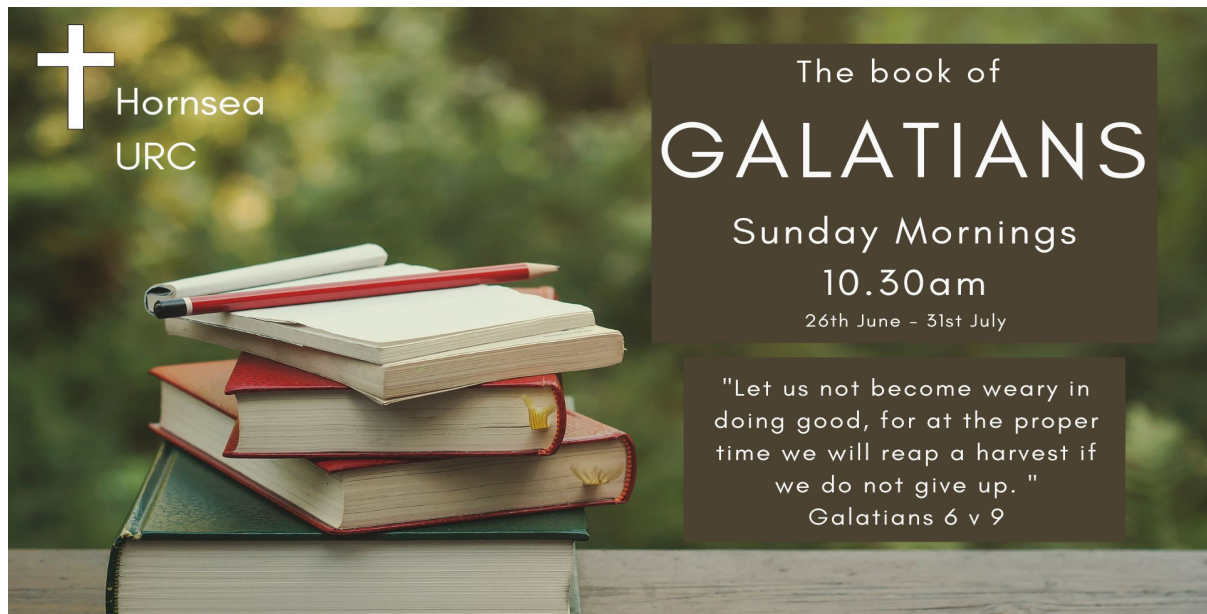


Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter July 2022



Our worship series will continue through July as follows:

- 3rd July Galatians chapter 2
- 10th July Galatians chapter 3 Holy Communion
- 17th July Galatians chapter 4
- 24th July Galatians chapter 5
- 31st July Galatians chapter 6

Galatians; an introduction

One of the books I had to study when training for the ministry was Galatians. It is probably the earliest book to be written in the New Testament. Paul wrote it to the church he helped found in an area of what is now Turkey called Galatia. The letter would then be passed around to other churches in the region.

The letter is so relevant today. Many people seem to believe the Christian Faith is all about following rules. A sort of do this and do not do that and you I'll be alright approach to the Christian life. Paul explains to these new believers how wrong they are in this. He had hoped when he began this little fellowship that they understood this but clearly over time, after he left them to carry on his travels, they had been led astray by others. So, in his own unique way Paul seeks to guide them to understand it is all about knowing Jesus.

So, if you, like me, sometimes find being a Christian a challenge and get stuck into thinking it is all about following a set of rules why not join us for the 6 Sunday's when we will explore a chapter a week?

Steven

Christianity Explored

We are running a new group, meeting **on Saturday mornings at 10a.m. each week**. This is an opportunity to share, discuss and explore together the message/learnings/challenges from the previous Sunday, in an informal way around tea and coffee (and possibly Cake!). Please do come along.

August Worship

During the month of August we will be running our Alternative August series.

This year we plan to meet in the hall for the first three Sunday services and spend the last Sunday outside.

Each Sunday we will have the opportunity to explore new ways of worshipping together.



Bible Book Club

In June we read the book of Galatians in preparation for our worship series.

Do join us if you can this month- for July, we are really going out of our comfort zone and reading the book- Song of Songs!!

For July's meeting we are combining the afternoon and evening groups and meeting together at 5.30pm on Wednesday July 27th to eat and share together what we thought of this book. Should be interesting! - do join us if you can.

Helping other churches:

Some of our worship team go out to other churches without a minister to help fill slots in their pulpit supply. Steven Knapton travels far and wide, as well as the Hull area he goes to York, Scarborough, Goole and helps out on the local Methodist Circuit. Mark, Jill, Carol, Jean and Val go to the Hull churches and Scarborough.

So, if we are missing on a Sunday, it's not that we are having a lie in! - we are out and about sharing the faith. Please pray for the other churches in our area that they will find the help they need to keep going and hopefully growing.

- **Elloughton URC:**
is very similar to Hornsea as it was designed by the same architect. They have a congregation of 20-25 people and have been without a minister for much longer than we have. They have a wonderful organ played brilliantly by Davis Brabbs, and a group of Elders who keep the church going. It was at Elloughton that we first saw the screens we now use in worship and with their help and advice, and Mark's enthusiasm, were able to set up our system. We were delighted to hear last time we visited that they are going to try to lead some of the services themselves as we do in Hornsea so please keep them in your prayers it can be very daunting!
- **St Ninians and St Andrews URC:**
on Chanterlands Avenue, is part of the Hull Team of churches. They are a small congregation of 15-20 and use a hymnal for their music. They have recently acquired a screen so visiting ministers can use technology if they want. Their service is at 9.30am which means an early start from Hornsea! They have communion once a month and have coffee after the service on these Sundays.

- **Zion URC:**
in Cottingham is part of the Hull Team and has a small congregation of 12-15. Their music is from a hymnal, and they don't use any technology. They have a large building in the centre of Cottingham and run a food bank and Girls Brigade on their premises.
- **Swanland URC:**
Is a Methodist LLP, again part of the Hull Team. It's a small church overlooking the pond in Swanland, it is easy to get distracted watching the ducks when you are leading worship! They are on the Methodist circuit for some of their Sundays but still need to find help for other Sundays. They are a small congregation and have coffee after the service.
- **St Andrews URC:**
In Scarborough have been without a minister since last December. It is a very large building and has a congregation of 25-30, they also have a few young people with varying needs who meet on one side of the church and show and tell what they have been doing at the end of the service. They serve 'proper' coffee after the service in the hall.
A group of our Elders went to meet their Elders and chat about how we are managing in vacancy. They have a very strong and enthusiastic group of elders and are looking at installing technology and screens to enhance their worship.

Supporting other churches is one way to exercise our discipleship – another is to support the development work of the synod.

Steven Knapton writes-

Synod Companion

I was asked to become Synod Companion to St Andrews URC Scarborough from the beginning of this year. Their minister left towards the end of last year. I am there to be a friend who goes with them on their journey as they explore where God is calling them as a fellowship and how they might be better equipped to live out that vision. Practically it means taking some services, attending some meetings and helping them as they prepare a pastorate profile for the church to give to any potential minister. I also act as a link between the church and the Synod as together we see how we can grow the kingdom of God in that fellowship and in service to their community.

Jill Fletcher writes-

As I have mentioned before in one of my services, I am part of the Ministries Committee taking on the role of Lay Preaching Commissioner for the Yorkshire Synod. Now this sounds like a bit of a grand title, but I thought you may be interested in knowing just what this role entails. If anyone from any of the churches shows an interest in furthering their faith by becoming a Local preacher or Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher, they would initially contact me for information.

Should they decide to go ahead with their studies they would have to take part in the Stepwise Programme and fulfil some requirements. This is where I come in and it is my responsibility make sure this is done and act as a one of the support team for the candidate. Throughout the time they study, myself and the Stepwise organiser meet with the candidate to help them achieve their goal. When the person is coming to the end of their course, they

are required to take an assessed service and demonstrate that they are proficient to receive a certificate. I attend this and assess the service of the candidate using listed criteria. The enjoyable part of this process is taking part in a Commissioning Service, where the person is received into the church they attend and can be proud of their achievement. There are a couple of people taking part in this process at the moment and a few enquirers. There is a weekend being held at Wydale Hall in July where many of these subjects are going to be discussed, helping those who have questions to ask. I hope this has been of interest to you as an insight into the different ways to take your faith forward.

Margaret Knapton writes-

I have recently joined the Yorkshire Synod's Children and Youth Committee, and although still finding my feet, I can see how we can make a difference in the lives and Christian development of the children in our churches – through supporting those who are already working with the young people;

- enabling the youngsters to develop their discipleship through involvement and exploration of wider activities;
- working closely with the URC's Children and Youth Work Committee.

These are exciting times so watch this space

Yet another way to exercise our discipleship is to contribute to the life of our own church. We are a congregation who does this with enthusiasm and if anyone feels called to supporting these two areas mentioned below.

If you are able to help, please speak to Margaret/Carol, or any elder - thank you.

Help in our church: Helping Sundays run smoothly

- **Porch Duty:** Would you be able to take a turn to meet and greet on a Sunday morning? It is so important to have a friendly face to welcome people and it just means coming a little earlier – about 10am.
- **Serving Tea and Coffee:** Would you be able to help serve the drinks after a service? We can get everything ready before the service but need some help to serve the drinks. Elders need to be available to speak to people after the service so any help would be appreciated. We would also appreciate help with the washing up afterwards.

Quiet Day 16th July

The next Quiet Day will be held on Saturday 16th July at the convent on Eastgate. The 'day' actually starts from 10am and we eat together and finish around 2pm. Do join us if you can.

Monthly Prayers

As part of our prayer life at Hornsea URC we launched 'Prayer for the Month' in April. Our prayers, so far, have covered Families, Eldership and Membership and I know many of us are still praying for these.

It is good to look back for prayers answered as this is the springboard, God gives us, for our journey forward with his Holy Spirit.

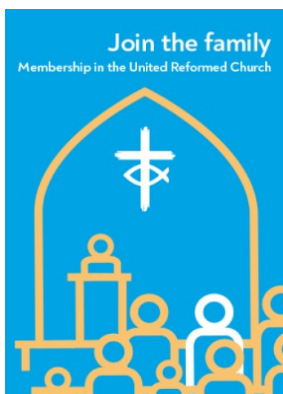
- We are blessed with children and families and most weeks there is the bubble of joy and enthusiasm echoing around the church. Although our work with 'Junior Church' is in transition we can see opportunities for more integration and inclusion within the

life of the whole church so let's keep them, and the Pilots, in our prayers.

- Prayers are certainly being answered in relation to Eldership. Ann Bosworth has once again taken up the reins and there are conversations taking place between members who are discerning their ministry within the church. These conversations are a result of prayer – which have given the congregation the courage to ask those who have been brought to mind 'if they had ever thought about becoming an elder'. As you read this, there may be someone on your heart who you think would make a good elder but you may not have had the opportunity to ask them. So, this month, you will be given the opportunity to put that name forward to the Elders who will put that question to them – and we will wait to see where the Spirit leads.
- Our prayers for membership are being answered weekly as we delight in, and are amazed by, the wonderful people who are seeking a worshipping family within the town of Hornsea. We have felt a bond of love with everyone who has 'visited' our church for this reason and continue to pray that they have felt God's leadership into this part of his family.

One thing that has come to light in our conversations is the word MEMBERSHIP itself as most of us already feel WE ARE members - and that is true - in that we are all part of God's family bases in the fellowship of Hornsea URC.

Becoming a 'member' is an official term which indicates members of the congregation take steps to be officially involved in the affairs of the church.



For example, we have talked about Eldership – becoming an Elder enables you to be a part of the Elders Meeting where decisions and directions of the church (agreed by the Church Meeting) are implemented, along with other responsibilities. Becoming a member enables you to be part of the Church Meeting where you can not just discuss issues but can vote on them too ... There are other aspects of membership which can be found in this helpful booklet – look out for it in the church – or ask an elder.

Prayers for July

We will be joining with the whole of the United Reformed Church as we are invited to 'Pray like Hannah' across the month of July for children. Only 21% of those worshipping in local URCs are children, with more than double that number involved in other activities and groups. Children have always been important to the life of the URC, and as we celebrate our 50th anniversary it seems timely to renew this commitment formally.



Annie's Eco Corner



Welcome to July'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. If you know of any local, small businesses who sell locally-sourced products and they might like to attend, please let either Margaret, Jean or myself know. There will be a representative from Christian Aid who will be discussing climate change from a climate justice perspective which will tie in well with our being an active Fairtrade Church.

The weather recently has been lovely, although as I write this the heavens have opened and rain is forecast for most of the day; however, our gardens and farmers need rain, and I don't like extreme heat (and neither does the dog!), so it's a welcome relief. The bees have been buzzing around the garden visiting the plants they like, especially the lavender and ceanothus, and I planted wildflower seeds in a planter but so far it's been a mixed success- lots of different seeds planted, but only a couple of different varieties have appeared; I'm hoping once they have finished, others will appear later, and I'm saving the seeds to plant for next year.

I've been looking at the Green Christian website as part of our preparations for the eco-fair, and found they have lots of valuable information and free resources to download. You can access them at <https://greenchristian.org.uk>, but here is part of their leaflet "Nine Ways of Living Gently" to give you an idea of what they are about.

Until next time, Blessings to All

Ann

Nine ways of living gently on the Earth: -

1. Stand up for the planet:

- Get to know your MP
- Write letters, sign an online petition
- Protest.

2. Get connected:

- Seek out like-minded people for mutual support and encouragement
- Join and support community groups
- Take part in one of Green Christian's many online meetings.

3. Practice gratitude and generosity:

- Take joy in simple pleasures rather than more possessions.

4. Be creative:

- Reinvent second-hand goods from charity shops

- Improvise, make things
- Try swishing – clothes swap!

5. Reconnect with the natural world:

- Get wet -- dig the earth
- Grow herbs on your window sill
- Save and cherish water
- Take an interest in wildflowers, bees, butterflies, fish, birds and rocks
- Include the Earth in all Church liturgies
- Plant trees for special occasions such as weddings and baptisms.

6. Use your LOAF!

- Support local shops
- Try to buy British fruit and veg in season
- Grow some of your own food
- Eat less meat and dairy
- Buy free-range eggs and meat and sustainably-caught fish (MSC)
- Suggest communal Church meals based on the LOAF principles:

Locally produced

Organically grown

Animal friendly

Fairly traded.

7. Travel light:

- Walk, cycle, take the bus, tram or train, if possible, and use local shops, noticing the beauty on your doorstep
- Organise a lift share scheme for your Church
- Don't fly: a transatlantic passenger blows their annual fair share of carbon in one go. If you must fly, offset with climatestewards.org
- Most European travel is possible by train:
seat61.com for more information.

8. Explore this island:

- Get in touch with the seasons
- Seek out local adventures
- Enjoy the journey and limit your driving.

9. Go fossil-free and reduce your energy use:

- Change your electricity provider or campaign for your university, council or Church to disinvest
- Insulate your home

- Wear an extra layer, and turn the thermostat down one or two degrees
- Use hot water bottle, or an extra blanket instead of heating the whole house at night
- If buying new appliances go for AAA rate

Hornsea URC Eldership Team



Top: **Marian, June, Jean, Jill** Middle: **Mark, Ann, Steve, Margaret**
 Bottom: **Ann, Val, Carol, Kathy**