

## Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter October 2023



"Revelation is one of those biblical books we can be tempted to avoid. It has a bit of a history and reputation for being misused, abused and misconstrued. It's odd and even disturbing imagery can make it quite an uncomfortable and perplexing read. But this pastoral letter, written by an elder sage to a diverse group of committed yet messy, tired, hurting and confused churches can actually offer us a lot of comfort and instruction about how to live hopefully, faithfully and lovingly as God's people today, however challenging a time and place we might find ourselves in.

So, join us as we chew over its words together in a host of different ways; appreciating its strangeness, responding to its challenges and hearing its encouragement."

### **Worship services-**

All services to be held in the Church Hall this month, and all are welcome-

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October    Revelation chapters 1-3, service followed by coffee and cake  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October    Revelation chapters 4 and 5, service includes Holy Communion  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October    Revelation chapters 10-13  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October    Revelation chapters 17-22, service followed by Church Meeting  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October    Concluding our study of Revelation

### **This month at the U.R.C: -**

It is Bible month and we are looking at the book of Revelation in our worship series. We also have a church chat planned and a church meeting. Read on to find out the difference between the two, and other news.

## **Regular events**

Every Tuesday 2p.m. Faith and Fellowship in the Hall  
Every Thursday 9.30- 1pm Coffee and chat  
Every Friday 6pm Pilots in term time  
Every Saturday 10 am Christianity Explored group in the Hall

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## **Last month we were-**

### **Celebrating Harvest**

Many thanks from Christine and all the volunteers at the Pantry, for your donations of tinned and fresh food and toiletries. “We are as busy as ever and your gifts will help those in Hornsea who are struggling at the moment. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated”.

### **Toilet Twinning**

Thank you for the very generous donations received towards twinning our second toilet. We received in fact enough money to twin two and a half toilets!! Ann will apply to twin our currently ‘untwinned’ church toilet for us, and we will chat about what we would like to do with the remaining money at the upcoming church chat. (It is possible to ‘twin’ gardens and other things too).

### **Pledging!**



**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to the church eco-service, completing our series on Creation, and for all the positive feedback.

We'll look forward to reading everyone's pledges, which are on display in the Hall.

Thanks,  
Ann and team

## This month at the U.R.C we will be: -

### **Digging deep into the book of Revelation**

Digital copies of daily notes to accompany our reading of the book of Revelation together will be made available. If you need a paper copy, please have a word with Steve.

If you enjoy crafting/journaling, you may want to have a look at this on the website [www.methodist.org.uk/biblemonth-](http://www.methodist.org.uk/biblemonth-)

### **Bible Journaling Kit** (Pdf and How-to Video)

For those artistic and crafty ones amongst you, we've put together a Bible Journaling Kit. This is a printable resource with key words and images from the text of Revelation, that you can cut out and stick into your bibles or journals to help you as you meditate on its message. New to Bible Journaling? Check out this [helpful video introduction](#) that gives an example of how to make use of the Revelation Journaling Kit.

## Dates for your Diary



**Church Chat- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 10a.m.-12 noon**

**Church Meeting- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October following on from our worship together**

Steven writes: -

### **How does the URC work?**

The United Reformed Church is a conciliar church. This is a fancy way of saying that no one person is in charge. We are run by councils of the church. All the members of the church exercise that responsibility. So, **church meeting** is the gathering for all members of our fellowship to pray and discuss and seek to discover what God wants to happen in our fellowship. Everyone is equal, no one

has a veto, provided we follow the guidance laid down in a document about the nature, faith and order of the United Reformed Church. One of the things we do in church meeting is to decide who are the members of our fellowship. We also elect Elders to see to the day to day running of the church. They are always conscious that they are accountable to the church meeting.

The church meeting appoints a representative to our next council Synod which oversees the work of the Yorkshire Synod of the URC. Sometimes the Synod asks us to give our views through church meeting on decisions they have taken. We can also send resolutions and ask questions from our church meeting to the Synod.

The Synod appoints representatives to attend General Assembly which meets once a year to consider matters of importance and concern for the whole church. Some of those decisions need the approval of Synod and some may affect how our local church works and so will come to our church meeting. We can ask Synod to consider issues to raise at General Assembly from our church meeting.

So, our concerns and thoughts can be heard by others and so can influence the way our church works. We seek to know the mind of God so that we can be better servants of Jesus Christ and help to grow the kingdom of God.

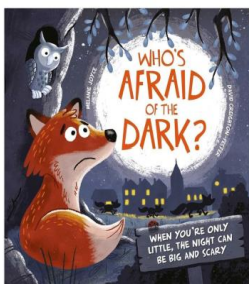
### **Church chat- a Hornsea invention!!!**

The idea of the church meeting where decisions are made and, if necessary, votes can be taken, makes it sound somewhat formal. As a result, our church meeting, some years ago, decided to have a church chat where members and friends of our fellowship could talk around issues in a less formal way. The URC has a favourite word which is NORMALLY. So normally all you would get is church meeting but we also have church chat. Sat around tables, with something to drink and hopefully something to eat, conversation can flow more readily and ideas be generated which can then be taken up by the elders meeting and/or the church meeting.

So why not come along to our next church chat? You could, like me, even suggest what cake would be appreciated by the participants!

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### **Do we teach our children to be afraid of the dark?**



If you have received and read the Hornsea Community News for October you will probably know why I am asking this question. If not, these are a few extracts:

*It is a good question to ask this month with Halloween being celebrated on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.*

*Halloween is a great opportunity to get dressed up and share fun with friends but what is it we are teaching our youngsters about the night? .....*

*I was immensely privileged to spend my early years on an isolated farm, far away from any light pollution, and grew up with the sounds, sights and the unimaginable vastness of the night sky as part of my world. ....*

*I also began to realise there must be a 'greater other' – someone or something that was far greater than I could ever imagine; someone who could have made all this. Was I frightened? Not one bit - just privileged to feel a part of it. ....*

As Christians Together in Hornsea, we have, for several years, organised a Pumpkin Trail and Party, as an alternative for families who did not want to take part in the Halloween activities. The emphasis was on Jesus the Light of the World and his love shining through the darkness.

A small group of us, from across all the churches in Hornsea met to discuss this year's event. The discussion was quite far ranging starting with the primes of: - should we be 'out there'; 'what would our message be' and is there 'enough interest/commitment' within our church families to make this happen?

**These were the outcomes to the questions:**

- should we be 'out there' - YES
- 'What would our message be' - THAT THE NIGHT IS A PART OF GOD'S CREATION, IT IS A BLESSING - NOT TO BE FEARED - BUT EXPLORED, CELEBRATED AND ENJOYED.
- is there 'enough interest/commitment' within our church families to make this happen? - **THE RESPONSE TO THIS EMAIL/ARTICLE WILL ANSWER THAT QUESTION.**

We have gathered together lots of ideas – ranging from star gazing, to light boxes, amazing things involving torches, crafts etc and of course food – hopefully sitting round a fire pit – toasting marshmallows and sharing stories and songs.

All this will take place in the Parish Hall Garden (or in the hall if wet) on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.



It is a FREE event for families and friends and more information will be circulated soon **IF** .....

**IF** we can be sure we have enough volunteers to successfully and safely run it. Therefore, we are asking all willing volunteers to come to a meeting on 11th October at 2.00pm at the URC to finalise arrangements for a fantastic night (**OR** email [s.knapton749@btinternet.com](mailto:s.knapton749@btinternet.com) to offer your support). If the response is insufficient to run a safe, enjoyable evening it will not be progressed perhaps it may be time to take our witness elsewhere – PLEASE HOLD THIS IN YOUR PRAYERS.

It is such a delight to work with our sisters and brothers in Christ – coming together as 'One Church' to share the love of Jesus in such a fun way.

'LIGHT IN THE DARK PARTIES' may not be your thing, and that is fine, but there are many other events that Christian's Together in Hornsea get involved with which may be of interest to you .... we will keep you informed!

Blessings,  
Margaret.

### **Looking forward to November**

We are hopeful that the church will be open and able to fulfil all the events planned for November.

One of the first will be **our Christmas Fair on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November** between 10.00am and 2.00pm – we will be more certain as October progresses but things seem to be progressing well at the moment.

There will be tables to hire for £8; our own stalls and refreshments. If you would like to help on the day or donate bottles (for a Bottle Stall), make a cake etc., or provide a wrapped gift (between £1 or £2 pounds) please have a word with Val Pearson.

The following week **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November is a LARGE CHRISTMAS FAIR** of crafts etc. between 10.00 and 5.00pm.

There is an opportunity for us to run the Café with all proceeds going to the church – there is also a free stall for us. If you are interested in helping with this please have a word with Margaret Knapton.

For those who have been asking, **YES**, we will be sending out **shoebboxes** again this year. We will be filling them next month, more details on all of these in the next Newsletter.



If you have anything you would like putting in the November Newsletter, please see Jean or Margaret. Thank you.