

Just to keep in...

# Contact

November 2020



**The Borough, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1NL**

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*Minister*

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## Worship in November

1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Rev Andrew Mudharara
8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Rev Andrew Mudharara (Remembrance Sunday)
15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Rev George Lea (including Holy Communion)
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Christine Griggs (Daventry URC)
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Rev Dr Janet Wootton (Advent I)

**From now on the church is open for worship every Sunday morning at 10.45 (subject to any national or local restrictions). The services will be either be 'live' or shown on screen.**

Services are still being recorded each week and will be available on the church website every Sunday by 10.45 am and on YouTube (just search for Hinckley URC). Special thanks to Tony Thomas, Rob Cobb and Heather for their IT skills enabling the services to be available online.

### **IMPORTANT – PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

*Anyone entering the church premises must sign their names in the register and sanitise their hands with the sanitiser provided.*

*If you have downloaded the NHS Covid-19 App you can scan the QR code on the poster at the church entrances.*

***While work is being carried out on the stone frontage of the church there will be no access to the church via the front entrance on weekdays. If you have to access the church on a week day please use the rear entrance.***

Printed copies of this magazine will not be available in church this month. However, if you know someone who needs to have a printed copy, please either print one off for them, or let David Crick know.

## Minister's letter

Greetings from the three of us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who fights on the corner of the oppressed. We feel honoured to be part of the loving Hinckley United Reformed Church in times of crisis like this when support from the loving sisters and brothers is pivotal to our lives. We are grateful for the support we are receiving from our sisters and brothers in the Church and community and the opportunity to reciprocate too.

We celebrate Remembrance Day in November as we remember the lives that were lost and sacrificed for the freedom of all people not just the “pure breed”, but all. It is important to remember that the battle is still going on to defend the disadvantaged in our society today. We need to take the mantle from those who were before us and run with it and may need to pass it on to the next generation if we have not yet reached equality, justice and freedom for all.

We as the Church have the mandate from our Lord Jesus Christ who fought all His life on earth for Justice for all people. Jesus continues to fight for the corner of the oppressed at the right hand of God praying for all. I find it very challenging that we still have people in our society that are still protesting to have their voices heard after two world wars which were about freedom to be who you are, without fear, yet there are a lot of people today who are not free to be themselves, yes within the confines of the law and having access to equal opportunities because they look different or do not come from the “right postcode”. My prayer is that we continue to make noises to God and the powers that be. We as the people of faith need to keep sending laments saying “*All her people groan as they search for bread, they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive. Look, Lord and consider, for I am despised. Is this nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see...*” Lamentations 1:11-12. We remember as we speak out for the voiceless till all can speak and access resources given to us all by God.

We appreciate the positive efforts of our armed forces and veterans who do their best to protect the integrity of our country and people. We will remember them and the efforts by upholding freedom, justice and equality of all people without prejudice.

We will remember them.

*Andrew*

## News of the family

We continue to pray for Jan A, Jan and Brian, Cynthia, Norrie, Jan D, Sue D, Ethel, Betty H, Wendy, Jackie H, Joyce, Joan, Brenda, Lily, Denis, Tony W and all of the church family who are receiving medical treatment and have continuing health issues.

Please pray for all those who are affected in some way by Covid 19. We think of Sue T (our church cleaner) and her family, those with children/grandchildren self- isolating at university and all in our church family working on the frontline.

If anyone else is in need of prayer or you would like us to pray for you, please contact *Sue Saunders* (01455 446509).

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Congratulations to Penny and Daphne H who both celebrate significant birthdays this month, Penny on the 11<sup>th</sup> and Daphne on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Other birthdays in November: Tom S and Glenn (both on the 5<sup>th</sup>), Sue R (14<sup>th</sup>), Paul (16<sup>th</sup>), Neil (17<sup>th</sup>) and Caroline (22<sup>nd</sup>).

Wedding Anniversaries: Philip & Janet (10<sup>th</sup>), Laura & Mike D (20<sup>th</sup>)

*Apologies to anyone we may have missed. Thanks to Kathy for keeping these records, if we haven't got your information please have a word with Kathy.*

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*A vicar who was also a keen birdwatcher was trying out a new pair of binoculars in a shop while still wearing his clerical collar. A passer-by commented "Can't you just ask them to sit nearer the front?"*



## **Thank You**

Thank you for the beautiful roses we received to celebrate our 55th Wedding Anniversary. Thanks too to Ian and Kathy for delivering them. God bless you all, *Cynthia and Mike*

Thank you to all our friends at Hinckley URC for the kind wishes, cards and flowers for our Silver Wedding Anniversary. A special thank you goes to Kathy and Ian who came all the way to Queniborough to deliver flowers. In these strange times when we can't have big celebrations, it made the day special and memorable.

*Penny & Ferrand*

Thank you for the flowers that Kathy and Ian delivered to us the occasion of our Wedding Anniversary. It was good to have a socially-distanced chat with them on our drive (we especially enjoyed the cake and scones that Kathy had baked for us and we look forward to tasting Ian's home-made damson jam!)

*David & Heather*

Many thanks to all of you who sent me good wishes, birthday cards, a cake and a bar of chocolate in celebration of my birthday. Also for all the prayers and support during the last few weeks as I started my treatment. I am learning what I can and cannot do after having my once fortnightly infusion at the hospital. My ability to sleep during the day has been enhanced greatly and my cycling has had to be reduced to a certain extent!

*Tony Wallis*

## **Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>**

The first Sunday in December has traditionally been a toy service when we collect and deliver toys to the church in Liverpool. Unfortunately, it will not be practical or safe to do that this year so the elders have agreed that a gift of at least £500 should be sent to them so that they can use money where it is most needed. If people would like to contribute by making a donation this would be most welcome. Please contact Richard Benham if you would like to donate.

## Sunday Worship at Hinckley URC

For those wishing to attend worship on a Sunday morning there are a few simple rules we ask you to comply with to keep yourself and others safe:

1. Please wear a face mask.
2. Please do not come to church if you have any symptoms of coronavirus.
3. Please use hand sanitiser on entry to the church.
4. Please maintain social distancing of 2 metres at all times, sit in the designated seating and only sit with members of your household (or support 'bubble').
5. If you need to use the toilet, please use the toilet in the front foyer only and follow the cleaning instructions before and after use.
6. By remaining in your seat, you can chat quietly to the people nearest you before and after the service.

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Please contact Malcolm Hooke if you wish to order any of the following publications.

1. New 2021 Prayer Handbook 'Conversations' £5
2. New 2021 Diary now with daily lectionary readings and a calendar running from August 2020 until June 2022 at £7
3. *Reform* Magazine 10 monthly copies at £29.50

Alternatively, you can subscribe to *Reform* digitally for £18. For this option please supply me with your email address but pay through me.

Depending on quantities there will be P&P charges

*Malcolm Hooke*

## **AlterNativity**

I know that some of you have supported AlterNativity for many years but unfortunately because of Covid restrictions it will be unable to go ahead in its usual form this year. You can still buy your Christmas gifts but by mail order only. I have the order forms so if you would like one, please contact me by phone. My number is: 01455 446468. You can leave a message on the answer phone if we aren't in. I will then post one to you.

Happy shopping! *Carole Wallis*

### **For all key-holders:**

Notice: Church key for front and side door (same key)

Please note that the locks on the front and side door of the church are to be changed. This will mean that new keys will be required.

If you already have a key and need a replacement please contact Malcolm Hooke. Continue to use your old key until advised that the new locks have been fitted and then dispose of your old key.

*Malcolm Hooke*

## **Christmas Postbox & Church Gifts 2020**

It is with sadness we must inform you that the HURC Postbox will not be available for your Christmas cards this year. The possibility of our congregation being able to post their cards in the church, plus safely sorting and delivering them to recipients without any health risks seem impossible at this time. Thank you for your support in past years, we look forward to resuming our postal duties in December 2021!

The usual gift of a plant to the "at-homes" is also cancelled but cards will be sent to these people with greetings from the church.

Keep safe and well. God bless you all at this difficult time.

*Janet, Kathy and Ian*

## **Church Secretary's Report for 2020**

Well I can honestly say that I have never known a year like this one and I would imagine I would not be alone in saying that! The Elders have all been pushed to learn new skills to deal with new technology, as has the congregation and some of us have been introduced to Zoom and Youtube so we can join in Services, prayer groups, Elders' meetings, house groups, quizzes and children's activities. Our minister has also had to adapt not only to some new technology and doing services sometimes from his office, but to the arrival of a beautiful daughter, which will no doubt challenge him for a long time.

We took part in the usual Christmas services and activities and were joined by Becky and her family for some of them before she started work in the New Year. She had barely got used to the various activities of the church groups and those other organisations that use the church before the "Lockdown" interrupted everything. Rachel, Rob and Becky quickly seemed to adapt to producing materials for the youngsters who they could reach through computers. It came as something of a shock when Becky told us that she would be leaving us to undertake a teaching qualification at Derby University, in September but she went with our good wishes and the search for her replacement goes on.

Easter this year was just not the same, celebrated on line rather than in our church but we were able to have the Easter service via Zoom. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Tony Thomas, Rob Cobb and David and Heather Crick for the work they have put in to learn new skills to help us all to listen and watch the services over the last 7 months. They have also investigated how the various organisations, The Vine, The Dance School, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides can start to use the church premises again as well as planning to get some of the congregation back into church safely.

You may not be aware that the front of the church has scaffolding up and the stone mason is progressing with work on replacing some of those stones which have decayed over time. We have been able to get grants from the local council and from the Synod towards the cost of this work for which we are grateful. Our thanks go to John Mason for searching diligently until he found someone who could do the work. Tony Thomas has now arranged for work on the front toilet area to be completed with the addition of hot water in the wash basin. Again, many thanks.

We have all had to adapt to a new life style, especially those of us with “underlying” conditions who have spent a lot of the last few months restricted as to who and how many people we can meet. Those of us who are grandparents miss being able to give our grandchildren a kiss and a hug.

As Elders we have also continued to try to keep in touch with the congregation either by emails or telephone as well as sometimes by hand-delivered or postal services to make sure everyone is keeping well and to keep you up to date on what is happening.

We sadly lost Ann Brown, Margaret Garratt and Ken Dawes this year from our congregation and our thoughts have gone out to all their families. We give thanks that Brian and Jan Beagley have come through the Virus OK.

It is unfortunate that quite a number of church activities have not been able to go ahead and we have missed the fellowship meetings and the walking group, and it may be that the Tuesday lunch meetings will not be restarted.

As most of you know I have stood down as Church Secretary due to a return of my kidney cancer and its necessary treatment. I am very grateful to Christine who has taken over for the time being and I thank you all for your good wishes and prayers.

*Tony Wallis*

As Tony has said, I am taking over as Church Secretary and that will be made official at the November Church Meeting – providing that the members agree of course!! I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of you all to Tony Wallis for all the work he has done in his role as Secretary and our thoughts and prayers are with him, Carole and their family as he continues his treatment. Richard Benham is also standing down from his role as Church Treasurer and our sincere thanks go to him too for his service in this role for many years. We do not yet have a replacement for him so please pray. Richard and Tony are also standing down from the Eldership as is Jan Beagley because of her poor health. Hazel Coley has been on a sabbatical and has decided not to continue as a serving Elder. We are grateful to all of them for their service in their role as Elders. We have, however, received nominations for three other church members to be elected onto the Eldership and we give thanks to God for their willingness to join the team and serve in this way. They are; David Crick,

Roger Moseley and Karen Jones. Roger has transferred his membership from his former church in Peterborough. Elders who have come to the end of their three- year term of office and need to be re-elected are: Jacqueline Brown, Sue Doherty and myself, Christine Thomas. If you are a church member you will be receiving a letter very soon to enable you to vote by post for these six people because the AGM on 23rd November will have to be held on Zoom. Planning for this in the current circumstances takes us into new territory so please bear with us if we don't get everything right!

There are many others amongst our fellowship who continue to serve the church faithfully in many different ways and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them too. It is humbling to learn just how much work goes on behind the scenes without anyone, or not many people anyway, being aware of it. Rachel Cobb has been doing excellent work in her role as Youth Worker and has taken on more hours since Becky left. Thank you, Rachel. Lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to say thank you to our minister, Andrew, for his ministry, gentle leadership, patience and support for everyone in the fellowship. We give thanks to God too for the gift of a daughter to him and Candid. God continues to bless us even in our difficulties and he will always reach out to us and guide us as we learn to cope with change and explore the challenges of mission in our community.

*Christine Thomas*

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*This, this is the God we adore,  
Our faithful, unchangeable friend;  
His love is as great as his power,  
And neither knows measure nor end.*

*'Tis Jesus, the First and the Last,  
Whose Spirit will guide us safe home;  
We'll praise Him for all that is past,  
And trust Him for all that's to come.*

*Joseph Hart*

## Quiz

November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saints' Day, when we give thanks to God for all those who have gone before us, both the famous and the obscure (and not just those canonised by the church!). For a bit of fun can you answer these questions relating to saints? (Answers on back page)

1. Which Saint's feast is on Boxing Day?
2. What are the two former names of the Russian city, St. Petersburg?
3. What saintly name is given to an atmospheric glow that appears on the extremities of pointed objects such as ship masts and church spires?
4. Who is the patron saint of lost causes?
5. Which European republic was founded by St. Marinus and his Christian followers?
6. What event inspired George Bernard Shaw to write the play 'St. Joan'.
7. Where is St. Edmund buried?
8. According to folklore, what will happen if it rains on St. Swithin's day?
9. Which saint was the first Archbishop of Canterbury and founded the Christian Church in the South of England?
10. Who is the patron saint of doctors?

## Weekly and Memorial Flower Rotas

Many of you know the 2020 flower rotas have been cancelled for the remainder of this year because of advice from the URC Synod. When these restrictions can be eased the rotas for 2021 will be implemented and those who kindly arrange flowers each week will be informed and invited to put flowers in God's House once again.

Thank you so much for your support.

*Janet and Kathy ~ your flower ladies*

## **Commitment for Life Prayer for November 2020 (Prayer for COP26)**

God of Life. Our planet is dying.  
We are responsible for the destruction  
of species and eco-systems.

Save us for our death-dealing systems

- that rely on fossil fuels
- that strip-mine the commons
- that convert Your natural world into cold, hard cash.

Give us wisdom and courage to find new ways of living.

Empower our children who are striking for the climate.

Shield all who work for a healthy environment, particularly indigenous  
earth-protectors.

Gift COP26 with robust and workable solutions to mitigate the very worst  
effects of climate disruption.

In Christ, we pray. **Amen**

*COP26 is the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference that will  
take place in Glasgow 1-12 November 2021*

## **News from The Vine Christian Bookshop**

News from The Vine - from the start of November The Vine will have  
Christmas gifts, decorations and ornaments in stock alongside Christmas  
books, cards and advent calendars. There are some new lines and familiar  
favourites, lots of things to encourage you and your friends and family in  
these difficult times - check out the pictures on Facebook to get an idea.  
The 3 for 2 offer on children's Christmas books continues while stocks last.  
The Vine is still open from 11am-2pm Monday to Friday and we understand  
that this may not be convenient for everyone. The Vine aims to offer great  
customer service so if you are struggling to access the shop during these  
limited opening hours do please get in touch and they will do their best to  
accommodate you. You can email [thevinehinckley@btconnect.com](mailto:thevinehinckley@btconnect.com) or  
phone on 01455 612345. The website and Facebook page will be updated  
if there are any changes to opening times, so do check these before making  
a special trip.

God Bless *Jessica Harrison*, Manager

## **I dream of a Church**

*I dream of a church that joins in with God's laughing  
as she rocks in her rapture enjoying her art:  
she's glad of her world, in its risking and growing:  
'tis the child she has borne and holds close to her heart.*

*I dream of a church that joins in with God's weeping  
as she crouches, weighed down by the sorrow she sees:  
she cries for the hostile, the cold and no hoping,  
for she bears in herself our despair and disease.*

*I dream of a church that joins in with God's dancing  
as she moves like the wind and the wave and the fire:  
a church that can pick up its skirts, pirouetting,  
with the steps that can signal God's deepest desire.*

*I dream of a church that joins in with God's loving  
as she bends to embrace the unlovely and lost,  
a church that can free, by its sharing and daring,  
the imprisoned and poor, and then shoulder the cost.*

*God, make us a church that joins in with your living,  
as you cherish and challenge, rein in and release,  
a church that is winsome, impassioned, inspiring:  
lioness of your justice, and lamb of your peace.*

*Kate Compston*

*Words © 1994 Hope Publishing Company*

*CCL 184822*

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*Peace is not won  
By man's eternal strife,  
Peace is the power of God  
In human life.  
It dwells with joy and love,  
Is manifest in grace;  
The star above His crib,  
The light that is His face.*

*Anonymous*

*We recently received a book through the post, a gift from a friend, edited by his Dad, a retired Methodist minister, titled Lockdown: Lexicon & Legacy. It is a collection of various people's experiences and thoughts on the Covid Lockdown, of which this is an example.*

## **Vulnerability**

Language – the words we use and how we express them – changes with passing time. Certain words suddenly occur with a much greater frequency. How many times do you hear the word 'absolutely' used daily on the lips of people in all walks life? It's a word to characterise the age we live in. The word 'vulnerability' is running alongside it in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We began to hear it used of soldiers returning from war zones with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Its association with mental health is well-proven and on most news bulletins. We used to think human life was robust whereas now we are realising that it is often not the case. With the spread of Covid-19 we have realised that the human race is not quite as robust and self-assured as we've assumed, as many of our vulnerabilities have been exposed by a virus that seemed to spring from nowhere.

As Christians, we have personally known about vulnerability in the course of living out our faith; we are not always the best examples of what Christ wills us to be. If we need an example of living with vulnerability, we must surely turn to Christ himself. He had no defenders to stand up for him before Pilate. He was totally vulnerable armed only with a trust in the love at the heart of all things – the love of God. His vulnerability on the Cross was ultimately the way to Easter life; the way to the kingdom of which he spoke; the way to lead his vulnerable followers out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Covid-19 has taught us something about human vulnerability and about love, care and kindness needed to face it across society as a whole. It is only through love that vulnerability can be faced, coped with and ultimately overcome. As Christians we see such love in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*John Forster (Manchester)*

*Copies of Lockdown: Lexicon and Legacy are available from:  
Rev Robert Davies ([robertdavies123@btinternet.com](mailto:robertdavies123@btinternet.com)), £10.00 + £2.00 p&p,  
cheques made payable to Rev R Davies.  
(or contact David Crick who can give you the postal address)*

## Advance Notice Christmas Services

Christmas services will obviously be somewhat different this year. Final details will be publicised on the church website and in the December edition of Contact but the current plan looks like this:

December 6th Rachel Cobb and others *including Pop-Up Nativity*

December 13th Communion Service led by Rev Andrew

December 20th A service of Lessons and Carols

December 24th Christmas Eve Communion

December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Worship led by Rev Andrew.

Sunday December 27th. Church Closed – no services.

All of these services will be available online. Details of which services will also be in church and the times of these services will be confirmed nearer the time.

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### Waste

*Waste of Muscle, waste of Brain,  
Waste of Patience, waste of Pain,  
Waste of Manhood, waste of Health,  
Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth,  
Waste of Blood and waste of Tears,  
Waste of Youth's most precious years,  
Waste of ways the Saints have trod,  
Waste of Glory, waste of God -  
War!*

*G A Studdert Kennedy*

G A Studdert Kennedy (1883–1929) was an Anglican priest and poet. He was nicknamed Woodbine Willie during World War I for giving Woodbine cigarettes along with spiritual aid to injured and dying soldiers.

## Date for your Diary

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Church 7.00pm AGM on Zoom (Note time)

## Regular Meetings

Every **Sunday** - Chat session on Zoom – log in after 11.45am. Session continues until approx. 12.30pm or as long as it takes!

Every **Monday** Chat and Prayer session on Zoom - log in after 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start and ending about 8.00pm

Every **Wednesday** 6.30pm – 7.30pm *Just for Fun* – fun and games on Zoom organised by Rachel and Rob.

**Tuesday** Weekly Bible Study Group – see Richard Benham for details

**Wednesday Monthly Housegroup** – meeting via Zoom.

Next meeting Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 7.45pm.

**'Friday' Prayer Group** – now meets on a Wednesday! Please see Hazel Coley for details

*If you need any help using Zoom please contact Tony Thomas.*

Please submit material for the next edition of Contact by **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**. Articles can be emailed to [dghc1@btinternet.com](mailto:dghc1@btinternet.com). The next edition of Contact will be a double issue covering December and January and will be available at the end of November.

*Thank you to everybody who has submitted articles this month.*

### Answers to Quiz

1. St Stephen;
2. Petrograd (1914-24), Leningrad (1924-1991);
3. St Elmo's Fire;
4. St Jude;
5. San Marino;
6. The canonisation of Joan of Arc in 1920;
7. Bury St Edmunds;
8. It will rain for another 40 days.
9. St Augustine;
10. St Luke