



We start our Sunday Worship in October with our Harvest service on the 5th of October. More about this later in the newsletter.

There is no such thing as an ordinary day for a Christian. With Christ, every day, every task, every situation, every relationship brims with divine possibility. God is always at work. But can we see it?

During the rest of October and some of November, we will be looking at real people's everyday stories and considering how this can help us open our eyes to see how God has been working in our lives, help us to read our experience through biblical lenses, and encourage us to tell other people about the wondrous things God has done in and through us. The series is entitled "The one about" and focuses on a different story each week.

October services are as follows:

Sunday 5th October - **HARVEST SERVICE** (followed by a Church Lunch)

Sunday 12th October - The one about Victoria's secret (including Communion)

An Extraordinary Church Meeting will follow this.

Sunday 19th October - The one about the travelling Trenemans.

Sunday 26th October - The one about Alan's half hour.

Services in October will be live streamed and recorded.

We will be celebrating Harvest on **October 5th** this year. You are invited to bring harvest offerings if you would like to, for our display. Any non-perishable items will be sent to the Pantry, and fresh items taken to share with neighbours. This service will be followed by a **Church lunch** and there will be a collection for the work of Christian Aid.



Signs are to **EYES** what words are to **EARS**



Signing in church

You may have noticed more BSL signing during our services. The Smith family are learning BSL Level 1 online to help them as a family communicate more easily. As Jason's health deteriorates, he is finding speaking increasingly difficult and singing impossible, this is a way to help him communicate. Signing in church helps him feel part of our worship.

You are welcome to sign with us but please do not feel you have to join in! It's another way to worship God and is great for people like me who don't have a singing voice!

Carol

October 12th- Important Extraordinary Church Meeting- after the service.

We will be meeting to discuss and pray together. As reported in the recent Church Meeting, Mark Parker- Randall is exploring a call to full time non- stipendiary ministry in the U.R.C.- at St. Andrews in Scarborough.

Our church has a role in the formal assessment process. The Elders will bring a report to this extraordinary Church Meeting, and the meeting then will decide whether to recommend the candidate (Mark) for further interviews.

Please read the following, from Mark, as we prepare for our meeting: -

God's Call and Commissioning

By Mark Parker-Randall

“Here am I. Send me.” – Isaiah 6:8

Having retired from secondary education a couple of years ago, and now having entered my 60th year, I once again offer myself to God with open hands and a willing heart. Mine is a story of God's call, first heard in childhood, tested through seasons of loss, yet never silenced, and now renewed with fresh hope.

Growing Up in Faith

I was blessed to be born into a loving Christian home and was dedicated to God by my parents as a baby. From my earliest days, I sensed God's presence, leading “worship” in my bedroom for my teddy bears, my brother, and foster brothers at the age of five, giving my life to Jesus at seven, and being baptised at eleven. At fourteen, during a Salvation Army youth rally, I had a profound spiritual encounter where I knew God was calling me to lifelong ministry. That call, sealed with tears and certainty, has remained with me ever since.

Following God's Call

As a young adult, I grew through preaching, youth leadership, and bible study. The Salvation Army taught me that faith is not just a moment of salvation but a lifelong journey of holiness and transformation. In 1995, after two years of residential training, I was ordained and commissioned as a Salvation Army Minister, fully convinced this was the path God had set before me.

Seasons of Testing

Though life sometimes brings mountaintop moments, it is often marked more by valleys. In 1998, when my first marriage unexpectedly ended, I had to step away from church leadership and ministry. It was one of the most painful seasons of my life, and yet in that place of deep loss, I found a faithful God who never withdrew His call. Even when everything else was stripped away, I held fast to Him.

New Doors Opening

Over the past eight years, God has led me into new ministry within the United Reformed Church. At Hornsea URC, I have found opportunities to serve as a church elder, to lead worship, preach, teach, and pastorally care for others. It has been a joy to share in a “vision for ministry and mission” within a forward-looking, outward-facing church.

A Fresh Stirring

This past year, through prayer with church elders and a powerful encounter at Spring Harvest, I have heard God's call again with renewed clarity. The question came: "Whom shall I send?" and my heart answered: "Here am I. Send me." It felt as though God was restoring what had once been lost, not to repeat the past, but to lead me into something new.

Sustained by Grace

Daily prayer, Scripture, retreat, and worship continue to sustain me. Music, especially, has been a place of deep encounter with God throughout my life. I am profoundly grateful, too, for the encouragement of trusted friends and for the love and companionship of my faithful wife Kate, who has walked by my side throughout our 19 years of marriage.

Looking Ahead

Thirty years after first being ordained as a Salvation Army Minister as part of the "Messenger of Hope" Training Session (1993-1995), I now sense God's call once again to ordained ministry, this time as Minister of Word and Sacraments at St Andrew's URC, Scarborough. This call has been prayerfully discerned and affirmed by the church elders and members there, through a church meeting and membership vote on Saturday 20th September 2025, following my regular leadership of worship and pastoral support within the fellowship since early 2022.

My calling is not about returning to something old, but about stepping forward into something new within God's ongoing story of grace and redemption.

Through joy and sorrow, God's call has never let me go. Today, I stand ready once again to say with all my heart:

"Yes, Lord. Here am I. Send me."

Coming up in October-

October 4th-

Elders Day. Please pray for the Elders as we spend time with God and each other.

October 12th-

Extraordinary Church Meeting.

October 29th-

Bible Book Club. We are reading the book of Ruth in October and will be meeting on Wednesday 29th October at 1-30 p.m. to chat about it, in the hall- all welcome.

September Thoughts

September arrived, it's my favourite month,
With bright blue skies, and quite a few storms.
We said farewell to a glorious summer,
Although it brought drought, and a hosepipe ban.

Nevertheless, we'd enjoyed those long days
And evenings when darkness was late to appear.
But now we'll prepare for days so much shorter,
Make sure that we're ready with coal and dry logs.

The weatherman said, "it's unsettled right now,
And each day becomes unpredictable."
The problem we face then, is what should we wear
When we venture out for a walk with the dog?

Autumn's now with us, leaves strew the lanes.
When morning arrives there's a chill in the air.
Although climate change is here it would seem
We do still have sight of the seasons we love.

Gill Bone

