

Contact

October 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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Outreach Worker

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Rev Andrew Mudharara

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Paul Wake

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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	Carole Wallis	
Contact Magazine	Penny Randriamahavorisoa	

Worship in October (10.45 am unless stated)

1 st October	Rev Andrew Mudharara (Harvest/Parade)
8 th October	Tim Lea
15 th October	Rev Andrew Mudharara (<i>including Holy Communion</i>)
22 nd October	Margaret Marshall
29 th October	Hope into Action
5 th November	Rev Andrew Mudharara / Rev George Lea (Thanksgiving Service)

The service on 15th October will include the commissioning of Paul Wake as our Outreach Worker.

Minister's letter October 2023

We are entering the period of harvesting in our church calendar. It is a time of looking back and seeing the faithfulness of the Lord to the covenant that God has with the people of the covenant (church). This is a period of time when we particularly take time to give thanks to the Lord for the things that God has accomplished in us, with us and through us; therefore "give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever" Psalm 107:1. We celebrate the achievements in our lives as Church because of the faithfulness of God to the covenant with the people of the covenant (Church).

There are a lot of things we would like to see happening in Church and sometimes we miss the opportunities to look at the things that God is accomplishing with us, in us and through us. Let us remember the good things in our church and celebrate those blessings. We are grateful for: where we are with Hope in Action, the youth and family work of our church, the coming of Paul Wake to work alongside us, the International friendship centre, the Tuesday fellowship, the prayers that take place in our Church building, in homes and streets every week, the warm space group, the pastoral conversations that take place among ourselves and many other things happening in our fellowship. Let us celebrate those blessings this harvest period and thank the Lord for those and many other blessings. Harvest time is a time to be grateful of the blessings of the Lord upon us as a Church and individuals. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not His benefits" Psalm 103:2. The benefits of the Lord are so numerous to mention one by one but we are encouraged to bless the Lord for them. Sometimes we want more and more and forget to give thanks for the more and more already given to us by God.

Harvest time is also a time to take stock of the injustices around us. God commanded "when you reap the harvest of your land, you must not wholly reap into the corners of your field, and you must not gather the gleanings of your harvest. You must leave them for the poor and foreigner. I am Yahweh your God" Leviticus 23:22. It is a time to consider the marginalised in our society and ask ourselves what can be done to help the people that are marginalised and consider the steps we could take to be advocates for the marginalised.

We are celebrating Black (non- white) History month in October; how aware are we of the challenges the non white people are going through in our community and what roles can we play in giving them support?

Rev Andrew Mudharara

News of the Family

Please remember in your prayers:

Charlotte M – we offer condolences to Alan and the family. Charlotte died on 5th September and her funeral took place at the church on Thursday 14th September.

We also offer condolences to Kathy and Ian. Kathy's brother in law died on Saturday 9th September.

John and Julie P have a few family issues going on at this time especially with Beryl who has had another fall.

Sue D – continues to be supported by church friends and family and received Holy Communion from Rev. Andrew.

Dennis S – is unwell with breathing problems.

Annette D – has had a cataract removed and is waiting eagerly to have the second one removed.

We also pray for Margaret and Peter G, Nanette and Dave S, Sue T and family.

We give thanks that Keith G and Trevor L are back in church.

We welcome Paul and Kate as they join us. We pray that their move goes smoothly and Paul's work here in Hinckley brings new opportunities to our church and town.

We also think of:

Ann M, Betty H, Betty L, Ethel, Ian S, Jan and Brian B, Jean C, Joan and Trevor L, Joyce, Joyce and Arthur, Keith G, Keith H, Lily S, Margaret and Peter, Nanette S, Nessa, Muriel, Paul and Annette, Pat J, Sue T, Wendy and Malcolm, Margaret and Peter G.

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.

Sue S

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Congratulations to all those celebrating birthdays in October:

Phillip L and Jacqui B (on the 4th), John P (on the 10th), Ann S (on the 14th), David G (on the 18th), Sue D (on the 27th).

And best wishes to those celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries:

David and Heather (on the 14th).

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.

Free Church Choirs Festival of Church Music

Saturday 14th October 7.00pm St Albans Cathedral

Members of our choir will be joining singers from across the country in a Festival of hymns, anthems and readings. The theme is 'Hope and Reconciliation'. Previous festivals have been joyous and uplifting occasions. If you are interested in attending, please see David Crick. Depending on numbers, we hope to be able to arrange transport.

Book review: "A House Built on Love" by Ed Walker - a story of 'Hope into Action'.

I have just finished reading this book (copies available in the front foyer of the church) and it is truly inspiring. Ed's call and commitment to this ministry is very clear and his faith and trust in God's guidance is a humbling message to others of what it means to be a Christian, and how effective Hope into Action can be in meeting human needs. It has also given me a better understanding of what homelessness does to people and how they cope with their problems (or not) and how important Christian love is. Ed Walker has an engaging style of writing. His story is an easy, if rather uncomfortable, read and I would highly recommend it.

Christine T

Tuesday Lunch Event: Tuesday 10th October 2023

October's meal will be chicken and mushroom casserole followed by cheesecake. Please let me know if you would like to attend, thank you.

Sue S

Introducing our new outreach worker and family

We are Paul & Kate (Catherine) Wake who have been called to the outreach work at Hinckley URC. Though we had a similar position in Yorkshire, it is exciting to be serving the Lord in a community new to us. Especially, with Bosworth field so close, in an area not traditionally known for welcoming Yorkshiremen. Though the greeting and welcome we have received has been nothing but warm.

Before being called into ministry I was heavily involved in professional contact sporting circles as a player and later university & international coach. Kate has a real calling to work with young children. She has worked in childcare and even in her last role, running the church coffee lounge, the Lord still blessed her in being involved in discipling young mums.

We have the blessing of two daughters. Our eldest (Lucy) works in education in Sheffield, where she stayed after university and shares her mother's love of working with children. Our youngest (Hannah) is in her final year at the university of Hull, where (to my initial chagrin) she plays rugby for Hull KR.

The outreach role will involve building on the foundations already laid by the church in the community. I look forward to giving some "scoops" to Contact in regard to some of the projects on the horizon, though all in God's timing. Initially this will be a season for Kate & I to get to know the area, get to know the fellowship and, most importantly, get to know what the Lord wants us to do here in His service.

I urge anyone to speak to me if they feel Spirit-led in getting more involved in sharing the Gospel with the community. Though I encourage ALL to get involved in the outreach in the most important way possible: prayer.



Action Prayer with Greta – Zimbabwe

Foot Prayers

Using a marker and a piece of paper, draw round your foot or shoes. Do you have old reusable shoes that could be given to someone who is struggling financially to buy new shoes? Amen.

Prayer

Dear God, help me not to take my shoes for granted. We remember those in countries like Zimbabwe who struggle to earn enough money to buy shoes to wear for school. We thank you for Christian Aid partners who are working with communities, teaching women new skills in leatherwork so they can make shoes for their families. Amen.

URC Prayer Handbook and Reform magazine for 2024

The URC prayer handbook for 2023 was very well received and has been used for private devotions and for public worship within our church. 10 people had the handbook.

The 2024 prayer hand book is entitled "Full to the Brim"

The first section follows the lectionary with prayers based on one or more of the readings for each week of the year. For the second section people were asked to interpret the idea of "full to the brim" and are for both private and public use.

Price £5.99 plus postage. We would like to order the handbooks early so that we can possibly collect them at the Synod meeting in October so please let me know if you would like one ASAP

The URC national Reform magazine

During this year the magazine featured an article by our minister Rev Andrew and he was again mentioned in the September issue. There are many and varied items including news, letters, comments, inspiration stories, wider church issues and debate. I recommend this magazine.

Price £29.50 and a special offer for new subscribers for the next 12 months at £24.50.

Please contact Malcolm Hooke to order .

Church Ramble

At the time of writing, the September walk at Thornton Reservoir has yet to take place - however the weather forecast is looking extremely dodgy. We will be meeting on Tuesday 17th October at 10am for the next walk. Venue yet to be decided. Please see the weekly notices or Tony for further information.

News from The Vine

We have an exciting week coming up this month – Christian Bookshop Week! The week runs from Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st October. During the week we will be rewarding all book-buying customers with a voucher for a free £5.00 National eBook Token with any book purchased (one per customer). We also have some give-aways of lovely tote bags with some free books to bless you (or for you to bless others) for the first five customers who spend over £10.00 on books that week.

On Friday 20th October we have a special author event at 11.00am. Writer Emily Owen will be here to give her testimony, introduce you to her work and sign books. Emily is an award-winning author and speaker, with several books to her name, including devotionals, children's books and an autobiography. She lost her hearing overnight aged 21 and has had numerous surgeries. Emily knows what it is to be broken, and she knows what it is to meet God there. It would be great to see you there for the event – there is no need to book – and of course you can enjoy some coffee and cake while you listen!

Also, in October our Christmas stock will start to appear – this will include Christmas cards, advent calendars, advent candles and 2024 calendars. This year our packs of cards will be sold in aid of Compassion and The Leprosy Mission. We will also have a good selection of boxed cards and single cards.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Jessica Harrison, Manager

"Dear members,

Please think and pray about who you might approach to serve on the eldership. Nominations are requested by Sunday 5th November and forms will be available in the church soon. Thank you,"

Christine T



Hinckley United Reformed Church

The Church in the Borough

Thanksgiving Service

To remember those we have lost

Sunday November 5th 2023 at 10-45am

During the service we will give thanks and praise God for the memories of those who have died during the past year. Candles will be provided for you to light and



If you know of anyone who has died recently and you would like them to be included in the service, please contact George L.

There will be another dimension to the service this year. We will remember and thank God for all those who have left money to the Church and thank Him for those who have given of their time and talents to the Church over the years.

Rotas *If you can help on the Door Steward rota, please see Penny Randriamahavorisoa; if you can help on the Coffee rota, please see Carole Wallis. If you are unable to fulfil your duty, please arrange a swap.*

	<i>Duty Elder</i>	<i>Door Steward</i>
<i>Sunday 1st October</i>	David Crick	Kathy Smith Sue Thain
<i>Sunday 8th October</i>	Roger Moseley	Sally Leggat Julie Payne
<i>Sunday 15th October</i>	Sue Sanders	Jacqui Brown Heather Crick
<i>Sunday 22nd October</i>	Karen Jones	Richard Benham Sue Saunders
<i>Sunday 29th October</i>	Christine Thomas	Paul Deeming Ann Martin
<i>Sunday 5th November</i>	David Crick	Kathy Smith Sue Thain
	<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
<i>Sunday 1st October</i>	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	
<i>Sunday 8th October</i>	Sylvia Ellis Chris Sharrock	R.Benham
<i>Sunday 15th October</i>	Ruth Griffiths Karen Jones	
<i>Sunday 22nd October</i>	Carole Wallis Jacqui Brown	K.Smith

<i>Sunday 29th October</i>	Marilyn & Crawford Payne	
<i>Sunday 5th November</i>	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	

Wednesday at One

October 4 th	Mr John Moore	St. John's, Hinckley
October 11 th	Mr Steve Vickers	Barwell St. Mary
October 18 th	Mr Paul Wake	Hinckley URC
October 25 th	Pas. Derek Marvin	Trinity Lane Christian Church
November 1 st	Mrs Sheila Grice	Sapcote Methodist

Warm Space Drop-in (Thursday pm)

October 5 th	Ruth and Ann
October 12 th	Kathy and Phillip
October 19 th	Sue and Sylvia
October 26 th	Chris and Ann
November 2 nd	Ruth and Phillip

Recalling the Ministry for August – September 2023
(As largely seen on the Church Web Site as THE WEDNESDAY WORD)
Click on the links to read the Bible readings

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 20th August 2023.

Call to Worship, Extracts from Psalm 46. God is our refuge and strength,
an ever present help in trouble.

Extracts from Daniel 3, v1-28. The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace.
The Story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (S-M-A).

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=561602380>

Sermon. - The God of the Furnace. The reading from the book of Daniel shows that our God, the God of the three Jewish men Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (S-M-A), is more powerful and reliable than the king's gods and his golden craven image. In the story, the king sees that God is present with the men in the furnace. Our Father God and Jesus, in whom we have Faith and Trust, are always present with us through good times as well as bad, even when those around us may not seem to be acting as we might expect. God has our wellbeing in mind in all circumstances, although he may not always respond in quite the way we might expect. The Lord is our shepherd as we remember from Psalm 23.

We shared communion together.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 27th August 2023.

Extracts from Matthew, 28, v 16-20. The Great Commission.

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=561602555>

v18f: Jesus said," All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
v20: and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Film – “Witnesses” - We were reminded of the story in Luke 24, in which two men, unknowingly, met the resurrected Jesus on the Road to Emmaus.

Extracts from Luke 17, v11-19. Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy.

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=561602668>

Reflection Film – “Go and Do Likewise”

Talk – The Invitational Jesus. Often Jesus says, e.g. “Come to me....”

This talk concentrates on when he says, “Go...” and emphasising three such purposeful occasions:

1. In our Luke 17 reading, v14, Jesus says, “Go show yourself to the priests.” The man would have to explain to the priest that Jesus had healed him, so that the man could resume his previous life. We should tell people how we have met and accepted Jesus in our lives.

2. “Go and Do Likewise,” said Jesus, in parables like that of the Good Samaritan. Jesus wants us to be like him, doing good works like those he did, comforting and helping others.

3. In the Matthew 28 reading, Jesus says, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Churches are full of believers – but the believers should strive to be disciples doing good works like those of Jesus.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 3rd September 2023.

Welcome and Call to Worship, from Psalms.

Extracts from Matthew 16, v21-28. Jesus Predicts His Death.

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=561602856>

Extracts from Romans 12, v9 - 21. Love in Action.

v9: Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

v10: Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.

v11: Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.

v12: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
v13: Share with the Lord's people who are in need.
v14: Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
v15: Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
v16: Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people in low positions. Do not be conceited.
v17: Do not repay any evil with evil. Do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
v18: If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with everyone.
V19: Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to revenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
v20: On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him: if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
v21: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Sermon. "Laying our lives down for each other."- We should show solidarity for each other in our Church Community, by being there for each other with support, whenever we detect a need for love and comfort, heeding the general 'commandments' of the reading from Romans. We should carry our cross (v24 of the Matthew reading), that is, overcoming the stumbling block (v23) which restrains us from following the path Jesus wants us to follow, often jointly with others. We should be there empathising with those who have fallen by the wayside and seize opportunities to provide comfort for them.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 10th September 2023.

Call to Worship. Psalm 149, v1-5, Praise the Lord:

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Psalm 136, v1-9, Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.
Responsive: "His Love Endures Forever" on each verse.

Children's Story: about how children love their toys to bits!

Extracts from Romans 13, v8-14. Love Fulfills the Law.

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=561603148>

v8f: Let no doubt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

The commandments.

The commandments are listed. And summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfilment of the law.

Extracts from Matthew, 18, v 15-20. Dealing With Sin in the Church.

Jesus said, v15f: If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen... Jesus explains what to do, involving others to judge the sinner, finally the church. If the sinner even refuses to listen to the church, Jesus says, "Treat them as you would a pagan."

v19: "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father.

v20: For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Sermon – Walk in the light (God’s Word) and find “His Love Endures Forever” (MP 664 Psalm 136.) The reading from Romans reminds us that we should live by God’s commandments - according to God’s will - highlighting “Love one’s neighbour as oneself.”

Also, forgive others and let God give us guidance to strengthen our faith. We should by our example, be able to show to others the benefit they would gain by walking in step with Jesus.

In the Matthew reading, Jesus emphasizes the importance of love predominating and sin being cast out, so that we can gain the benefits of what he promises in v19 and v20.

-----OOO-----

Thanks to Brian Beagley for summarising these services for us.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 7th October 10:30am – 4pm – Synod meeting at Loughborough URC

Tuesday 10th October – Tuesday lunch

Saturday 14th October – Free Church Choirs Festival of Church Music

Sunday 15th October – commissioning of Paul Wake as Outreach Worker

Tuesday 17th October – Church ramble

Friday 20th October – Emily Owen at The Vine

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

7.30pm at the Crick's Wednesday October 4th

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 September edition of Contact by **Sunday 22nd October**. Articles can be emailed. The next edition of Contact will be available by Sunday 29th October.