

Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter August 2024



During August we have our Alternative August worship, which this year is called: -

Visiting the Relatives: -

Sunday Worship

Sunday August 4th- Joint service at the Methodist church Hornsea

Sunday August 11th Visiting St. Andrews U.R.C. Scarborough

Sunday August 18th Visiting Toll Gavel Church, Beverley

Sunday August 25th Visiting Elloughton U.R.C

(PLEASE NOTE: There will no services in our church building and our services will not be 'live streamed' during August.)



Sunday 4th August- Hornsea Methodist Church- 10.30 am service.

We will join our friends at the Methodist church for the first time since lockdown!

We always used to have joint services four times a year and it will be good to join them again.

No bus required for this one.



Sunday 11th August- St. Andrews URC, Scarborough

St Andrews are without a minister at the moment, and we help out by sending some of our worship leaders to lead their worship.

We are invited to take a packed lunch with us and stay and enjoy lunch and get to know our fellow Christians.

The bus will be running if you would like transport.

Sunday 18th August-Toll Gavel United Church Beverley



Toll Gavel United Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Methodist and the United Reformed Church but within its growing membership, there is a good cross-section of denominations.

Their service starts at 10.30 and we will provide transport.

Sunday 25th August-Elloughton URC



This is another church where members of our worship team take services.

The building was designed by the same architect that worked on our building and you will see some similarities.

Their service starts at 10.45 am and we are invited to take a packed lunch and drinks will be provided. Transport will be available.

What's on in August?

August tends to be a 'quieter' month in church but each Thursday, starting at 10 a.m. there is still the **Coffee Morning** in the Hall, a chance to socialise and catch up with friends.

Bible Book Club takes a rest, but we will be reading again during September. The Book choice will be in Septembers Newsletter.

Wednesday 14th August- 7.30 p.m. will be our monthly Elders meeting- please pray for the Elders.

Frontier Camps take place in August- see the article in our Prayer Focus for this month.

Looking Ahead

Church Lunch in September- on September 1st.- will be a combined Church Chat/Church Lunch, straight after our Sunday Worship. Please bring a packed lunch, as we catch up with each other after the holidays.

September will also include a 'cleaning day' as we prepare our building to welcome visitors to our 150-year celebrations in October.

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place in September in Hornsea too, more details in the next Newsletter.

Thank you.

Jean Robinson wants to thank the church for the flowers she received recently.

(For those who do not know, the flowers we have in church are taken out after the service and delivered to members of the church family. Ann J. and Marion organise this and would be happy to talk to you about it.)

Thank you too from **Commitment for Life**, who have received just over £1000 from us recently and want to thank the congregation. Commitment for Life is the U.R.C.'s global justice programme. Seventy-five percent of any donation goes to Christian Aid, 5% to Global Justice Now and 20% is held by Commitment to Life to cover costs but in practice much of this money ends up being given for the work of these organisations. One area being supported is Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.



A water distribution by Christian Aid partners in northern Gaza.

What makes the URC the URC?

One of the ways we are different from many other churches is how we 'govern' ourselves. We are a conciliar church which means we are governed by councils of the church. We believe it is in these councils, after prayer and reflection, that God the Holy Spirit will guide us in our decision making.

The council we will all be familiar with is the church meeting. It is in the church meeting that as members we seek to follow the guidance of God as we work together to build the kingdom of God here on earth. It is the church meeting that is tasked with making the decisions about our fellowship here in Hornsea. We elect elders and give them the responsibility for the running of the church on a day-to-day basis. It does mean that when we come together in the church meeting, we really do want to do what God wants for our church and so we need to listen to what each one of us says and also listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

The next council is Synod. Our Synod covers most of the churches in Yorkshire. It meets formally twice a year, and every church is asked to send a representative along with all the ministers serving the URC in Yorkshire. The meeting is chaired by the Moderator who, along with elected other officers and committees, oversees the work of the churches. The Synod is there to support, encourage and challenge the churches in their mission. It employs people to help in that task. Our own church has received a great deal of help and support in our building project but also in offering training to help our elders and those who lead worship for us. Our Synod is 1 of 13 covering the whole of Great Britain.

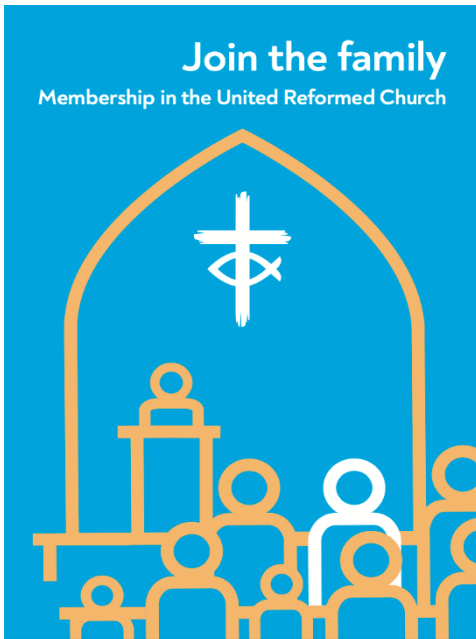
The final council of the church is General Assembly which meets once a year. It is presided over by the Moderator of General Assembly who is elected to serve for 1 year by the members of the previous year's General Assembly. The General Assembly takes major decisions affecting the life and work of our denomination and through its committees oversees the work of the denomination and the people we employ to help run the church. The members are elected from each Synod. Issues such as the pay and pensions of our ministers, what we believe and how we express that and how we respond to the challenges of the world are among some of the issues discussed. Yet they are also something we could discuss at church meeting. If we felt strongly enough about something we could ask for this to be discussed at Synod and if they felt in agreement, they could take this, as a resolution, to General Assembly.

This could make it appear we are 'democratic' and people sometimes say this but actually we are not because all our decisions are only taken after prayer and really seeking to know what it is God wants us to do.

After all we are called to be disciples of Jesus seeking to do his work.

Steven.

Church membership



If you have been considering becoming a church member, this little booklet is available in church. Alternatively, any church member or Elder will be pleased to explain membership to you.

Prayer Focus for this month- Frontier Camps



Frontier Camps 2024

The weekend of Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st July saw a team gathering in Lincolnshire to set up for Frontier Camps 2024. Starting with an empty field, this is a very difficult job involving putting up 28 tents (including 1 large marquee and 6 smaller marquees), setting up the kitchen, electrics, plumbing and sports equipment.

Frontier camps run 2 weeks of camp during August aimed at 9-14 year olds, but also welcoming staff of all ages. The main aims of camp are telling Jesus's story and providing a great holiday.

Hornsea URC is sending staff and campers to Week 2 of the camps, running 3rd August to 10th August.

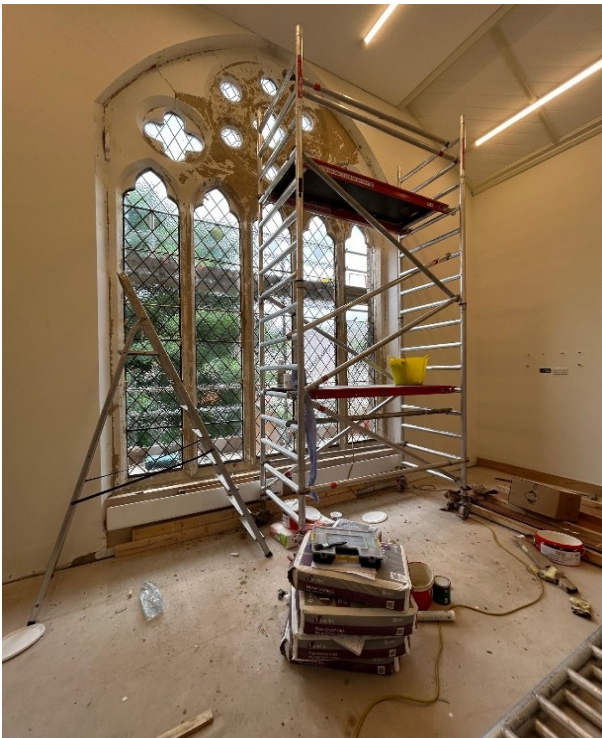
Please remember the camps in your prayers and especially those attending from Hornsea:

Campers : Jemima, Caitlin, William

Staff : Jill, Dale, Olivia, Jenna and Steve

Thanks

'A friend in need'



As the building work, to make the church 100% accessible for all, nears completion – the phrase 'a friend in need' has been so relevant throughout. Not least for the unexpected repair needed for the west window.

We have received incredibly generous support from the Hornsea and District Lions Club, members of the public and our own congregation.

As with all aspects of the work undertaken, we have explored the possibility of support from various granting bodies and charities.

The National Churches Trust is one of these.

Their aim is to support churches, chapels, and meeting houses so that they remain at the heart of the communities for which they were built and can continue to play an integral part in all our lives.

On reading our application for help they have given us a generous donation of £5,500 towards the cost of repair and replacement.

They are a charity, and their income comes from Trusts and the generous donations of 'Friends' and supporters.

They currently have over 3,500 Friends who support their work, taking part in fundraising events, attending festivals and, as I have done in the past, taking part in the 'Ride and Stride' which is a sponsored bike ride or walk between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside from Cornwall to Northumberland. It takes place on the second Saturday in September every year. This weekend is also part of Heritage Open Days, so thousands of churches are open to visit across England.

In response to their support Hornsea URC will be making an annual donation of £50 for the next five years and if you have been inspired to find out more about their work visit:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/> and

perhaps consider making a donation to their charity or becoming a 'Friend' - £40 for single, £70 for joint.



Benefits of your membership

Taking part in the Friends Vote.

Each summer, you will be able to decide – along with other Friends – which church in the UK to award an additional grant of £10,000 to in order to help with urgent repairs and maintenance. The winner of this grant is announced at our annual National Church Awards in November.



The first to know about important news and events.

You will receive a copy of our Annual Review, our bi-annual Friends Magazine, monthly email newsletter and invitations to exciting events, including church tours.

A free book when you join.

New Friends receive a joining gift of 'The Treasures of English Churches', a delightful and inspiring book of beautiful photographs by Dr Matthew Byrne, fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, or Matthew's forthcoming comparable volume.

Whatever way you may choose to support the charity - your gift will help them in their work to ensure that the UK's historic churches are open and in good repair so that they can remain at the heart of their communities, provide vital

help to local people and welcome all who visit.

FOOTNOTE – we will know in September if our application to The Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust, for support, has been successful

As we go off on our travels this month, a prayer from our recent Whole Life Worship series-

Almighty God, we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Send us out into the world in the power of your Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory.

Amen.