

## Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter February 2024



### What are we here for? - Worship services-

Sunday February 4th Loving our Neighbours- followed by Church Lunch  
Sunday February 11th Inviting others to meet with God  
(including Holy Communion)



Sunday February 18th Lent week 1- Jesus prepares for His ministry  
Sunday February 25th Lent week 2- Nicodemus

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Margaret Preece writes: -

Lent will soon be upon us, in fact Lent begins on Valentine's Day this year, because Ash Wednesday is also on 14th February.

You may recall that last year we had a large wooden cross at the front of the Church, and each week through Lent we added a symbolic item to the display. Each item helped us focus on a particular aspect of Lent, and I believe that friends found it quite moving and helpful, especially on Easter Day when the cross was covered with flowers to signify the resurrection and new birth. We plan to do a similar exercise this year.

The material we are using was commissioned by the West Midlands Joint Public Issues Team and it was created to encourage us to think about the kind of society we want to build and be a part of; and if you want to look ahead and prepare for what's to come, here is a list of the readings and themes we will be using during Lent.

- LENT 1: Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus prepares for his ministry.
- LENT 2: John 3:1-17 Nicodemus.
- LENT 3: John 4:5-42 Samaritan woman at the well.
- LENT 4: John 9:1-end Man born blind (it is also Mothering Sunday).
- LENT 5: John 11:1-45 Lazarus.
- LENT 6: Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem (Palm Sunday).

Our 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.



We do have a loop system installed in church. If you have any difficulty hearing the service please speak to the technical team.

## February Events

### 4<sup>th</sup>-Church Lunch

Will be on Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>, after Sunday worship. Please join us if you can. We will also be deciding the 'menu' for other church lunches, which are always on the first Sunday of the month. If you have any ideas, or better still, would like to offer to get a small group together and organise one for us, please speak to Jean or Margaret. Thank you.

### 10<sup>th</sup>- Church Chat

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February from 10a.m.- 12 noon, you are invited to join us in the hall for a church chat. This is exactly what it says! - we will chat about church, aided by plenty of tea/coffee and cake. You can come for all or part of the time. We will be talking this time about things like a possible visit to Wydale Hall, ([www.wydale.org](http://www.wydale.org)), what progress has been made with the Website etc., and this space is for you to ask questions, raise any topics for discussion. Your voice is important, so please come if you can. (The more formal Church Annual General Meeting will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup>).

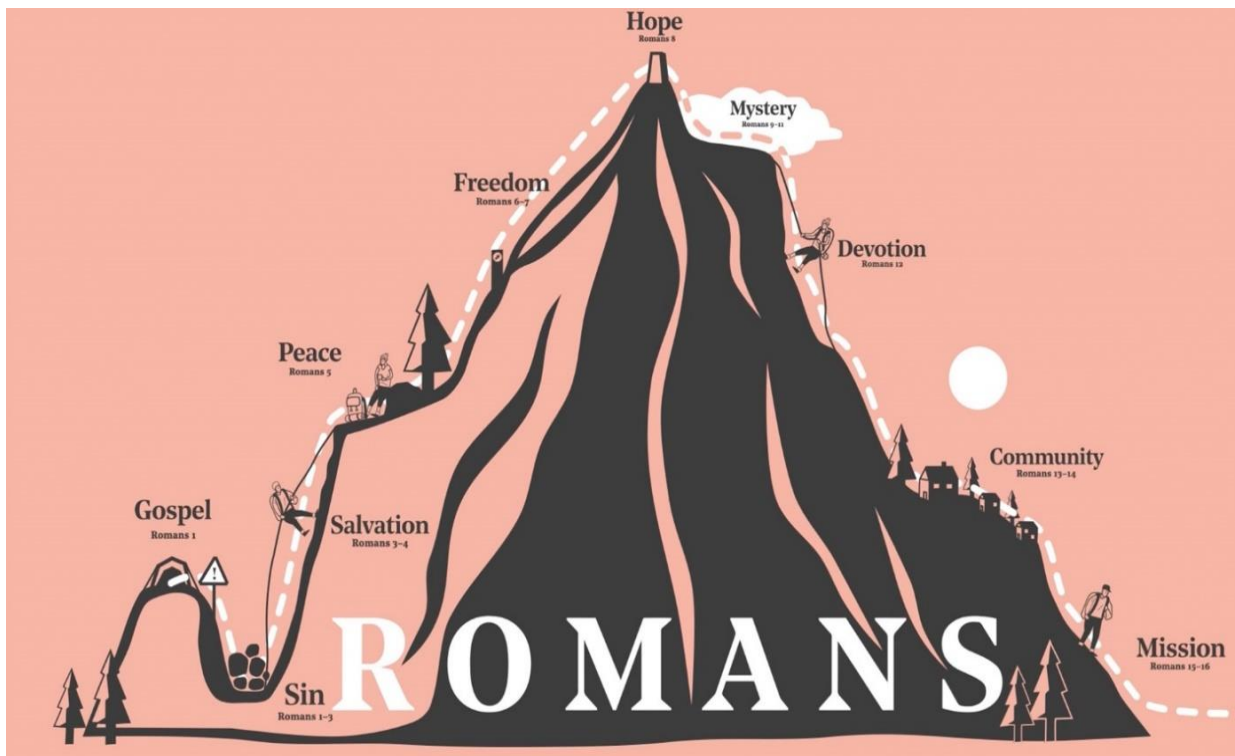
### 13<sup>th</sup>- Shrove Tuesday pancakes

The Methodist Church are hosting this **Christian Aid** Event from 10- 12 noon. Pancakes will be available, a Fairtrade stall, and a cake Stall. (If you can help on the day, or supply a cake for the stall please see Margaret). Come and enjoy! - its half term, all welcome to help raise money for this worthy cause.



**Starts on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm in the Hall.**

**The Romans Course** is a ten-session programme which helps you study Paul's letter to the Romans. The course tackles ten big themes found in the book of Romans which are key to understanding the Christian faith:



The sessions are very similar to the recent Bible Course in that they run for about an hour and include a bit of discussion and notes to read between sessions. If there is demand we will run a second session on Saturday mornings.

**Bible Book Club**-Our Bible book club will be 'rested' in February, to make room for this course which helps us to study the book of Romans

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### **Coming up in March-**

#### **1<sup>st</sup>-World Day of Prayer**

Please see the information below; the Methodist Church in Hornsea is hosting the event this year

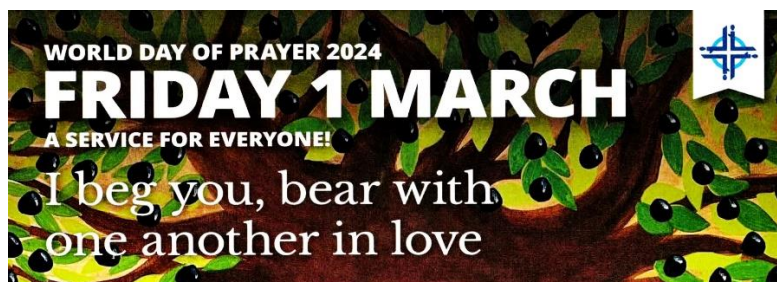
#### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

We have our Annual General Meeting in church, after worship. Please stay if you can, to hear about the building work progress and various other aspects of our church life. The agenda will be in the March Newsletter, along with some financial reports so that you have time to 'read and digest' these beforehand. Your voice is important; the Elders would be delighted to see you there.

## The World Day of Prayer:

On the first Friday in March the Day of Prayer begins on the international dateline, in **Samoa**. Early in the morning, Christian women begin praying for our world...as the earth rotates, a great wave of prayer begins to build. It sweeps across **the Pacific**, touching **Fiji and New Zealand**, rolling on through **Asia - Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Bangladesh**...The countries of **Africa** are next, and then **the Middle East**. The wave reaches the shores of **Europe** as the day dawns there. Across **the Atlantic**, it moves onwards - **the Caribbean, the Americas**, and on to **the Pacific** again...until the sun finally sets over **American Samoa**, where the final service takes place...a worldwide circle of prayer is complete.

Palastine 2024 - I beg you, bear with one another in love



## Hornsea Methodist Church

Newbegin HU18 1PA

2.00pm Service

7.30pm Reading and Reflections on the Service

ALL are WELCOME  
Refreshments after the Service



# Eco Church Corner

Go green for Lent.

The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self-reflection, repentance and emulating Jesus' obedience to the Father. Is there something you'd like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being and enhance others' lives through sustainable, eco-friendly living? Explore some of these changes at [www.arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent](http://www.arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent)

## JOIN THE UK'S BIGGEST PLASTIC INVESTIGATION

### 8,325 PEOPLE AND YOU!

Count your plastic for one week – 11-17 March 2024.

For one week in March, thousands of schools, households, community groups and businesses will be coming together to count their plastic waste. And we want you to join them.








Almost a quarter of a million people took part in The Big Plastic Count in 2022. Together we revealed that almost two billion pieces of plastic packaging are being thrown away a week. This year you can help build even more evidence to convince UK ministers to lead the way at the global talks that could finally phase out plastic pollution for good.

**REGISTER TODAY**



If you need any help registering for the Big Plastic Count, or have any ideas to share about how you are going to 'go green for Lent' in your house, please contact Ann. We could feature your ideas next month. Thank you.

Finally, a reminder from last month of ways to **reduce your plastic usage** this month: -

<b>February</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Don't buy cleaning cloths</b> Cut up old clothes or towels that aren't good enough to pass on or donate and turn them into cleaning cloths / rags. <b>FREE</b> 	<b>6</b> <b>Use what you have</b> Buying less, saving money and being more resourceful with what you have is the best way to avoid waste. Use up all your toiletries before you buy alternatives. <b>FREE</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Choose loose produce</b> Most larger supermarket stores offer a range of loose produce including potatoes, carrots, broccoli, apples etc. £ 	<b>8</b> <b>Keep reusable bags handy</b> Always take reusable bags on supermarket trips. Keep some in your car boot or near the front door for impromptu shopping jaunts. <b>FREE</b> 	 Food / drink  Cleaning  Hygiene  Shopping
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## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March- Palm Sunday--advance notice**

As Christians Together in Hornsea, we are organising a Palm Sunday procession, to take place after the church services on Palm Sunday. The plan is to walk from the Hub on the sea front to the Marine Hotel and back again. We want to mark the beginning of Holy Week, and share that with the townspeople and visitors. If you are interested in being involved, the next C.T.I.H. meeting is on Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Hollis room at the Parish hall- or pass your thoughts/ ideas to take to the meeting, to Margaret Preece, Margaret Knapton or Jean.

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## **COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION**

The Council for World Mission is a worldwide partnership of Christian churches. The 32 members are committed to sharing their resources of money, people, skills and insights globally to carry out God's mission locally. CWM was created in 1977 and incorporates the London Missionary Society (1795), the Commonwealth Missionary Society (1836) and the (English) Presbyterian Board of Missions (1847).

Carol writes-

### **The United Reformed Church is a member of the Council for World Mission.**

It is sometimes easy to get wrapped up in what's happening in our church and our community that we don't stop to think about Christians across the world and what they might be facing each day.

I thought it might be a good idea to highlight a different country each month and to ask us all to pray for them.

This month we are looking at Burkina Faso which is a landlocked country in western Africa. Since it gained its independence in 1960 the country has been subject to instability, droughts, famine and corruption. The latest coup was in 2023 in which many people were killed and driven out of their homes. It has a tropical climate which renders its crops vulnerable to attacks from locusts and crickets which destroy crops and adds to the country's food insecurity.

26.3% of the country are Christians and 63% practices Islam. The life expectancy is 61 years.

The following was taken from a Daily Devotion by Revd G Roper a retired minister.

Many churches follow the week of prayer for Christian unity whose theme this year is 'Love the Lord your God..and your neighbour as yourself'.

This year's unity week material has been prepared in Burkina Faso, world neighbours of whom we don't hear much. Since the year Britain narrowly voted for Brexit – and the little local difficulties that followed that – Burkina Faso has been going through hell. After a major jihadist attack the security situation in Burkina Faso - and consequently its social cohesion - deteriorated dramatically. That country endured a proliferation of terrorist attacks, lawlessness and human trafficking, leaving over three thousand dead and

almost two million internally displaced persons. Christian churches have been expressly targeted by armed attacks. Priests, pastors and catechists have been killed during worship: the fate of others who were kidnapped remains unknown. Because of terrorism, the majority of Christian churches in the north, east and north-west of the country were closed. Christians could no longer openly practise their faith in these areas. A military coup replaced the previous government two years ago today; that regime was replaced by a further coup seven months later.

Our loving almighty God, the safe stronghold in whom we trust, has, we know, a heart totally opposed to cruel division, a spirit in constant conflict with evil, a saving power able to reach out and scoop up victims. Our troubles have mostly been slight and short-lived. Our neighbours in need, close at hand or in West Africa need help drastically. They need a mighty saviour totally opposed to oppression.

Let us express our love for neighbours nearby and far away by imploring God to get us together with Christian neighbours in this country and praying with equal urgency for safety, peace and freedom among neighbours in distant lands. The news from Burkina Faso in recent months has shown has reported the impact of coups in neighbouring countries. Pray today for that country and its neighbours in the Sahel region in the light of the latest news.

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## Would you be able to help replace the gas heater at the back of the church?

Any donation would be most welcome as this comes on top of several 'unexpected expenses' i.e. gas leaks and roof repairs. If you are able – please place your donation in an envelope marked HEATER and either place it in the donations box or hand it to one of the Elders.

Many thanks



### Well Done and thank you



Well done to the carpenters who recycled some of the pews removed from the back of church to make our sound desk area look very smart. Well done too, to the tech team for dismantling and resetting all the equipment to enable this.