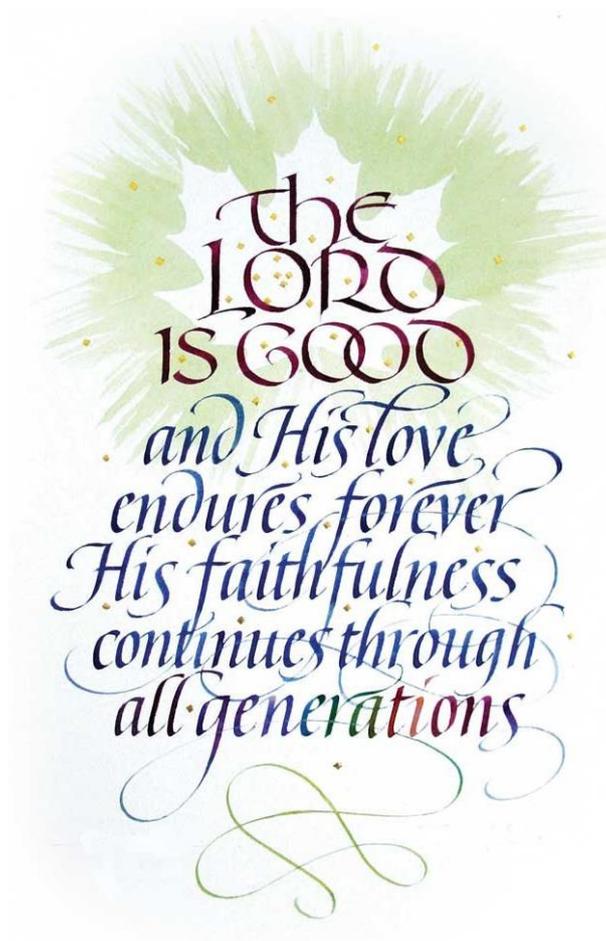


Just to keep in...

# Contact

September 2022



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

[www.hinckleyurc.org.uk](http://www.hinckleyurc.org.uk)

*Minister*

☎ 01455 634398 / 07725 747936

*Youth Worker*

☎ 07930 628011

*Church*

☎ 01455 637518

Rev Andrew Mudharara

[revandrew@hinckleyurc.org.uk](mailto:revandrew@hinckleyurc.org.uk)

Rachel Cobb

[repoclehc@hotmai.com](mailto:repoclehc@hotmai.com)

[church@hinckleyurc.org.uk](mailto:church@hinckleyurc.org.uk)

## Contact Information

*Please take great care when sharing these contact details with other people. This information will not appear in the version of Contact on the church website.*

Church Secretary	Christine Thomas	
Treasurer	Sally Leggat	
Premises	Malcolm Hooke	
Children and Youth Work	Chris Sharrock	
Pulpit Supply	David Crick	
Music	David Crick	
Notices	Christine & Tony Thomas	
Flowers	Kathy Smith	
Catering	Ann Martin	
Contact Magazine	David Crick	

## Worship in September (10.45 am)

4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Rev Andrew Mudharara
11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Rev Daniel Cheyne
18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Rev Andrew Mudharara ( <i>including Holy Communion</i> )
25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Rev Jay Phelps
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Rev Andrew Mudharara ( <i>Harvest Festival &amp; Parade</i> )

## Sunday Lunch - October 2nd

There will be another church lunch on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October (Harvest). Please bring your own sandwiches but it is hoped that there will be some other food to share. Drinks will be provided. It's a great opportunity for fellowship together, please come along if you can.

## From our Minister

Greetings to you, sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ's name, our Lord and Saviour. We are all called into a family of God and to be the Body of Christ with Jesus as the head of the body which is the Church (Colossians 1:18).

We have been born again into the family of God through our common belief in Jesus Christ and the will of God the Father. According to John 1:12-13. We all belong to the household of God. We need to remind ourselves always that we belong to the household of God and should look out for each other as a family. We are called to the household of God not to just be concerned only about our own needs "... Rather in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:4). Caring for one another should be our priority as family of God. Each and everyone of us, as a local church should do our best to make sure that all of us are supported, appreciated and affirmed as belonging to the household of God.

We are bound together as a family through the love of God. We are called to love one another as a family "...for love is of God; and every one that loves is born of God and knows God. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another" (1John 4:7.11). We are commanded in the Bible to love one another as God has loved us (John 15:12) and also reminded that by this commandment of love shall all peoples know that we the followers of Christ (John 13:35). Our love for one another should be a witness to the people outside the household of God that we are God's people.

I have to acknowledge that, we sometimes offend each other as family, and we are encouraged to confess our faults to one another and forgive each other. We are encouraged by the scriptures to "put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other..." Colossians 3:12-13). We are encouraged to do our best to live in harmony as a family as different as we are and as we see differently. It is not easy but possible through the Holy Spirit who enables us forgive and to see our faults as well as to apologise when we offend others. Let us prioritise the unity of the body of Christ.

May the love of God, our Creator, the grace of Jesus, our redeemer and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit our comforter bind us together in the household of faith. Amen *Andrew*

## News of the Family

We send condolences to Deborah, Mark, and Matthew following the death of our dear friend Jackie Hulbert on 12th July. May she rest in peace. We were also sad to hear the news that our friend Rev Michael Haighton has passed away and we remember his wife, Barbara, in our prayers.

We give thanks that John P is now home and recovering following a heart attack. We continue to pray for Ruth who is suffering again with back pain. We pray for Sue T, Joan and Trevor and the extended family.

Muriel L has moved into Hinckley House Care home and Lily S has moved into Moat house. We pray that they are both at peace in this new chapter of their lives.

We think of David and Heather who have just moved home and were both suffering from Covid. It is good to have Dennis back in church although he is still in some pain. Thankfully, Yabom's op went well and she is recovering slowly.

We pray for all those in our congregation who are caring for, or who are concerned for their family members.

We continue to pray for those in the church family who are struggling with ongoing health issues, living in care homes or in need of extra support: Annette D, Betty H, Beryl (Julie's mum), Ethel, Jan and Brian B, Joan, Joyce, Joyce and Arthur, Keith G, Keith H, Lily, Nanette S, Nessa, Norrie, Mollie H, Muriel, Paddy, Pat, Sue D and Wendy and all of the church family who are receiving medical treatment, have continuing health issues.

Please contact me if you or someone you know is in need of prayer and would like to go on the prayer list, respecting their privacy and seeking permission first. Contact me by email or telephone 01455 446509

*Sue Saunders*

Anne Brown's ashes will be interred at Ashby Road Cemetery at 11.30 on Friday 2nd Sept. It will be a short graveside service conducted by Rev Malcolm Clarke and Rev Mike Vidler. Please indicate to Christine Thomas or Malcolm Clarke if you would like to attend.

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

*Congratulations to all those celebrating birthdays in September:*

Joyce M (on the 4<sup>th</sup>), Sue S (5<sup>th</sup>), Tavonga (7<sup>th</sup>), Hazel (21<sup>st</sup>), Pat J (22<sup>nd</sup>),  
Samantha & Marilyn P (both on the 24<sup>th</sup>) Sept

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*Anniversaries:*

George & Betty (on the 2<sup>nd</sup>), Jimmy & Jan (8<sup>th</sup>), John & Marion (12<sup>th</sup>), Brian  
& Jan (19<sup>th</sup>), Richard & Malvolia (21<sup>st</sup>), Ferrand & Penny (24<sup>th</sup>)

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

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## **News from the Vine**

During September we will be receiving 2023 calendars and diaries, which will go on sale as they arrive. The A3 Hannah Dunnett calendars are already available – please purchase early to avoid disappointment. Do check our Facebook page (The Vine Coffee Shop) or Instagram (The Vine Bookshop) for updates on new arrivals. We'll also get our stock of Christmas cards and advent calendars in this month but these don't usually go on display until the beginning of October (if anyone needs them early just ask us and we'll get them out for you!).

There are Bible reading notes available that start in September. These include BRF's New Daylight, Guidelines, Upper Room and Day by Day with God, which cover four months and Waverley Abbey's Every Day with Jesus and Inspiring Women Every Day, which cover two. Scripture Union's Daily Bread and Encounter with God begin in October. If you haven't tried these before or not for a while, why not give them a go? It can be very helpful to have a short reflection on a daily basis to help you focus. As ever if there is anything that you require that we don't have in stock, we will be very happy to order it for you.

God Bless,

*Jessica Harrison* Manager

## Sponsored Walk

When we set out to do this challenge, little did we know that it would be one of the hottest weekends on record; in fact we were more worried about rain than the heat! However, we prepped well and set off from Hinckley on Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 4.55am, it was already 16°C. Sunrise over the canal and support from our 'team' saw us make good time to Sutton Cheney Wharf where we picked up some friends for the next few miles. We managed Sutton Cheney to Newbold Verdon in good time and felt positive as we said goodbye to fellow walkers.



I can only describe the next section as 'brutal', the temperature was rising and we were walking through exposed fields to our next checkpoint at Ratby Borroughs. Our pace slowed and we were so glad to see our team as we made it to stop number 3. After a longer than scheduled pit stop, where we took on plenty of food and fluid, we started leg 4, a shorter walk between Ratby Borroughs and Newtown Linford. However, despite the woodland cover, it became obvious that the early-afternoon conditions were making progress slow and, by the time we reached Bradgate Park, the temperature was above 30°C, our energy was low and our spirits not much higher. Despite massive encouragement to continue, we took the decision to suspend the walk there and complete the final 6 miles at a different time, but within the week. However, the fact that we'd walked from home to Bradgate Park was a massive achievement, particularly in the conditions.

To date (18<sup>th</sup> August), we've raised £2558.25 through donations including Gift Aid, a truly amazing amount for British Heart Foundation. We know Dad would have been very proud of us for the training leading up to the day and the challenge itself. He would also have appreciated the support given to us by his friends at the URC, the church where he spent so much of his time. Thank you to everyone for their kind words, encouragement and donations, it gave us the determination and support we needed.

*Ellie & Angela Woodward.*



*4.55am, and they're off!*



*Sunrise over the Ashby Canal.  
Plus support team*



*Hot in the maize!*

Here are 3 ways in which you can all help Hinckley Area Foodbank, please.

### 1. Asda Green Tokens

Please vote for us at [www.asda.com/green-tokens](http://www.asda.com/green-tokens) and selecting Hinckley from the drop-down box. You will be able to vote once every seven days, so please do return and revote in the following weeks.

### 2. Nominate us for an Ecclesiastical 'Movement for Good' Grant of £1,000

Please go to <https://movementforgood.com/#nominateACharity> and put in our charity number 1154754 and press search. That will say our charity name, Hinckley Christian Community Action. Then please select poverty from the dropdown menu. Then you fill in your own details and press submit!

### 3. Online Shopping

Do you shop online? Well, you can fundraise for us when you do - and it's super easy! All you need to do is go to these sites:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=45997&fbclid=IwAR3DfsKDnozAUKEgDuUkiFqsSE7KlIj53M2\\_G7hxTiYMMJAJaLS2sHtjP38](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=45997&fbclid=IwAR3DfsKDnozAUKEgDuUkiFqsSE7KlIj53M2_G7hxTiYMMJAJaLS2sHtjP38) then create your account

And

[https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/hinckley-christian-community-action-hcca?\\_ga=2.64787887.1016831032.1620663778-1506699570.1620663778&everyclick&fbclid=IwAR0f8BYFvi7JvM2fIV4iPBFQ1LqCFxo1TF8jqlaNGoovJ3rsZ\\_9IEWe0llk](https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/hinckley-christian-community-action-hcca?_ga=2.64787887.1016831032.1620663778-1506699570.1620663778&everyclick&fbclid=IwAR0f8BYFvi7JvM2fIV4iPBFQ1LqCFxo1TF8jqlaNGoovJ3rsZ_9IEWe0llk) and click on "Support us, it's free" and register.

You can then pin these to your internet browser so that you are reminded to use "Easyfundraising" and "Give as you live" when you buy things online.

There are thousands of online stores who will make donations to Hinckley Foodbank. Remember, it won't cost you any more to buy things online and we will receive donations whenever you do!

Thank you for your support

*Chris Wright*

Deputy Manager / Fundraiser

*Prayer for Healthcare for the World*

Life-giving God,

We pray for a new Earth where individuals matter more than profits; where women and children are empowered; where special need, ill-health, other ability or disadvantage is no bar to a fulfilling life; where vested interests do not prevent anyone from accessing medical treatment.

We ask for clean water, decent sanitation, living space and health education for all people, especially those forced to crowd together in vast conurbations.

Above all, we thank you for ordinary people making change happen:

Village Health Workers in Zimbabwe teaching Covid-19 precautions to remote communities;

The Shisamondnay Forum in Bangladesh promoting healthy vegetables for children to eat;

UNES in Central America working with local health teams to tackle environmental health problems.

The Palestinian Agricultural Development Association and YMCA rehabilitation programme for people injured in conflict.

And for every unsung hero whose love, your love, overflows into selfless action.

For the sake of Jesus Christ who came to heal this suffering world.

**Amen**

*Charles Jolly*

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In 1972 churches from the Congregational Union of England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England joined together to form the United Reformed Church. Have you any recollections of the URC coming into being in 1972? Were you at the Borough then, or a member of another congregation, deciding whether to join this new church? It would be good to include your recollections in the next Contact magazine. Please send any interesting snippets to the Editor.



**Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972**

## Classic Car Rally – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September

*The Hinckley Classic Car Rally will be held in the town centre on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and as in previous years we will be serving refreshments and making the church available for those who wish to use our facilities or just wish to have a sit down. Please sign up on the list at the back of the church if you can help in any way.*



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## A church notice that didn't quite work

*The fasting and prayer group which meets on Thursday morning includes a three-course lunch*

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## Midweek Coffee

A number of members of our church are feeling called to start a midweek coffee morning / afternoon. The time and day of the week is still to be decided but it is hoped that this could be a regular event offering fellowship both for those within the existing congregation and for those who are currently not part of the church



There is a particular desire to provide somewhere warm and welcoming, especially during the winter months, when some folk might be worried about the cost of heating their homes all day. If you are interested and would like to help, please see Carole Wallis or one of the Elders.

## **To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

Dear Friends,

Is anyone back to normal?

After two years of pandemic and lockdown, and Covid still with us (thankfully, for most, in a much weaker form), we can now worship together in person and find fellowship again. But for most of us it is not simply a return to how it used to be; some people have not returned to church, some have died or become too frail, some churches have closed and others considering it.

Now we have significant European turmoil and its likely effect on fuel and food prices for us in the UK. Thank God that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13 v.8). Whatever else changes, He is our rock, our cornerstone.

Financially, things were extremely tough for churches in 2021. Plate offerings had collapsed; some regular givers had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God's work; and those churches which hire out their premises had seen income from that source disappear. Even those churches where the majority of the giving was by standing order or bank transfer (if you have not considered regularising your giving in this way, please do – it helps your treasurer significantly) may have seen a 20%+ drop in income.

If this had been replicated in giving to the M&M Fund in 2021, we might have been faced with a serious financial crisis last year.

But no, through the generosity of individuals, churches and Synods, we can report that income only fell by 4.4%. With a similar reduction in expenditure the M&M Fund result was a deficit of only £80,000 (less than one-half of one percent of income), a deficit that can be comfortably covered by reserves.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2021 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With churches and individuals under financial pressure, 2022 is not going to be an easy year either. The M&M Fund budgeted income (based on Synods' projections) will not be sufficient to cover expected costs and we are reconciled to dipping into our reserves more seriously as a result.

However, if we “ordinary Christians” are to fulfil the call of Jesus to be His witnesses in the world around us we need ministers and other workers “on the ground” and we need shared resources which are often best created centrally. That all comes from the M&M Fund. Finance The United Reformed Church United Reformed Church House 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT page 2 of 2

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

*Ian Hardie (Treasurer), Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)*

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### **Matthew 7: 7-13 "Ask, seek, find."**

We are always looking, seeking, and asking "Why" - the small child's eternal "why" sometimes gets so maddening, but we do it all of our lives. We look for new experiences, new places to explore, new people to meet. new sights to see, new holidays to go on. Then we return home with memories to share, and in later years, to relive. We are all on the journey of life, are we also searching and asking on that journey? What are we looking for, what will satisfy the questioning spirit, the thirst for the ultimate? How often do we return home and say "it's nice to go away, but it's nice to be home, put the kettle on"? But we sometimes search for something deeper, more meaningful than new sights or new friends. I would suggest that our ultimate aim is to find again the love of God, and to acknowledge that our beginnings and our endings are with God our Creator and our Heavenly Father, with His son Jesus Christ our Saviour, and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Betty*

**Rotas for September** *If you can help on the Door Steward rota, please see David Crick; if you can help on the Coffee rota, please see Ann Martin. If you are unable to fulfil your duty, please arrange a swap.*

	<b><i>Duty Elder</i></b>	<b><i>Door Steward</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday 4th Sep</i></b>	Karen Jones	Richard Benham Carole Wallis
<b><i>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Sep</i></b>	Christine Thomas	Sally Leggat Ann Martin
<b><i>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Sep</i></b>	David Crick	Paul Deeming Julie Payne
<b><i>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Sep</i></b>	Roger Moseley	Sue Saunders Heather Crick
<b><i>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct</i></b>	Sue Saunders	Kathy Smith Sue Thain

	<b><i>Coffee</i></b>	<b><i>Cashing</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday 4th Sep</i></b>	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	Sally Leggat Christine Thomas
<b><i>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Sep</i></b>	Marilyn & Crawford Payne	Sally Leggat Tony Thomas
<b><i>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Sep</i></b>	Sylvia Ellis Chris Sharrock	Sally Leggat David Crick
<b><i>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Sep</i></b>	Carole Wallis Ruth Griffiths	Sally Leggat Malcom Hooke
<b><i>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct</i></b>	Karen Jones Jacqueline Brown	Sally Leggat Christine Thomas

What is God  
asking of  
**YOU?**



## Ministry Enquirers' Event

to help you think about God's call to Stepwise, Worship Leading,  
Lay Preaching, Lay Pioneering, Ministry with children and young people, the  
Ministry of Word and Sacraments or Church Related Community Work.

Come and chat in person with those in ministry  
and find out what God is calling you to!

**Enquirers' Event**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022

10am-1pm at Church House

Register your interest with [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk)

## **Advance Notice**

On Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> we will be remembering those who we have lost from our fellowship over the last 12 months and giving thanks for their lives and service to the church. Families of those who have died will be invited to come along and take part if they wish. The service will be led by Rev George Lea and Rev Andrew Mudharara.

The following Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, will be Remembrance Sunday when we remember all those who have lost their lives due to military conflict.

## **Tuesday Lunch Event: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

September's lunch will be... Afternoon Tea! If you would like to come please let me know, thank you.

*Sue S:*

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## **Wednesday at One**

7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Rev Malcolm Clarke	Hinckley Baptist Church
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Mr Karl Woodward	Hinckley Baptist Church
21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Rev Rosalind Harper	St Catherine's, Burbage
28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Rev John Hall	Higham Way Baptist Church

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*When iron is rubbed against a magnet it becomes magnetic. Just so, love is caught, not taught. One heart burning with love sets another on fire. The church was built on love; it proves what love can do.*

*Frank C Laubach*

## Church Ramble

The next walk will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September at Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve, Brandon Lane, Coventry CV3 3GW meeting at 2.00pm. Please note there is an admission charge of £3.50 unless you are a member of The Wildlife Trust.

*Tony T*

### **A -Z Bible Quiz** (*Part 2: N-Z, Answers on page 22*)

*The answer to question 1 begins with N; question 2 begins with O etc.*

1. The name of the disciple who came to Jesus at night (John 3:1ff) (*N...*)
2. The shortest book in the Old Testament (*O...*)
3. The disciple formerly called Simon (*P...*)
4. The Governor of Syria at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:2) (*Q...*)
5. Name of an Old Testament book and daughter-in-law of Naomi (*R...*)
6. A Jewish party often in dispute with the Pharisees. (*S...*)
7. The Sea of Galilee is also known as Lake ... (*T...*)
8. The homeland of Abraham and the starting point of his migration to Canaan (Gen 11.28) (*U...*)
9. The name of the Latin translation of the Bible by Jerome commissioned by Pope Damasus in 382. (*V...*)
10. The early Christian movement was known as The W... (Acts 9:2)
11. Persian king identified with king Ahasuerus in the Book of Esther (*X...*)
12. The name given to God in the Old Testament. (*Y...*)
13. The father of John the Baptist. (*Z...*)

## **A Hymn**

*Meet and right it is to sing,  
in every time and place,  
Glory to our heavenly King,  
the God of truth and grace:  
join we then with sweet accord,  
all in one thanksgiving join!  
holy, holy, holy Lord,  
eternal praise be thine!*

*Thee, the first-born sons of light,  
in choral symphonies,  
praise by day, day without night,  
and never, never cease;  
angels and archangels, all  
praise the mystic Three in One;  
sing, and stop, and gaze, and fall,  
o'erwhelmed before thy throne!*

*Vying with that happy choir,  
who chant thy praise above,  
we on eagles' wings aspire,  
The wings of faith and love:  
thee they sing with glory crowned,  
we extol the slaughtered Lamb;  
lower if our voices sound,  
our subject is the same*

*Father, God, thy love we praise,  
which gave thy Son to die;  
Jesus, full of truth and grace,  
alike we glorify;  
Spirit, Comforter divine,  
praise by all to thee be given,  
till we in full chorus join,  
and earth is turned to heaven.*

*Charles Wesley*

## **Job Description: Sprouts assistant (Family Worker)**

**Title:** “Sprouts” assistant (Family Worker)

**Employer:** Hinckley United Reformed Church.

**Hours worked:** Circa 4 Hours per month on 2 Sundays.

**Salary:** -N/A Voluntary.

### **Aim of the post**

The aim of the post is to bring the Christian faith to young people through Hinckley United Reformed Church sprouts group.

### **Core Responsibilities**

1. To assist the leader running the Sunday Sprouts sessions.

### **Role Responsibilities**

- Liaising and co-operating with the Youth and Children’s team,
- Participation and support for Sprouts Sunday School sessions.
- Building relationships with the young people and their parents
- Working with children, families, and adults at risk

### **Person Specification**

- A committed Christian and Church member with good biblical knowledge.
- Comfortable talking about your faith.
- Warm, open and honest personality and good at making relationships.

### **Next Steps**

To apply please send a Covering Letter detailing your reasons for applying and how you fulfil the person specification above and a copy of your CV in an email to [church@hinckleyurc.org.uk](mailto:church@hinckleyurc.org.uk).

*There is an Occupational Requirement under the Equality Act 2010 (Schedule 9, Part 1, Section 3) that the person appointed be a practicing Christian due to the nature of the responsibilities of the role.*

DBS Requirements apply to this role

## Recalling the Ministry for June- August 2022

**(NEW FEATURE:** *If you are reading on-line, click on the Bible references below to access the readings)*

In reflection on the message for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Bible Reading: extracts from Deuteronomy 15: 4-8. **The Year for Cancelling Debts.**

Video song: Martyn Joseph, Bible reading: extracts from Luke 15: 1-10. **Parables of Lost Sheep & Lost Coin.**

Talk: **Be Like Jesus.** We wonder why people do not want to meet Jesus in church ('the notorious sinners')? Are we getting in the way – is the church getting in the way? Are we among the ninety-nine righteous persons in Reading 2, when we should be open-handed (as in Reading 1) and **behaving like Jesus** as in the Art Gallery (below)?

Art Gallery: Pictures were pinned right round the Church of Jesus doing good deeds.

Video on YouTube by Andy Flannagan. 'We are Blessed.'

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022

Call to Worship, Psalm 124.

Extracts from Esther 5: 1-5; Esther 6: 1-9; Esther 7: 1-9

In Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June's, **Wednesday Word** the story of the Book of Esther, Ch. 1-4 was told, and we read on to discover the outcome, noting that... **The story continues.** In Ch.5... Esther put on her royal robes and stood before the king. When he saw Queen Esther, he was pleased and held out his gold sceptor that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the sceptor. The King asked, "What is it Queen Esther? What is your request?"

Today's reading gives the answer...

v4f: **"If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today for a banquet I have prepared for him."**

**“Bring Haman at once,” the king said, “so that we may do what Esther asks.”**

We noted after 19<sup>th</sup> June’s Sermon, **Queen Esther was now strategically placed** to do her bit for the Jews and God.

**Sermon: You are Strategically Placed - 2**

God has called us as Christians to partner with him, which makes us **strategically placed**, so that when his advanced individual plans for each of us, in the fullness of time, come to fruition, his purpose will be achieved and we will be able, jointly with God, to carry out his preconceived tasks for us.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Bible Reading: extracts from Psalm 25: 1-10

Bible Reading: extracts from Luke 10:25-37**The Good Samaritan.**

Address: **Being a Good Neighbour.** We cannot choose our neighbours, good or bad. Whatever the circumstance, according to their needs, we should be helpful, show love and compassion (or mercy, like the Samaritan did) and have Christ in our lives.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Call to Worship, Psalm 9 **I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart.**

Extracts from Luke 10: 38–42 **At the Home of Martha and Mary.**

Sermon: **Striking a balance.** Martha, in the reading, was strategically placed to meet Jesus’ hospitality needs. For the church, finding the balance between different ways to move forward needs listening to Jesus, like Mary did. We are strategically placed to act according to God’s preconceived plans for us when the time comes. It is not easy to strike the balance between courses of action, but the Holy Spirit can be our guide if we always listen to Jesus.

**We joined each other in Communion**, which was followed by the Choir singing: *We come in faith to meet our Lord.*

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022

The church was set out with tables with cakes and coffee provided.  
The word WORSHIP means Celebrating God's WORTH.

Extracts from Luke 11:1-13. **Jesus' Teaching on Prayer.**

Comments: the table groups were provided with two pages of information on **Prayer**. This included the scripture above, the hymns, and topics to discuss about the Lord's Prayer, and praying generally. Regarding v 5-13 "the tricky bit", the question posed was "What does that tell us about God's relationship with us as human beings?"

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Call to Worship: Psalm 62, **Truly my soul finds rest in God;  
my salvation comes from him.**

The theme of today's message was to examine the meaning of "Sabbath" which translates to "Rest in the presence of God", hence the words of the Psalm. Discussion of the message was continuous throughout the service. As slaves in Egypt, the Israelites were made to work continuously for seven days each week. After the Exodus God gave Moses instructions to tell the Israelites they should work for only six days remembering God's **Ten Commandments** as in Exodus 20: 8-11,

Now the Israelites were free of Pharaoh's rule, God was telling them that they should devote the seventh day to resting in the presence of God. (It was inferred that our modern lives have been returned more to Pharaoh's ways than God's.)

Extracts from Matthew 12: 1-8. **Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath.**

Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath with his disciples and they were challenged by the Pharisees for breaking Sabbath "Rules". Jesus made it clear that it is not a time for rules but a time for experiencing the mercy, gifts and the Grace of the Lord Jesus.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Call to Worship, Psalm 47.

**Clap your hands, all ye nations; shout to God with cries of joy.**

**For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.**

Extracts from Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20 **A Rebellious Nation.**

Sermon: **Get your act together.** This is what Isaiah tells the people. Righteous Christians must avoid sinning, and worship God, not just to please ourselves, but to glorify God. Christian lives must not be lived in a sense of inertias, but in a way which shows to others how wonderful our God is, by seeking justice and by helping others according to their needs.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Call to Worship, Psalm 51, v 16,17.

v16: **You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;**

**You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings,**

v17: **My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;**

**a broken and contrite heart you, God will not despise.**

A wartime story. Talk – 1: A catholic priest refused to allow a dead non-catholic soldier to be buried in his churchyard, but his conscience got the better of him in the night. God's love overpowered the ritual rule he had applied, as the Psalm and the following reading illustrates. Extracts from 1 John 4: 7-21 **God's Love and Ours.**

Talk - 2 – including the reading 2 Samuel 9: 1-13 (extracts...) **David and Mephibosheph**

This reading is an OT example of a Rags to Riches story, and to illustrate another such, we were shown a picture of a National Trust mansion. As Christians we are offered by Jesus a mansion in heaven in John's Gospel Ch,14, v2 as presented from the King James Bible, including the italics:

**In my Father's house there are many mansions: if *it were not so* I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

*Thanks to Brian Beagley for summarising these services for us*

## Prayer of Meditation

Do you remember a time, perhaps in childhood, when the long grass in nearby fields invited you to play?

And over the fence it swayed in the breeze succulent and lush and filling your senses with freedom and adventure.

And the skies were blue and the sun shone bright and life was good.

And as you ran unhindered and untroubled God played beside you, at your pace.

And then the first time for play came to an end and responsibilities took hold and new tasks had to be done.

And the green fields were set aside for other children as you explored the world and discovered other interests.

Friends were found and time was no longer your own.

A home, a partner, a child or two – these things that spend your day.

And God worked beside you at your pace.

And now that we are getting older and reminisce of time long ago when life was running in fields of green with not too much caring.

And the wind blew our hair as we laughed at our games. And the sun shone bright upon our dreams. But that was then and this is now.

And as we sit and reflect on our past, remember this – God is beside you sharing His grace.

*Thanks to Daniel Cheyne for sending in this prayer.*

*Answers to quiz: 1. Nicodemus; 2. Obadiah; 3. Peter; 4. Quirinius; 5. Ruth; 6. Sadducees; 7. Tiberias; 8. Ur; 9. Vulgate; 10. Way; 11. Xerxes; 12. Yahweh; 13. Zechariah*

## Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September** East Midlands Synod URC Jubilee Celebration

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September Classic Car Rally** – morning worship will be featuring the Christian Motorcyclists' Association

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** – Lunch following Morning Service (Harvest)

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November** -Thanksgiving Service

## Regular Meetings

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

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

**Wednesday-at-One** – Wednesday 1.00pm

### **Wednesday Monthly House Group**

Next meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm

**Thursday** – Prayer meeting for future of the church 11.00 Front Foyer

**Thursday 7.30** Music group practice - all welcome

**Friday** Prayer Group 10.00am (in the church).

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

Please submit material for the October edition of Contact by Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Articles can be emailed to [dghc1@btinternet.com](mailto:dghc1@btinternet.com). The next edition of Contact will be available by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

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

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The  
United  
Reformed  
Church  
East Midlands  
Synod

# Jubilee Celebration

# 50



Illustration by Mark Boech

**Commemorate -  
Celebrate - Create!**

## Saturday 10 September 2022

10.00am - 3.30pm at the **De Vere Jubilee Conference Centre**, Nottingham



Praise, **workshops** and **fun** for all ages

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