 12 young people aged 16 to 19 ish whose duties are serving food, helping with activities, peeling tons of spuds, serving meals and many other things. Camp is an opportunity for them to grow in their faith, and to grow in service. This is active discipleship. For some of the Crew this is their only contact with Christian community. Please pray for the Crew Leaders.
- Tent Leaders – a crucial role spending most of their week with the campers. Their witness and love is really important. It is an exhausting and immeasurably important job.

Leaders who will be teaching, nurturing and encouraging the campers and staff.

- The Catering teams (they serve wonderful food all week)
- The Sports and Activities Teams (they run an action-packed week catering for all sorts of interests)
- Tent Partners – supporting the Team Leaders – potential Tent Leaders for future years – again a crucial role alongside the campers throughout the day.

- Lots of other staff helping to ensure the success of the holiday.
- The families of leaders – the camp is a community with nearly 55 staff and family members in addition to the campers. Pray that they will all have a great time.
- New staff and new campers. Many children and leaders have been several times before – pray for those who are new to be really welcomed and to settle quickly into the non-stop action of camp.
- For every person to have had a great holiday and for God to be glorified in all that we do.
- The weather – given the peculiarities of our British weather pray for as little rain as possible, for sunshine but not too hot (are we being picky?) Our Heavenly Father knows what we need to make the camp a success and not a wash out or a burn-up! Freedom from accidents and harm, from sickness and from over tiredness.
- The Holy Spirit to be at work in the lives of the campers (and sustaining staff) and that we might all hear God's voice and respond as He calls, nurtures and refreshes.
- The teaching to really speak into everyone's lives.
- At the end of camp, the right way to support young people going home with a new faith or renewed faith.
- For everyone to be closer to God as a result of the week
- For the young people who find the structure and rules a bit too much, and for those who are homesick in the first couple of days.
- Lots of fun and laughter.

Every morning (around 9.15am) there will be teaching and celebration in the marquee and a word for the day and worship songs (around 8pm). These are very important times.

Thank you again for joining with us in prayer. You are a key partner on the journey through which God will change the lives of young people of this generation and they in turn will influence others. God bless.

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Colossians 3:23-24.

Thank you



August Prayer

For the Environment



**That we, individually and as a church, treasure the earth
and do all we can help to restore it**

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

HORNSEA GREEN FAIR

HORNSEA UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
NEW ROAD, HORNSEA, HU18 1PG

Saturday 10th September
10.00AM - 4.00PM

- The evidence of Climate Change is on our doorstep! But what can we do about it?
- COME ALONG TO OUR GREEN FAIR
- You will find help, advice and encouragement from a range of National and Local organisations.
- Talks, demonstrations, stalls and 'Fair & Local' refreshments.

