



**Marion writes:**

What do you think of when you think of Christmas? Santa Claus? Decorations? A Christmas tree? Family parties? Cards and calendars? Brightly wrapped parcels?

No one will blame us for thinking about any of these, but let's try too to travel back in time; to find ourselves in a simple stable on a starry night, and to see a young mother bend over her newborn child in a manger.

Do that, and we will be sharing in the joy and wonder of Christmastide.



***It was on a starry night, when the hills were bright,  
Earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still.  
Then in a cattle shed, in a manger bed,  
A boy was born, King of all the world.***

## **Worship services-**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Advent Sunday service  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service, including Holy Communion  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Christingle service  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Nativity service  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas day service at 10 a.m. (please note earlier time)  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December Lessons and Carols service

With the exception of Christmas Day, these services are 'live streamed' so that you can join us from home, and if you miss any of the services you can find them on our dedicated YouTube channel - just search Hornsea URC on YouTube to find us.

## **Advent Evening Services-**

We are joining Christians Together in Hornsea, for four Sunday evening services during Advent, as follows-

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 6 p.m. Advent Carol service at the Methodist Church  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 6 p.m. Choral Evensong at St. Nicholas Church  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6 p.m. Puppet Nativity at United Reformed Church  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 6 p.m. Community Carol singing in Memorial Gardens

Please support these if you are able.

## **Christmas invitation**

At the end of this Newsletter you will find a list of our services to invite friends and neighbours to. There will also be copies of this available in church for you to take and give out.

## **Christmas cards**

We will be having a space in church for displaying Christmas cards, and you are encouraged, by our 'eco-church' group to send one card to all the church family.

## **Socks for Christmas;help the homeless**

Kathy writes-

Please buy a pair of warm adult size socks. Put one sock inside the other, then fill it up with biscuits, sweets, chocolate and small items for Christmas. Sweets and hygiene items are very much appreciated. The socks can be for ladies, but more are needed for men. They will be given out on Christmas Eve to the homeless in Hull. I aim to take about 50 pairs. The idea is that when all the items are eaten/used, the person receiving them ends up with a clean, warm pair of socks. Thank you.

## **Nativity Services**

We are hosting nativity plays for our local schools. The pupils come into church and perform their nativity for their parents and invited guests. Our role is to be welcoming to our guests. If you would like to help please see Margaret.

The **Primary schools** nativities will take place at 9.30 a.m. on these dates:-

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

**Hornsea School and Language College** will visit:-

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10 a.m.- 10 45 a.m. and a second group at 11 a.m.- 11.45 a.m.

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In addition we have invited the primary school children to **our Puppet Nativity**. We are delighted that they have taken up the invitation and will be coming on-

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30 p.m.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10 a.m. and again at 1.30 p.m.

We will be doing the **Puppet Nativity** on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6p.m., as part of our Christians together in Hornsea Advent evening services, and on December 24<sup>th</sup> as our 10.30 a.m. service.

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If you would like to help at a Puppet Nativity, please see Margaret if you have not done so already. There are opportunities for greeters and tea makers as well as performers- most importantly, please remember these in your prayers. Thank you.

## **Carol Singing**

There will be a group of Carol Singers outside Cooplands on Newbegin again this year, on

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** and **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, both at 10 a.m.

Singers, musicians, and those who just 'make a joyful noise' very welcome.



Suzanne Richardson shares the following poem with us-

Recipe for a heart-ful of Christmas

*Take a teaspoon of child-like wonder  
That opens up your eyes,  
To the unexpected gifts in life,  
Each one a warm surprise.  
Mix in love and appreciation  
For the people that you know.  
Just like the Christmas candles  
Each one has a special glow.  
A pinch of giggles and laughter  
A dash of Christmas fare,  
Heap in a happy family  
And a swirl of loving care.  
Stir with a dash of kindness  
Wrap it up in love and peace  
Decorate with optimism, and  
Your joy will never cease.  
If you use this age-old recipe  
You know you will remember,  
To be in the Christmas spirit  
All year- not just December.*

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Thank you to all who prepared and packed the 104 boxes we were able to send, and for all the contributions to the transport costs. I'm sure they will be very gratefully received.

## **Faith and fellowship**

Ann writes: " Come and join us on Tuesday afternoons at our 'Faith and Fellowship' group.

We're a small group who meet up to talk about anything faith/bible/prayer related. It's very informal, we just meet and talk about whatever the subject is we've chosen. Some of us take a lead simply by putting a few ideas together on a subject to talk about the following week, but you don't have to do this, and everyone's ideas and thoughts are welcomed and valued.

Recent topics have been favourite bible stories, what 'faith' is and what it means to each of us, what do we think of when we heard the word "church". We're all on the same path so we enjoy meeting up and talking about our journey together.

If you want to find out more, please speak to Val or Ann B, or just come along at 2pm on Tuesdays. There's tea, coffee and biscuits and dogs are also made very welcome too"

## **Flowers in church**

It has been an exciting few months in church with all the alterations. Unfortunately, we were not able to display our flowers due to a lack of space, we have tried to remember birthdays etc., and still bought flowers to take out to people. Apologies if we missed you. Hopefully when you are reading this we will be back in church and flowers will once again be an important part of our church. The Rota for next year will be up in the hall, so once again if you have a special date you want to have flowers put in church, please put your name next to that date. As usual you can buy and arrange your own flowers or if you would like me or one of my flower ladies to buy and arrange them have a word with me. Any contribution is very welcome but not necessary. Once again, a big thank you to Heather, Marion, Jean and Mandy for helping me with the flowers and also decorating the church for Christmas, Easter etc. I truly couldn't do it without you; thank you. If you would like to join us you would be very welcome- just have a word with one of us.

This leaves me to wish you all a Happy Peaceful Christmas and best wishes for a healthy New Year. Ann J x

## **Alternative Advent**

Here is a suggestion from a friend of mine-

Beginning on December 1<sup>st</sup>, read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each day. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up on Christmas morning knowing who and why we celebrate!

## **Alternative August**

A suggestion for when it's really dark and cold-

We have been asked to tell Synod about our Alternative August services, so if you want to think about hot and sunny days, why not ponder on what you remember and liked or disliked about these services over the years? Please e mail or write your thoughts- which can be anonymous-to the church website or pass on to an Elder or place in our 'offerings' box in church. We would really like the thoughts of the church on this. Thank you

## **Leading Your Church into Growth**

The 2 of us attended the URC LyCiG conference from 28th to the 30th of November in Preston. LYCIG stands for 'Leading your Church into Growth' and as the Bishop of Blackburn wrote " If you are not leading your church into growth then where are you leading it?" So, this conference is there to provide an opportunity for churches to consider and to be given some tools so that they can grow. The course is built around 7 steps or areas for a church to consider as ways to grow.

As we thought about our fellowship at Hornsea URC there were many things that gave us encouragement but there were other areas where we certainly felt challenged. Among the speakers was Robin Gamble who wrote the course and who is coming to lead worship for us in July. The organiser and another speaker at the conference was Ashley Evans and he also is coming to lead our worship but on another Sunday in July.

Robin and Ashley shared with us the honest assessment of the state of the whole church in the United Kingdom and how if we do not grow, we will simply disappear. Post Covid churches were on average a third smaller than before lockdown and have only recovered a little. Yet the evidence does show that when you base your church strategy on the principles outlined in this course growth will appear. The material makes clear growth can be numerical with more people coming to church; it can be spiritual with people becoming more like Jesus or missionary as more people becoming like Jesus take more of his mission into the world.

We were introduced to many thought-provoking exercises which it would be good to use as starters for our church chats. There is ONE thing we could all do and that is pray the LYCIG prayer:

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your church

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning

Wisdom to our actions

Joy to our worship

And power to our witness.

Help Hornsea URC to grow in numbers,

In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our community.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer is the first of 4 Ps. Prayer, Presence, Proclamation and Persuasion which are the central pillars of the whole LYCIG philosophy.

What we both felt strongly was that whatever the outcome of our church chats one of the outcomes would be that we would all want to ensure that everything we did was the best that it could be. So, a few really good events are far better than lots of 'stuff'. At every one of these events, we should feel able to say to people "I'm going; it'll be good; do you want to come with me?" to borrow a phrase from the course.

We are both more than happy, indeed would be overjoyed, to share with any of you our experiences of LYCIG, whether you are one of the people who have been before or if this is something that is completely new to you.

Mike Barrett and Steven Knapton.

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### **We Celebrate new life:**

Congratulations go to Lauren on the birth of Esther May, and to Kristen and Emma on the birth of Jacob (a grandson for Kathy).

Last month we celebrated Jeff's baptism, in the pool in the Hub, what a joyful day that was!





## Dawn

**Sponsored by: Sharlah Cantwell**

**Advanced Training Location: Midlands**

**Date of birth: 09/12/2021**

Dawn is coming along nicely; she is such a sweet natured dog who loves her hugs. She is a fast learner and is quickly picking up everything required to be a wonderful Canine Partner, so now she is just practicing the essentials to build her confidence. Her trainer, Sophie, says she is such a joy to train and be around, and everyone loves the "mooo" sound she makes whenever she is excited. Her favourite task is picking up everything for everyone, and pushing the switch to open doors. Dawn is really improving in confidence around wheelchairs, especially in public and busier areas, but continued work is needed with this. She has shown some sensitivity and reluctance to load into a car recently, but this only seems to be with smaller cars that have less room for her to jump in.

We are so incredible happy to share that Dawn recently had a successful matching visit, with a male partner who lives in Shropshire and uses a manual and power wheelchair. Dawn showed good confidence with the partner, and worked nicely with him. They are due to start their two weeks of on-site training together on 27th November. If all goes well, Dawn and her partner will go home together at the end of these two weeks, and will then be looked after by our Aftercare team. If Dawn's partner is happy to provide updates, we tend to wait at least six months before asking for these, to allow them time to settle in and get used to working together. Dawn is just a delightful girl, and we are so excited to see their progress together.

Some of you may remember Dawn the Canine Partner dog, who came to church with Ann, as part of her training. Dawn was sponsored in memory of Sharlah's mum, Dawn Cantwell, a member of Hornsea U.R.C. for many years. As you can see she is going to be working soon, transforming the life of a wheelchair user.





# Hornsea URC

You are warmly invited to our  
**DECEMBER services....**

<b>3rd</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>CIVIC CAROL SERVICE</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>CAROL SERVICE</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>ADVENT CHURCHES TOGETHER NATIVITY SERVICE</b>
<b>24th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>NATIVITY SERVICE</b>
<b>24th</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>COMMUNITY CAROLS (in MEMORIAL GARDENS)</b>
<b>25th</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE</b>
<b>31st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE</b>

SHOULD YOU NEED ANY FURTHER INFORMATION,  
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH VIA EMAIL  
[URCHORNSEA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:URCHORNSEA@GMAIL.COM) OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK

