



Luke 2 v.7 ...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and placed him in a manger....

Dear Friends,

Well, here we are almost at the end of yet another topsy turvy year! We started out looking forward to the Queens Jubilee and the U.R. C's 50th birthday. Who would have known we were in for such an unbelievable time?

Starting in February when Russia invaded Ukraine. How brave have the Ukrainians been? Their resilience, courage and strength are beyond belief. We pray they will continue to feel God's love and the prayers of the world giving them the strength and courage to keep going, and that they will be able to live in peace again. In June we celebrated the Queens Jubilee. What a weekend- and not knowing that by September our dear Queen was to pass away. Most of us had only known the Queen, now our children and grandchildren get to know a King.

On 25th September we celebrated the church's birthday; 50 years old. A church lunch was held after the service. Here's to the next 50 years!

As for the government, well hopefully they will have sorted themselves by the end of the year!!

So, as we look forward to Christmas and celebrating the birth of Jesus, we pray for a peaceful and harmonious New Year.

*Who would think that what was needed
To transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
That a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
Coming here on Christmas Day.*

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.
With every blessing, Marion.

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December Worship: -

(Christians together in Hornsea joint services during Advent are on Sunday afternoons- shown in **green**)

4 th December	10.30 a.m. Carol Service
4 th December	4 p.m. Christingle service in URC
11 th December	10.30 a.m. Christingle service including Holy Communion
11 th December	4 p.m. Muddy Advent church – start at URC
18 th December	10.30 a.m. Nativity service (please come dressed as a Nativity character!)
18 th December	4 p.m. Carol Service in the Methodist Church
25 th December	10 a.m. Christmas Morning Service
1 st January	10.30 a.m. New Year's Day service

What's on in December

Carol singing

on Saturday 10th December and Saturday 17th December come and join the singing outside Cooplunds on Newbegin. Meet at 10a.m. -any money given will be used to help local charities.

Faith and fellowship

This group continues to meet on **Tuesday afternoons**, and newcomers are always welcome. Please speak to Val or Ann Bosworth for more details.

Coffee Morning/warm space

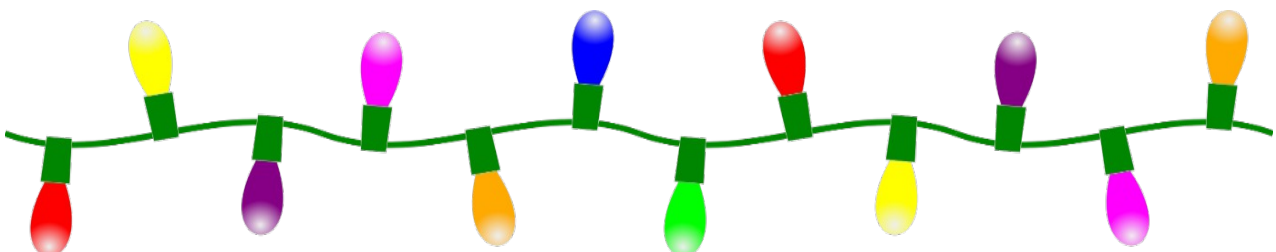
A chance to meet up, keep warm and chat over coffee (or tea!). **every Thursday**. Now extended times 9am-3 p.m. with a light lunch served.

Christianity Explored

The **Saturday morning** Christianity Explored get togethers are a chance to reflect back on the previous Sunday service. We meet at 10a.m. in the hall.

Bible Book Club

We meet again in January, on Wednesday 25th Jan 2023; so, you have plenty of time to read our next book, which will be the book of Esther! Do join us in the New Year.



Some Thank you's

Christmas Fair

The proceeds of the Christmas fair have been allocated now, with £100 going to Hornsea School and language College to help struggling families, £100 sent to the Pantry to help provide ingredients for Christmas dinners, and the remainder going to our church benevolent fund to help those within our church family. **Thank you** to all those who helped with the fair.

Shoebboxes

We are sending off 164 shoebboxes, including those from our friends at the Methodist Church, as well as a donation towards shipping costs. Particular **thanks** go to Mandy and her friends in the keep fit classes, and to all those who wrapped boxes, knitted scarves, hats and gloves, packed boxes and 'pressed money into Mandy's hand in the street'. A magnificent joint effort to bring a little joy to others.

Building Project

Thank you to all those working hard behind the scenes on our current building project to improve the front entrance of the church building. The good news is that we have been given a grant from the Witherwick Wind Farm Community Fund of £10,000!

Our **thanks** too to C.M.Allot and Son Ltd., for a gift of £1000 towards the cost of the ramp to the front door. We are awaiting a response from the Synod Finance Committee to our grant request. They will be meeting on December 5th; please pray for this decision. We do not as yet have a start date for building work..

Church Flowers.

As I sit here writing for the newsletter, I am thinking about last Wednesday when we decorated the church for Christmas; we had a joyous time, it's always a pleasure especially at this time of year. **Thank you** for all your lovely comments. Once again I would like to say a big thank you to Heather, Jean, Mandy and Marion for all your help again this year. A special thank you to Heather who makes such beautiful arrangements for us throughout the year.

As I write each year flowers are such an important part of our church. They make us smile and bring such joy, they help us to keep in touch with people and let them know we are thinking about them. The Rota with all next year's dates will be up as you read this. If you would like flowers out in church on a special date in the year, please put your name next to the date. I or one of my flower ladies will buy the flowers and arrange them for you. If you prefer you can do your own, please feel free to have a word with me. Any contributions however small would be welcome however please don't let this stop you adding your name; just have a quiet word with me. Lastly, but not least in behalf of my flower ladies, we would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Ann J.

Socks for the homeless

Thank you to those who have already filled a sock for the homeless. The box for these, together with all the instructions on what to put in, is in the church. Plenty of room left for more!

Hello Everyone,

December already! Where has the year gone? Obviously, everyone is thinking about Christmas-cards, presents and what to buy for that particular individual who always presents a challenge! From an eco-friendly angle, try to avoid cards with glitter and shiny embellishments- they can't be recycled. Use plain wrapping paper rather than the shiny plastic-y stuff; try scrunching it into a ball if it doesn't stay scrunched up it contains plastic so can't be recycled. And if you've been very organised you can use the gift tags you made from last year's cards!

I appreciate it's a difficult time for everyone, especially this year with everything costing more, so instead of just buying 'stuff', so that a person has 'something to open', why not think about sponsoring as a gift? There are lots of charities for whom you pay a small amount each month as a gift for someone and they are sent a sponsor information pack and regular updates. We've all seen the ads on TV – the donkey sanctuary, Cats Protection League, Dog's Trust, W.W.F., Canine Partners, Guide Dogs for the Blind etc. this would help charities whilst reducing buying stuff for the sake of it.

We are fortunate in Hornsea that there are venues open as warm hubs six days a week from December to March, so folks can drop in for hot drinks and keep warm instead having to switch on their heating at home. I'm very fortunate to have a log burner in my lounge, so one room gets warm, but the heating is off in the rest of the house. In order to save money and reduce my use of gas I wrap up with layers of clothing. My feet always get cold so I wear three pairs of socks! It costs nothing, as opposed to turning on the heating- warm the person rather than the house, and even just keep the one room warm that you spend most of your time in- it all helps.

Once the festivities are over, don't forget to recycle cards, wrapping paper and cardboard (don't forget to remove Sellotape first). Cards can be used to make gift tags for next year, and real Christmas trees can be left out with the brown bins to be collected and recycled in January. If you have any unwanted gifts take them to the charity shop where they can be reused/re-homed.

Whatever you are planning, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year

Peace and blessings to all

Ann

Christmas Cards- continuing the 'eco' theme-

As in recent years, you are invited to send one card to the whole church family, rather than individual ones, to be displayed in church. You may choose to leave a donation to add to the carol singing collections, in the plate provided. Thank you.



Can you give a hand?

There are many areas of our church life together and the wider community, where help would be gratefully received. Are you good at welcoming people? Chatting on the phone? are you musical? do you ever sit in church and think "I could have a go at that"?

Do you need a hand? Is there a way we could make services more accessible for you? Do you know someone who is struggling financially and would welcome help from our benevolent fund?

We want to help each other, so please put a note in the box in church or speak to an Elder

Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn,
give courage to all who are homeless;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fled into Egypt,
give comfort to all refugees;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fasted in the desert,
give relief to all who are starving;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross, give strength
to all who suffer; in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church **hear our prayer, and make us one
in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever.
Amen.**



Margaret Hodgetts

We recently said goodbye and celebrated the life of Margaret Hodgetts, who had been a member of the church for 20 years. She loved serving others and did a lot of caring things, like pastoral visiting and being part of the prayer network. We shall miss her greatly.