

Hornsea United Reformed Church Newsletter September 2024



Our next series, throughout September will be based on the parables of Jesus. During Jesus' earthly ministry, one of the primary ways He would instruct His disciples was through parables. People would gather from far and wide to listen to what Jesus said about the kingdom of God, and the most common way He would explain the kingdom was in parables.

What is a parable? Jesus used stories, rooted in everyday experiences familiar to those listening to explain biblical truths - an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

But what does God want us to learn from these parables? In this series, we will explore some of the truths they reveal about who Jesus is and what He came to achieve through His life, death, and resurrection."

Sunday Worship

Sunday September 1st Parables of Jesus- introduction

Sunday September 8th Parable of the mustard seed,
including Harvest thanksgiving and Holy Communion

Sunday September 15th Parable of the lost sheep

Sunday September 22nd Parable of the Good Samaritan

Sunday September 29th Parable of the wise and foolish builder and our
"Nice to see you" 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.

Regular Events

- Tuesdays** at 2 p.m. Faith and fellowship group meet in the Hall. All welcome.
- Thursdays** 9.30 a.m. Coffee morning all welcome
- Fridays** at 6 p.m. Pilots meet (in term time)
- Saturdays** at 10 a.m. Exploring Christianity group meet. All welcome

Looking Back- August Reflections



Gill Morris writes about her trip to Keswick Christian Convention: -

A couple of friends asked if I would like to go with them to the Keswick Christian convention in July. I'd heard lots about it but never had the opportunity to go before. I knew there would be some good speakers and worship but didn't really know what to expect. For those who aren't familiar with the convention, "Christians from all over the UK and beyond gather to hear God's Word and sing His praises, to be encouraged, challenged and equipped to love and live for Jesus".

We went to the morning and evening meetings and in between enjoyed all that Keswick had to offer in the town and around Lake Derwentwater. I had forgotten how beautiful the Lake District is, especially when you're blessed with good weather.

The convention theme this year was 'Resurrection', there was so much good teaching throughout the week it's difficult to choose one thing that stood out but worshipping together with 2500-3000 other Christians was absolutely amazing! Also, something that was made very clear throughout the week from both Old and New Testament passages, the certainty of the existence of heaven and it being our eternal home when our solid hope is in Jesus. What a future we have to look forward to!

It definitely wasn't dull, heavy going or boring and I'm really looking forward to going again next year.

Jackie writes her thoughts on 'Visiting the relatives'

When it was suggested and the plans for Alternative August were announced, I admit I was extremely apprehensive. I love worshipping in our church and love being involved in the tech team. However, I realised that the many people involved in organising each Sunday needed a break so after a lot of thought, I agreed to put my doubts behind me and try it. Going to different places is well out of my comfort zone, but with the help of several members and Jean and Carol organising me, I put my name down for a lift!

The first visit was to the Hornsea Methodist church, no problem there you may say, but I still needed to go in as part of a crowd. We were welcomed by some old friends and joined them for a service with communion, very different to our way of serving communion. Coffee and chocolate biscuits followed with a chance to catch up with old friends.

The second visit was to Scarborough URC, and we were driven there in the Lions minibus by a very capable Mike, amid lots of laughter, especially coming home, hoping he may stop at Mr Moos, but no such luck! We received a wonderful and warm welcome by the members at Scarborough and felt very loved, it was a wonderful feeling. After the service we all gathered together for a picnic lunch and chat!

For the third visit we went off in cars to Beverley Toll Gavel church. Again, we received a lovely welcome and were treated to hymns played on the big church organ, wonderful! It was a lovely service based on Genesis, which we studied in Bible book club! Amazing how the preacher compared Genesis to Eastenders, just as Steven did at book club! No more Genesis for a while!

Finally, we were treated to Mikes driving again in the minibus, and off we went to Elloughton. This is a lovely village chapel, small, cosy and welcoming. Carol Rutherford led the service, and we made the most of a superb organist with 8 hymns! Then off to the schoolroom for a faith dinner which was amazing, especially the trifles and rocky road. No need for any tea after this!

So, although I really didn't want to 'visit the relatives', I'm so glad I was talked into it, dragged along, and brought out of my comfort zone! It has been wonderful to see how other congregations worship and to meet new friends. It was great to go as a group, averaging about 15, and I think we all gained something from the visits, as did the places we visited. Most of us are familiar with the Methodist church, but like me, know nothing about the others we visited.

Most of the congregations we visited were very small and it made me realise how lucky we are, both in numbers and leaders. At most of them we doubled the numbers!

Although we had a great time, learnt a lot, and gave the leaders a rest, what about the people in our congregation who were left 'homeless' for 4 weeks? Something to think about and discuss during the year.

What's on in September?

September 1st Church Lunch and Church Chat-

Our combined Church Chat/Church Lunch will be straight after our Sunday Worship. Please bring a packed lunch, as we catch up with each other after the holidays. There will be some questions on your tables, for you to answer anonymously, to help the Elders discover how you felt about Alternative August, and your views on occasional joint services with the Methodist church going forward.

Sunday September 8th - Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest thanksgiving this year will be on September 8th, as we look at the Parable of the Sower.

Bring your harvest offerings if you would like to.

Sunday 15th September- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This begins with a Christians Together in Hornsea joint service on Sunday 15th September at 6 p.m. in the garden behind the Parish Hall. Please support this event if you are able. Then we are invited to join with other Hornsea churches from 9.15 a.m. each morning between 16th and 22nd September, for around half an hour. Details are below. Here is the introduction to this year's theme: -

Go and do Likewise

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best-known passages of Scripture, yet one that never seems to lose



its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family. In choosing this passage of Scripture for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour.

Our neighbours in Burkina Faso call us to reconnect to God's dream for us – a dream of a unity formed of ties of love and compassion. This challenges us not only to reflect on the learning from our ecumenical journey so far, but to widen our vision. What can we learn from people of other faiths, from those whose backgrounds are most different from our own, and what do we need from each other? In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the Church is being challenged to stop and tend to the wounded and, in so doing, to recognise our own wounds as churches and as

communities. Facing the reality of our own brokenness helps to connect us to the suffering of others from a place of humility and deep empathy, creating a sacred space of encounter inspired by Christ's healing love.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, SUN 15TH – SUN 22ND SEP.

		VENUE	LEADING
SUN 15 TH SEP	6 p.m.	ECO GARDEN behind Parish Hall	JOINT
MON 16 TH SEP	9.15 a.m.	URC	Sacred Heart
TUES 17 TH SEP	9.15a.m.	Methodist Church	St. Nicholas Church
WED 18 TH SEP	9.15.a.m	Sacred Heart	Methodist Church
THURS 19 TH SEP	9.15 a.m.	St. Nicholas	Church without Walls
FRI 20 TH SEP	9.15.a.m.	URC	Community Church
SAT 21 ST SEP	9.15. a.m.	Methodist Church	URC
SUN 22 ND SEP	9.15.a.m.	Church Without Walls in Parish hall	URC

You are welcome to attend as many as you would like to/are able to. The morning sessions will consist of short reflections and prayer together in the building listed as 'venue' for that day.

Tuesday September 17th - from 10.30 a.m. onwards



This has been set aside as our 'cleaning day' as we prepare our building to welcome visitors to our 150-year celebrations in October.

Any help will be gratefully received.

Wednesday 25th September- Bible Book Club

After our August 'rest', we are reading the Gospel of Mark during September. We will meet again on Wednesday 25th September at 2.30 pm or 7p.m. in the hall. All welcome- come and join us even if you don't manage to get the reading done.

Saturday 28th September- Elders Day

Please pray for the Elders as we meet and pray together on our annual Elders Day at the Convent

Sunday 29th September- “Nice to see you”



These postcard size invitations are now available in church for you to take and use to invite someone to our service on the 29th September, as we start our 150-year celebrations. Please ask if you cannot find one, and **please give them away!**

Looking Ahead

October is our celebration month and there will be full details of all events in the next Newsletter.

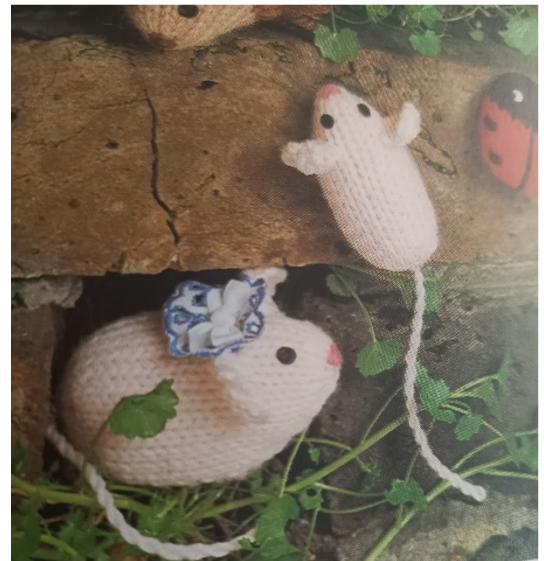
A message from Ann-

Could you help by making "church mice" to use like a treasure hunt; count the mice hidden around the church and then get one to take home, so.....

We need **knitters** to make mice...they're only tiny so any oddments of wool and any colours will be fine and the hat for Mrs Mouse is optional.

Patterns are available from Ann Bosworth, or Steph can point you in the direction of a free pattern on the internet.

Thank-you in advance!



Looking Further Ahead!



I know it's only September!

If we are going to offer a Nativity Service to the local primary Schools as last year, we need to be planning soon. If this is something you want to be involved with, please have a chat with Steve Seal this month so that we can see if we have enough interested people to make this happen.

Thank you



The U.R.C. Eco Group are offering an online meeting on **Wednesday 23rd October at 7pm via Zoom**, for anyone in our church to join in with.

This meeting is to enable all churches to help in developing/starting their green agenda. It will give churches a chance to ask questions, discuss any difficulties, get ideas from other churches. Above all, hopefully to feel we are all on this mission together and no church/member is alone!

They hope we are able to join the meeting and look forward to seeing us represented. Please note the date in your diaries. A Zoom link will be sent to our church and included in our next Newsletter

National Churches Trust-<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/>

As reported in the August Newsletter, the N.C.T. have donated to the cost of the work on the West Window. If you have been inspired to become a 'Friend' of the National Churches Trust- please would you let Margaret K. know. Thank-you.

This Month's Prayer Focus

At home-

Please pray for our upcoming 150-year celebrations.

Please prayerfully consider who you might invite to our 'Nice to see you' service on September 29th.

Further afield-

Please pray for teachers and students, returning for another academic year, and for those who cannot access education because of conflict in their land.



A September thought by Father Patrick van der Vorst :

John 6 v.60-69

In this Gospel reading, Jesus asks his disciples a troubling question: “What about you, do you want to go away too?” This question comes after many of his followers had abandoned him. This reading serves as a reminder that we all have a choice to make every day. Jesus doesn’t want us to stay with him against our will. However, if we do decide to stay, like the Twelve, he has plenty of work for us to do. Jesus didn’t force them into doing anything; he simply asked, and they responded.

As summer slowly draws to a close, maybe today is a good day to think of what we want to say ‘yes’ to when work and schools start again in September. If we continue to say ‘yes’ to what Jesus proposes to us, we embark on an exciting and adventurous path towards the greatness He has in store for each of us.

That is what faith is: an incredible adventure, not knowing where Jesus may take us next! Interestingly, the word ‘adventure’ comes from the same Latin root as ‘Advent’, meaning ‘going towards something’. As Christians, we are on a journey towards closeness with God. Our faith is indeed a rich, wonderful adventure, one to which we are asked to say ‘yes’ to every day.