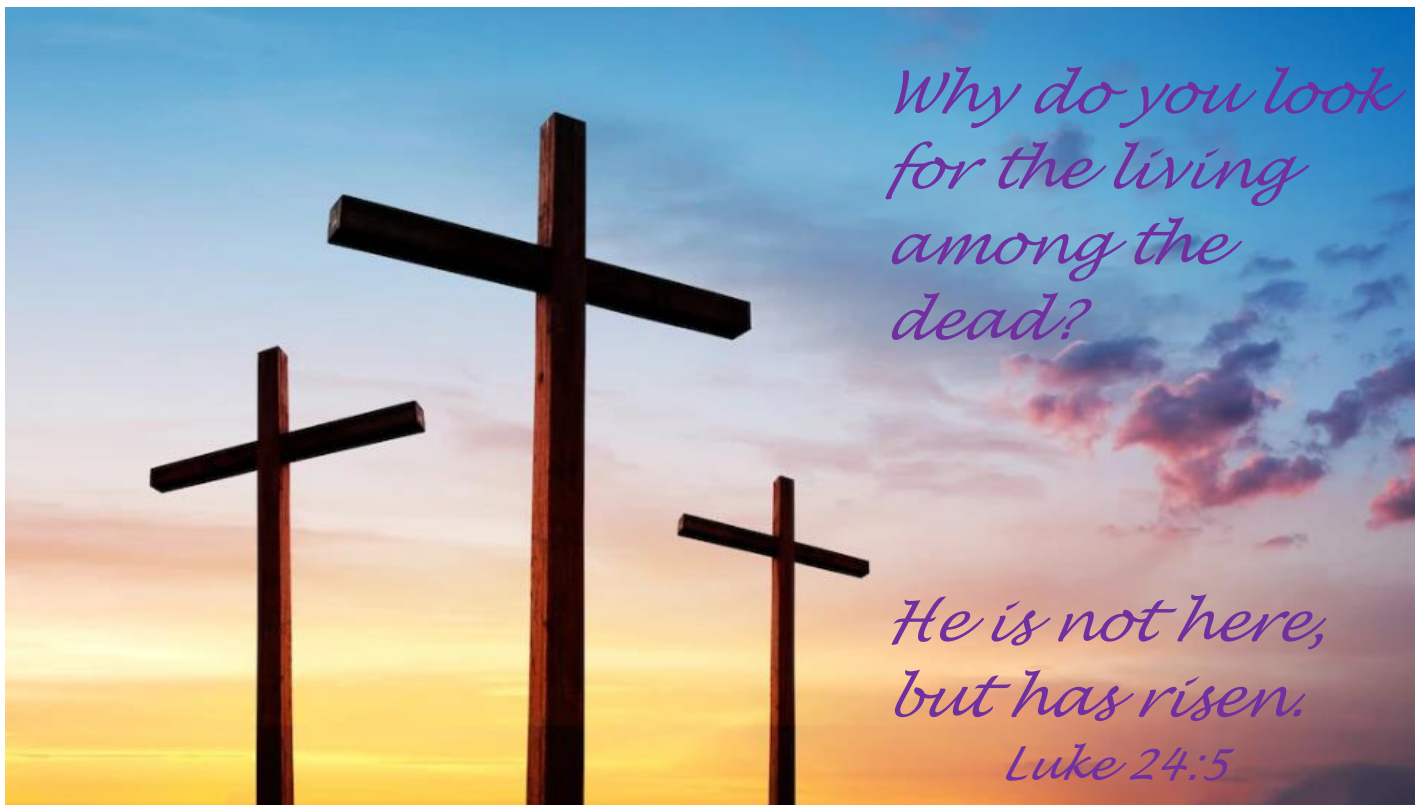


Contact

April 2023



The Borough, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1NL

www.hinckleyurc.org.uk

Minister

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Youth & Family Worker

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Church

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Rev Andrew Mudharara

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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 April (10.45 am unless stated)

2 nd Apr	Rev Andrew Mudharara (<i>Palm Sunday</i>)
9 th Apr	Rev Lesley Moseley (<i>Easter Day</i>)
16 th Apr	Rev Daniel Cheyne (<i>including Holy Communion</i>)
23 rd Apr	Mr Richard Benham
30 th Apr	Mr Tim Lea
7 th May	Deacon Sarah Wickett

There will be a Communion Service on Thursday 6th April at 7.00pm (Maundy Thursday) led by Andrew.

Easter is to our faith what water is to the ocean, what stone is to the mountain, what blood is to your body.

Raymond I Lindquist

Minister's Letter

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who died, was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit and ascended into Heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father praying for us all always.

We celebrate Easter because of what it brought through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We say "Good Friday" because of the good it brought so that we who were not a people (1 Peter 2:10) can now cry *Abba Father* (Romans 8 :15) to God because Jesus offered Himself in our place so that we can live.

The church is called to learn from the sacrifice that Jesus made for us through death on the cross by learning to stand up for others who are in need and help them out. We have a role to play in our communities of standing up for those that need our help and are not able to access those that hold the keys. We, as we remember Jesus' work on the cross, are called to support others that we know need some support. We need to turn "the table" when we see any sign of oppression or disregard of people in our communities. I do not think it was easy for Jesus to stand up for people in His earthly ministry, but yet He did. We will find it hard sometimes, but we are called to carry our crosses as we follow Him.

The message of the cross from the "Empire" is "if you dare challenge us this is how miserable we can make your life". The reality is that standing up for yourself and others has a price tag. We should not be afraid to stand up for others but be aware that there is a price to be paid. "Be of good courage for I'm with you always" (Mathew 28:20) Jesus assured us. We serve a mighty God who raised Jesus from the dead and death is not the end for us because our hope is anchored in Him who rose from the dead.

I am looking forward to spending time with family and friends in Zimbabwe,

Happy Easter to us all.

Andrew

News of the Family

We welcomed Gaye and Sandra into our family in a service led by Andrew on 19th March...welcome both.

Both Betty and Sylvia are home from hospital and recovering. We think of Julie P's mum Beryl who is in hospital. We pray too for a speedy recovery of a number of folk who have covid at this time.

We also think of: Annette D, Beryl, Betty H, Dennis, Ethel, Ian S, Jan and Brian B, Jean C, Joan, John P, Joyce, Joyce and Arthur, Keith G, Keith H, Lily S, Nanette S, Nessa, Muriel, Paddy, Pat J, Ruth, Sue D, Sue T and Wendy.

We continue to remember also those we know in need or receiving medical treatment or struggling with day to day living and all who care for them.

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.
Sue Saunders

And we remember Sue and her Mum who has recently been in hospital.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Congratulations to all those celebrating birthdays in April:

Nettie D (on the 7th), Sylvia E & Tom R (both on the 15th), Janet A (20th), Malvolia B (25th), and Paddy W (26th).

And best wishes to those celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries this month:

Paul & Nanette (on the 8th), Geoff & Ann (11th), Ian & Kathy (17th).

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

Easter Breakfast Communion

On Easter Sunday, April 9th, there will be a short communion service at 9.00am, followed by a breakfast. Please come along if you are able. After breakfast, we will all join together for our morning Easter worship celebration at 10.45.

News from the Vine

Happy Easter to everyone from all of us at The Vine. It has been lovely to have had a really busy run up to Easter with people coming through the doors for Easter cards and books as well as enjoying the coffee shop. If you are reading this before the 7th April there is still time for you to drop in and pick up some cards – they are a really good way to spread the news of the resurrection with your friends and family – whatever their beliefs or lack of!

As usual The Vine will close for the long Easter weekend including Good Friday and Easter Saturday.

If you take regular Bible reading notes there are several that begin in April so don't forget to pick up your copy.

We are still recruiting both paid and voluntary staff at the moment – if you, or someone you know would be interested in joining our team for one (short) day a week please do get in touch – thevinehinckley@hotmail.co.uk 01455 612345.

God Bless,
Jessica Harrison Manager

Tuesday Lunch Event: -11th April 2023

April's Church lunch will be on Tuesday 11th at midday and will be Chicken Casserole.

Please let me know if you would like to attend, thank you.

Sue S:

'Wednesday at One'

Psalm 133 begins with these words, 'How good and how pleasant it is for God's people to live together in unity'. In chapter 17 of the Gospel of John Jesus also prays for this unity, 'I pray that they may all be one'. 'As you, Father, are in me and I in you, so also may they be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me'. In Ephesians chapter 4 the Apostle Paul further implores us, 'Spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives'.

It is the achievement of this unity which is one of the main aims and purpose of 'Wednesday at One', a service of about 30 minutes duration which takes place every Wednesday at 1.00 p.m. in this church, Hinckley U.R.C. The service, which was initiated in 1988. is conducted by both clergy and lay people, male and female, from most churches in the district for a congregation gathered from various churches in the area and visitors to the town.

It is, therefore, a truly ecumenical service which contains music, readings, meditation, a short address and prayer and, following the example of Jesus, it provides an opportunity in the middle of the week for people to withdraw from the busyness of daily life, the activity of the market place, the noise of the factory, the demands of the office or the pressure of business in order to spend a short time in communion with God - to remember the action of the world, to pray for the world and to find refreshment, inspiration and strength to live in the world.

There is time, too, for conversation which enables those present to share something of their interests, experience and beliefs and thus to develop a feeling of togetherness, to experience that unity for which Christ prays, Paul implores and the Psalmist states is so good and pleasant.

Readers may like to consider coming to the service at which you will be most welcome and you will be contributing to that unity which, Jesus suggests, commends God to the world.

A prayer produced for the formation of Churches Together seems appropriate for such a gathering.

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey his will. May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world, for we are strangers no longer, but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom. Amen.

Keith Griffiths

Fellowship Walk

God was shining on us during the walk at the beginning of March when 14 of us (and a dog) met for a walk in the village of Shenton. Although it had rained in the previous couple of days, the ground was firm and spring appeared to be just around the corner. After a walk of about three miles we retired to the cafe at Whitemoors, in the village, for a well-earned cuppa.

The April walk will also be on a Tuesday - as this seems to suit most people. We will meet on Tuesday 18th April at 10am - by this time the bluebells should be appearing in the woods. Please consult the weekly notices for the venue.

Tony T

Christian Aid News



The local annual CA quiz sheets for 2023 are available at the rear of the church and have the theme of 'colours' Suggested minimum donation of £1. Please help by encouraging your friends and family to take part.

Christian Aid Fayre at St. Mary's church on Saturday 15th April 9.30-1.30.

Items wanted for the stalls:

Plants for the plant stall run by the URC

Good Bric-a-brac

New or unwanted gifts

Toys and games.

If you can help with any of these, and/or help on the stalls on the day please contact Malcolm Hooke

Christian Aid Week May 14 – 20th

As usual at the URC we will be having the CA envelopes for our church collection that can be given during the month of May. At a national level Christian Aid has put out an urgent appeal for funds due to the adverse effect of cost-of-living crisis that has impacted it's ability to fund last year's projects.

Malcolm Hooke

Lent Challenge

So how far have you got? Yes, with the Lent Challenge. The challenge is to read Luke's Gospel in 40 days. I know I am not the only one who is doing something different during this season of Lent. I have got as far as Chapter 9, and today March 14th. is the 20th day, does that mean I am behind? To me it really is a walk with Jesus, towards Jerusalem.

There are some wonderful people to meet on the way. The first mentioned is John promised to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Then we soon get to Mary and Joseph at the beginning on their walking to Bethlehem so they could be registered in the Roman count. I did wonder about counting and making a list of all the people I met, but soon I found out what a big task it would be.

In Chapter 8 I got to Jesus asking, "Who touched me?" The streets were crowded with people. It must have been like a bad day at an NHS Hospital. "Come on", said one of the disciples, "all these people and you ask, who touched me?" Jesus knew someone had touched him, someone in real need of healing. She told Jesus why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

As I read the Scripture that morning, I wondered how many of us have been healed because of our Faith in the Living Lord Jesus? If you are reading, "may God continue to bless you" If you have not started yet, "It's not too late!!"

I came across this Hymn recently written by Birdie Bell... here is just one of the many verses.

*Just one touch as He moves along,
Pushed and pressed by the jostling throng
Just one touch and the week was strong
Cured by the Healer divine.
 just one touch as He passes by
 He will list to the faintest cry
 Come and be cured while the Lord is nigh.
 Christ is the healer divine.*

George Lea

A reflection for Maundy Thursday.

It was on Thursday of Holy week that Jesus along with his friends sat around a table, took every day items bread and wine and gave them a new meaning and importance.

The Apostle Paul says, "This is my body which is for you: do this in memory of me"

The Passover was the main celebration for the Jewish nation. It was a time when they came together to 'remember'.

They would remember how God had intervened in the life of the nation. God had shown them through prophet, priest, judge and King that they were special people.

God had come to Moses at the burning bush and had given him a set of laws and regulations that would govern their lives. God worked through Moses and gave him the strength and the courage to plead with Pharaoh to 'let the people go'.

Moses was able to take a bruised and down-trodden nation into a land flowing with 'milk and honey'.

The Passover celebration then was a night to remember. Part of the preamble to the celebration was, 'why do we remember this night?'

They would 'remember' the time they were carried off into exile by the Babylonian Army. No wonder they found it heart-breaking to 'sing the Lord's song in a strange land'.

But the Passover was not only a time to look back, it was an opportunity to look to the future, new dreams, new aspirations and new beginnings.

It's good for us to 'remember'. To 'remember' our families, our neighbours. It's good to 'remember' those who taught us and brought us to our faith, Sunday School teachers, leaders in uniformed organisations, elders and ministers of the Church.

When the friends of Jesus gathered around the table they would 'remember' his teachings, words of comfort and hope. They would

'remember' his miracles. They would 'remember' the adulation of Palm Sunday.

They would 'remember' the horrors of Good Friday. And the joy of that first Easter Sunday.

Do this in memory of me.

The figure of Jesus is something of a paradox for some he is the Son of God. For the writer of the fourth gospel, He is the 'I am'.

For the theologian Rudolph Bultman 'He is the man who fits no formula'. For the theologian Schweitzer 'he is nothing more than a pale Galilean'. For Lloyd Webber 'He is a superstar'.

On Maundy Thursday we pause to 'remember'. We 'remember' a man who took bread and wine and made them into a sign that a new covenant between God and humankind might be sealed. when we 'remember' Jesus, we remember him as a 'prophet' a King and our Saviour.

When we break bread and drink wine, we will 'remember' not a good man who will die for us, but one who will give us a fuller and more abundant life.

In the breaking of bread and in wine Jesus Christ is known to us. For he says 'Do this in memory of me'. Thanks be to God

Rev. Daniel Cheyne

Knitting for Baby Basics

We would like to send our thanks to Jan Aitchison's mother-in-law Annie. She has been knitting for Baby Basics which is organized by Rachel Cobb, our Youth Leader, and is based at the Methodist Church. They provide a gift bag of various items for new mums to help them during the first few months. Annie has knitted three bags full of hats and cardigans over the past few months!

Thank you, Annie, we are very proud of you!

Kathy Smith

Commitment for Life Prayer for the month

Prayer for Commitment for Life church contacts and synod advocates

By Wendy Cooper, Eastern Synod Commitment for Life Advocate

Commitment
for **Life**

Loving God, your love from the world inspires us to take action to seek justice, end poverty and bring hope worldwide, recognising that change starts with all of us.

We bring our thanks and prayers for all *Commitment for Life* Church contacts and Synod Advocates, recognising that some have had the responsibility for a long time, while other are new to that role. Be with them as they continue to use every opportunity to share the *Commitment for Life* message: encouraging, informing and inspiring response from their churches and synods. May they realise what a difference they are making, whether by using resources to share the stories of our partners to show how lives are affected by the action we take, publicising online opportunities to learn more and keep in touch, or conversations at events.

May their valued example encourage all churches and synods to find contacts and Advocates so that *Commitment for Life* is truly the global justice programme of the whole United Reformed Church.

Amen

*Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth her song begin,
The round world keep high triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that has no end.*

*St John of Damascus
translated by John Mason Neale*

Rotas 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.**

	<i>Duty Elder</i>	<i>Door Steward</i>
<i>Sunday 2nd Apr</i>	Christine Thomas	Paul Deeming Julie Payne
<i>Sunday 9th Apr</i>	David Crick	Sally Leggat Ann Martin
<i>Sunday 16th Apr</i>	Roger Moseley	Jacqui Brown Heather Crick
<i>Sunday 23rd Apr</i>	Sue Saunders	Kathy Smith Sue Thain
<i>Sunday 30th Apr</i>	Karen Jones	Richard Benham Sue Saunders
<i>Sunday 7th May</i>	Christine Thomas	Paul Deeming Julie Payne

	<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
<i>Sunday 2nd Apr</i>	Carole Wallis Ruth Griffiths	R Benham
<i>Sunday 9th Apr</i>	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	-
<i>Sunday 16th Apr</i>	Karen Jones Jacqui Brown	K Smith for K Griffiths
<i>Sunday 23rd Apr</i>	Marilyn & Crawford Payne	-
<i>Sunday 30th Apr</i>	Sylvia Ellis Chris Sharrock	H Crick
<i>Sunday 7th May</i>	Carole Wallis Ruth Griffiths	

Wednesday at One

5 th Apr	Rev Andrew Mudharara	Hinckley URC
12 th Apr	No service	
19 th Apr	Rev Daniel Cheyne	Hinckley URC
26 th Apr	Gwen Coley	Hinckley Methodist

Warm Space Drop-in (Thursday pm)

Apr 6 th	Chris and Phillip
Apr 13 th	Ruth and Sylvia
Apr 20 th	Kathy and Ann
Apr 27 th	Sue and Phillip

*When my love for Christ grows weak,
When for deeper faith I seek,
Then in thought I go to thee,
Garden of Gethsemane.*

*There I walk amid the shades,
While the lingering twilight fades,
See that suffering, friendless One,
Weeping, praying there alone.*

*When my love for man grows weak,
When for stronger faith I seek,
Hill of Calvary, I go
To the scenes of fear and woe.*

*There behold His agony,
Suffered on the bitter tree;
See His anguish, see His faith,
Love triumphant still in death.*

*Then to life I turn again,
Learning all the worth of pain,
Learning all the might that lies
In a full self-sacrifice.*

*And I praise with firmer faith
Christ who vanquished pain and
death;
And to Christ enthroned above
Raise my song of selfless love.*

John Reynell Wreford

Voting Matters!

New voting regulations for voting in General Elections and Local Government elections are among the issues highlighted by the denominational **Church & Society Team** in their Spring Synod Meetings mailing. They encourage us to note the changes and to help ensure wider awareness:

The rules around voting in general elections in Britain and for local elections in England and Wales are changing. In addition to being registered on the electoral roll, from 4 May 2023 you must also produce an approved form of identity card at the polling station to be able to vote.

Could you display our poster in your church or community space to let people know about the change? And could you consider offering help to someone in your neighbourhood who might not currently have appropriate ID? Find out more here jpit.uk/voterid

This challenge set me thinking...

Voting is both duty and privilege – and is about ‘us’ not me’. I can still recall the sense of excitement I felt the first time I entered a polling booth and used the pencil-on-a-string to place my ‘X’ against the candidate of my choice. Over the years it hasn’t always been easy to hold on to that feeling. We can conclude that our vote makes no difference; that all candidates or options fall short of what we hold as principles and ideals. We do well to remember that we cannot lament the outcome of any election if we have not voted. We have a duty as citizens living in a democracy. The privilege of having a vote is one which many of our forebears did not have – nor is it universally enjoyed across every part of the world.

And as followers of Jesus, the voting booth is one of the places in which we bring our perspective that we ought to be willing to support what benefits those most needing it even if it doesn’t advantage us personally. **John Wesley**, writing in 1774, offered this counsel.

- 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy**
- 2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and**
- 3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.** (John Wesley, *The Journal of John Wesley*)

Every voter matters and **our identity is in Christ**. Church & Society's challenge highlights the fact that the introduction of a requirement for ID may disenfranchise some. **St Paul's** imagery of all parts of the body being equal and necessary (1 Corinthians 12:12-31) serves to challenge us to ensure maximal inclusion. The new government legislation may be a tougher requirement for some of us than others. Church & Society urges us to do what we can in helping others in meeting this requirement.

We might also like to cling to the affirmation that as individuals, whatever our ID documents may look like, our true identity is as those beloved of God. With God – and in the exercise of our discipleship – we need no ID documents. God knows everything about us; each of us matters to God, regardless of our bank balance, CV or achievements. (Take a moment to reflect on **Psalm 139** on this.)

And when it comes to our own church governance, we believe that **voting in the councils of the church is for the purpose of discerning the mind of Christ** and not about winning or losing the support needed for a resolution. In every council of the church – in Church Meeting, Elders' Meeting, Synod Meeting or General Assembly – we embody our belief that we are a theocracy rather than democracy. Our councils are for discerning together – even against our own preferences – how to move together faithfully under God; they are not places for us to lobby or seek to get our own way. Consensus voting is but one tool for checking out that all voices and views are heard and subjected to discernment. Some of the most wonderful meetings I have been in have been those in which my views and predictions of where we might be heading are turned upside down by hearing the voices of others.

So, as well as doing what we can to ensure as many people as possible have the ID they need to vote, let us play our part in valuing our own councils and the call to discern the mind of Christ within them.

With my prayers for the churches and communities of East Midlands Synod,

*Rev Geoffrey Clarke,
Moderator East Midlands URC Synod*

From Commitment for Life's 'Moving Stories'

In Bangladesh, there are small, well-defined, transgender communities called Hijras. Hijras are often born male but look and dress in traditionally feminine ways. They face discrimination in every aspect of life: healthcare, education, public transport, and constitutional rights. The main reason is lack of awareness in the wider population, along with no official recognition or formal statistics.

Our partner Bandhu Social Welfare Society has been lobbying on behalf of the transgender and Hijra communities for seven years, alongside UNFPA (the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency) and UNICEF. This year, they achieved a significant victory when the National Curriculum and Textbook Board of Bangladesh agreed to incorporate comprehensive sexuality education into the national curriculum, which helps sensitise children on gender diversity. Bablai Raj Kumar is a Hijra. He writes that he used to work as a manual scavenger. Our Christian Aid partner in the region trained him in manufacturing cleaning products and flower stands. Now he earns 20,000 rupees a month, enhancing his status in society.

Latest Campaign from Global Justice Now

Global Justice Now would like to thank Commitment for Life sincerely for its generous support throughout 2022 and into 2023.



Rich countries and polluting corporations in the global north are the most responsible for climate change. As much as 92% of the carbon emissions that are in excess of safe planetary limits come from those rich countries. These include the UK, which is historically the world's 5th biggest polluter. Billions of people across the global south are facing climate chaos, despite being the least responsible for causing it.

At the COP27 climate talks, held in November 2022, countries finally agreed to set up an international compensation fund for 'loss and damage' due to climate change.

Global Justice Now is campaigning to make sure that this compensation is paid by the big polluting corporations in the fossil fuel industry, including in the UK, which has a moral and historic responsibility to act.

Global Justice Now is encouraging us to stand in solidarity with the global south in their demands. We can do this by telling the UK government to make polluters pay for loss and damage! You can do this by signing the petition addressed to the Prime Minister that is on their website, [here](#)

Prayer

God, thank you that we have the privilege of serving you. Give us the courage to face down injustice, the strength to make a difference, and the wisdom to choose the right action to bring about your desire for peace, equity, and justice, especially for the poorest in the world. In Jesus we live and pray. **Amen**

Thanks to Carole Wallis for these two thought-provoking articles.

The Resurrection: The Empty Tomb (Commentary on [Luke 24:1-11](#))

The earliest evidence for the resurrection is provided, not by the Gospels, but by the Epistles of Paul, and particularly by [1 Corinthians 15](#), written at least ten years before the earliest Gospel. In this chapter Paul quotes a tradition which he had received from those who were Christians before him, perhaps at the time of his conversion, twenty years or more earlier, which contained a list of eyewitnesses to the resurrection. It has sometimes been thought that the evidence of Paul makes it difficult for us to accept the story of the empty tomb, and that for three reasons: Paul bases the resurrection faith of the Church wholly on the recorded appearances of Jesus, among which he includes the appearance to himself; he nowhere shows any knowledge of the empty tomb tradition; and he emphasizes that the resurrection body is not a body of flesh but a spiritual body or a body of glory (1 Cor 15, Phil 3). But a closer reading of Paul's argument shows that the empty tomb, though not mentioned, is assumed throughout. Having drawn a careful distinction between the physical body of this life and the spiritual body of the life to come, and having declared explicitly that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, he goes on to explain that the spiritual body must be produced out of the physical body by a process of transformation. 'We must all be changed.' It is this perishable and mortal nature (not a disembodied and immortal soul) that must put on immortality; and it is essential to the argument that the body of Jesus should already have undergone such a metamorphosis. To this we may add one further piece of evidence that the empty tomb belonged to the very earliest deposit of Christian belief – the word 'resurrection'. No Jew would have dreamed

of using this word to describe an afterlife in which the physical body was abandoned to the grave. Yet the word was certainly in use from the beginnings of Christianity.

G B Caird former Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford. Extract from 'Saint Luke' - Pelican New Testament Commentaries

The Bell

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)
I am free from any charge against me n(Rom.8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
who you are?

Thanks to Hazel Coley for sending this in.

Hope into Action



The Hope into Action house purchase is progressing, if somewhat slowly. Once it is completed, there are some external and internal jobs to be completed which are the responsibility of HIA. We will become involved at the decorating and furnishing stage. This is likely to be in 2 to 3 months' time.

If you have a donation you would like to make, please sign up on the notice in the vestibule. Anyone who likes decorating would be very welcome! For more information, please speak to *Karen, Lesley, Richard, James or Carole*

Thursday, 16th March, Sue Taylor and I attended the Hope into Action Conference at the imposing modern Kingsgate Community Church in Peterborough. It was a bitter sweet occasion with Ed Walker, the founder of the charity stepping down as CEO and taking on the new role of Ambassador. Jon Kuhrt fills his shoes.

Ed referred to his initial inspiration to provide a genuine holistic outreach to the homeless, the most vulnerable people in our society and for the churches to offer an intelligent provision to social action. Today there are homes for 40 people in Peterborough and by this time next year there will be 50. 115 churches are currently involved nationwide and the vision is to see 200 churches supporting 500 tenants. Hinckley URC is part of that vision.

Jon Kuhrt went to the conference in 2019 to lead a seminar. He was on that occasion struck by the ethos of empowerment which enabled tenants to share their experiences, and receive well-earned awards. Also, the strong Christian, professional ethos. He brings with him extensive experience of addressing homelessness from within government and charities.

The day started with a service, as stragglers like ourselves who had taken the scenic route to Peterborough, settled into our seats. It was followed by a speech by Les Isaac, a charismatic preacher who transitions from 'Parliamentary prayer breakfasts to walking the streets on a Saturday night'. We were then offered the difficult choice of choosing one seminar

from a choice of nine. Sue and I selected different seminars so that we could exchange information. In reality our heads were spinning and I had by this time met Matt Jermyn, the chair of Coventry board of trustees and entered into an exchange which encroached on the session on healing and how to pray for it in a sensitive and confident way. The second seminar demonstrated how this worked in practice as a burly former tenant stood up and stated he entered into his tenancy contract for what he could get out, and intended to do the absolute minimum without being excluded. He had been addicted to class A drugs for twenty years and spoke with simplicity and confidence of his experiences. I was in awe. Carole attended the conference with Tony some years ago and it was this aspect which impressed her most and her decision to support HIA. To see people who have been excluded and despised by society stand up and tell their stories is inspiring, as are the awards for 'maintaining their tenancy' 'rebuilding fractured family relationships' 'resolving debts' 'completing education courses' and so on.

The combination of teaching within the seminars and inspiration of tenancy stories was very powerful.

Karen Jones

Recalling the Ministry for Feb - Mar 2023
(click on the links to read the bible readings)

In reflection on the message for Sunday 19th February 2023.

Call to Worship, Psalm 92. **It is good to praise the LORD
and make music to your name, O Most High.**

Extracts from Ephesians. 6:10-20 **The Armour of God.**

The congregation joined together in Communion.

Sermon: **What does it take?** To Do What? To “Stand up! For Jesus?” (Hymn - MP617).

In adversity, we have. what Paul in our reading called The Full Armour of God. The list of military, yet defensive, items, which with Christian Faith can “extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” With this armour and Christ’s Love, strengthened by God’s Spirit, in the power of the Lord, we can speak up and stand up for Jesus. To “Stand”, we must also be strengthened by prayer “in the Spirit on all occasions.” Perhaps, so “Standing” will bring about the Leap of Faith needed to start the process of Growing Our Church which was an objective of a previous sermon?

In reflection on the message for Sunday 26th February 2023
Café Service: The seating in the church was arranged with tables each providing six places enabling sharing of coffees, teas, cakes and biscuits, while discussions could be held on questions relating to the scripture reading.

Extracts from Matthew 4:1-11 **Jesus is Tested in the Wilderness**

Discussions, relating to this scripture: **Questions on Sin, Temptation and Lent**. The congregation discussed, in their groups of six, the following questions, so sharing their views on these theological matters and learning from each other their personal viewpoints.

The Sin: 1. What was Jesus tempted to do literally? 2. What general category of sin was this?

3. What can you see as a 2023 equivalent?

Avoiding temptation: 1. What did Jesus do to strengthen himself to resist temptation?

2. Why/how did that work for him? 3. Does that strategy work for you? 4. What strategies can you recommend?

Lent 2023: Can I do anything during Lent which might change...?

1. My habits. 2. My relationship with God. 3. My service to others or the church?

In reflection on the message for Sunday 5th March 2023.

Call to Worship Psalms 139:14-18 **I praise you
because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

Extracts from Matthew 5:13-20. **Salt and Light.**
After many blessings (The Beatitudes) Jesus said,
v13: **“You are the salt of the earth.**

**But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?
It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out.**

Sermon: **Being: self-care.** Being a Christian – and how to stay strong as a child of God in his service. To remain ‘the salt of the earth’ and the ‘light of the world’ we must nurture ourselves – look after our spiritual life. We must keep space for God in our lives to reflect in bible study and prayer, to avoid becoming tainted, like the salt which loses its savour (saltiness) and light which becomes dimmed.

In reflection on the message for Sunday 12th March 2023
Extracts from John 13:1-17 **Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet**
v4f: **Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He poured water into a and began to wash his disciples' feet.** (Including Judas')

Reflections on Christ life being a successful failure. In the Reading...
"The hour had come" when events were leading up to Jesus' death on the cross. Yet, he had approached his future with no aggressive intent. On Palm Sunday he had come to Jerusalem riding on a donkey. (In contrast, the way Roman heroes in Hollywood blockbusters approached their battles was at the head of marching legions.) Jesus approached his battle to bring peace and love to the world with his joyful donkey ride and now, acting as a servant, he was washing the disciples' feet, including Judas'.

Examples from Acts (e.g., Saul's conversion to Paul) and in Paul's letters to the Christian churches shows that through Christ's death, grace, peace and love prevail. Thus, Christ's life brought his gospel successfully to the world and it will persist into the future, but not to the whole world.

Thanks to Brian Beagley for summarising these services for us

Church Lunch – Sunday May 7th

It is hoped that we can share another church lunch after the morning service on Sunday 7th May. This is the weekend of the Coronation of King Charles III so we can celebrate together. Bring your own food and any extra you may want to share. The preacher on that day is an old friend of David & Heather's: Deacon Sarah Wickett from High St Methodist Church, Harpenden, Herts.

Thank you to everybody who has contributed articles for Contact over the past few years, there wouldn't be a magazine if there was nothing to put in it! This is the last edition that I am editing but I'm delighted to inform you that Penny Randriamahavorisoa has agreed to take on the role on a trial basis. Thank you, Penny! Please encourage and support her, and in particular, if you do have articles, please assist her by endeavouring to submit them before the deadline date.

David Crick

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 6th April 7.00pm Maundy Thursday Communion

Friday 7th April 11.00 Good Friday Walk of Witness

Sunday 9th April 9.00am Easter Breakfast Communion

Saturday 15th April Christian Aid Fayre at St Mary's Church

Saturday 15th April URC 50th Anniversary Celebration at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Sunday 7th May – Church lunch after the morning 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 5th April 7.30pm at the Crick's

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

Thursday 7.30 Music group practice - all welcome

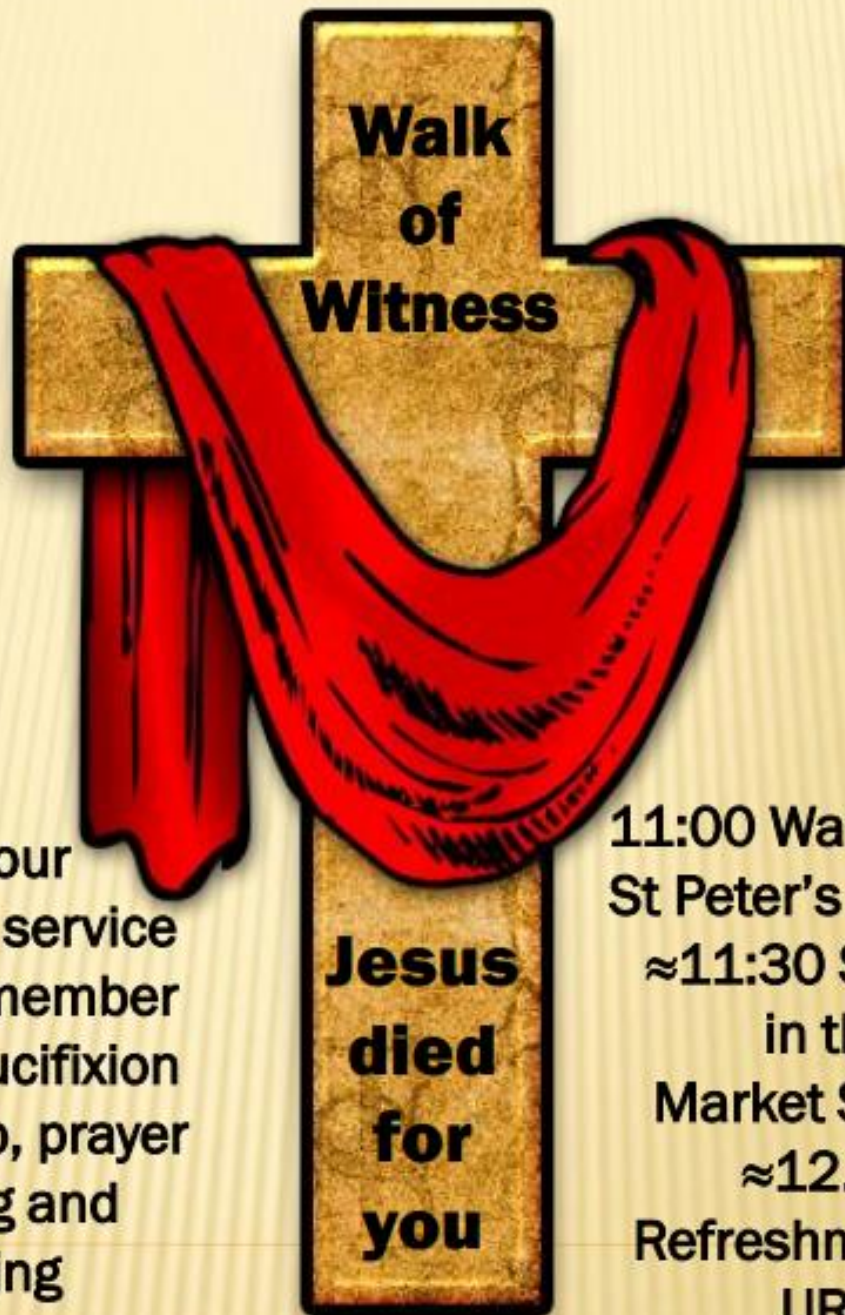
Friday Prayer Group 10.00am (in the church).

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

Please submit material for the May edition of Contact by Sunday 23rd April. Articles can be emailed. The next edition of Contact will be available by Sunday 30th April.

Help is required to serve refreshments after the Good Friday Walk of Witness in our church (Friday 7th April). If you can help, please speak to an Elder.

Hinckley & Burbage Churches Together Good Friday 7th April 2023



Join our
walk and service
as we remember
Jesus' crucifixion
in worship, prayer
reading and
singing

11:00 Walk leaves
St Peter's car park
≈11:30 Service
in the
Market Square
≈12.00
Refreshments in
URC

If bad weather - service to be held in URC
For more info email: trinitylanechurch@yahoo.com