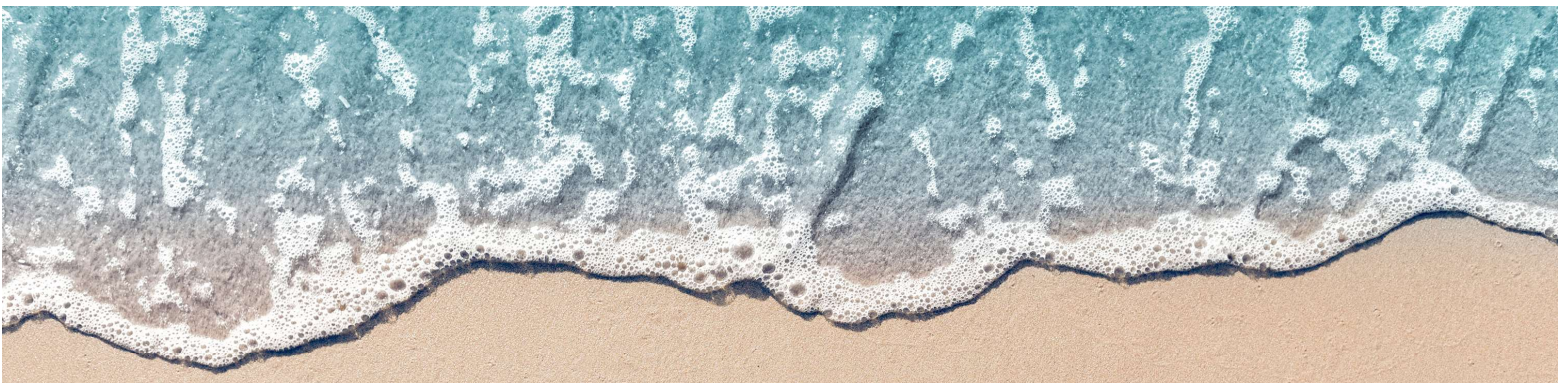




Contact

Summer Special 2024

WELCOME to the Summer edition (July & August) of CONTACT, the newsletter for those associated with Hinckley United Reformed Church.



Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Matthew 13:43 NIV

ELECTION DAY Thursday 4th July 2024 sees the election of a new government, whether retaking office or for the first time. Christian or not, we pray that all who represent others in the Houses of Parliament honour the responsibility and trust placed upon them by voters when making decisions for people, especially vulnerable people, in their constituency.

Just, as Christians, we should recognise that whoever becomes local MP or national Prime Minister; it is always God that has supreme governance.



Minister's Letter

Rev Andrew Mudharara

We are called to grow.

God calls us to be a peoples that belong to Him as His Children and the Holy Spirit seals us or label us with His presence in us as belonging to God; “for you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry “Abba! Father”” (Romans 8:15). We have been adopted into the family of God and expected to grow in our relationship with God in Christ as head of the Church. God gave us the right to be called the children of God through accepting Jesus as our Saviour and Lord (John 1:12). Our relation with God is expected to develop or grow as we grow to know Him better and better as well as members of the household of God our sister and brothers in Christ who will sharpen us as iron sharpens iron.

God according to Ephesians 4 has resourced the Church with the Apostles , Prophets , Evangelist , Teachers and Pastors “for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ” Ephesians 4:12.

We are expected by God to develop and improve in our serving God with the goal of being “a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13) , in our unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God. God wants us to grow continuously until we are like Christ. God has provided the means through His word and God ‘s people for us to Grow and obviously with the help of our Ever-present Comforter Holy Spirit. We are not just left to grow on our own but, milk (I Peter 2:2) , and meat (Hebrews 5:12) has been provided for us to feed on and help us grown and being strong. We have to desire to have the milk and the meat if we are to mature in our knowledge of Christ. It is not okay to remain as babies not growing.

When we are matured or grown we can be able to stand for the Kingdom and not being blown away by every wind of teaching that comes, trickery of people but we will be able to speak truth IN LOVE and grow up in all things into Jesus who is the head of the body (Ephesians 4:14-15).

Are growing in your relationship with God and the peoples of God?

Summer Sunday Services

July 7th Rev Andrew Mudharara (*Parade Service*)
July 14th Rev Daniel Cheyne
July 21st Rev Andrew Mudharara (*including Holy Communion*)
July 28th 'Songs of Praise'
Aug 4th Rev Andrew Mudharara
Aug 11th Family Service
Aug 18th Rev Andrew Mudharara (*including Holy Communion*)
Aug 25th Elder Julie Payne
Sep 1st Rev Andrew Mudharara

CONTACT DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions and information for the SEPTEMBER edition of Contact will be Sunday 18th August. The next edition will be available from Sunday 25th August.



DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SERVICE

Sunday 28th July will see us have a “Songs of Praise” service, where the focus will be singing our praise through well-loved hymns and worship songs. This service is open to all and we especially invite those dealing with dementia their friends & family. Our aim is to make the service **dementia friendly** for those living with the condition.

Refreshments will be served afterwards and we remind all that the Bible does not call us to have a beautiful singing voice when we praise God in song. However, we are called upon to make a “Joyful Noise”.



Family Ministry

Family work news - Summer 2024

Wow!! Can't believe it's the summer already. It's been a busy and exciting year so far.

I have been leading assemblies at Westfield Infant School as well as being the Vice-chair of their parent/teacher team (WISA) - organising various events at the school.

We will be doing a parade service with the uniform groups on July 7th - which will be interactive and wonderful to see the young people in worship.

The two stay and play groups on a Monday and Wednesday have been really busy and we look forward to their end of term parties with Jabberjacks entertainment and party food. We shall be sad to see some of the children leave to go to school but we wish them all well.

In September we will be launching Mainly Music - which will be a really exciting time for us - so please look out for more info.



mainly
music®



On August 5th, 6th and 7th we will be doing activities at the Snapdragon Festival in Argents Mead ran by the Borough Council - so please look out for the sign up sheet in Church to volunteer to help. It's a wonderful time and such a blessing to meet so many families (remember you don't need to be crafty!! - just come along!) On Sunday 11th August - we will be inviting families from the event to join us at our church service where there will be family worship.

Our Sprouts children have been looking at the book of Matthew - from the very beginning - which has been interesting for the young people and leaders. It has been encouraging to see our children in the service each week - to see them as an important part of our church family.

A big thank you to all who help with this family ministry - and all of those who get involved in the events that we do, prayfully or physically- It is most appreciated.

Rachel Cobb,
God bless you all.



**The Vine is
seeking new
staff
(Jessica
Harrison)**

Saturday Assistant

The role is to assist in our busy coffee shop each Saturday 9am – 2pm. The main duties would be taking customer orders, making drinks, serving tables, clearing tables, taking payments, washing up and cleaning. This would suit someone aged 16 plus. Good people skills are essential as is a reasonable level of numeracy skills. Good presentation and attention to detail are important. Pay will be at the minimum wage. Lunch is provided.

To apply please send a CV and covering letter explaining how you are suited to the role to thevinehinckley@hotmail.co.uk by 16th August 2024. Interview will be held shortly after the close. The start date will be in September.



July's Monthly Prayer Walk will take place on Friday 26th (9am) at the top of Castle Street, Hinckley (where the pedestrian area starts).

This is an opportunity for us to come together, regardless of whatever church (or none) we attend, to pray for our community & the people in it.

The prayer walk ends at 9:45am at our church where you can have some refreshments & are welcome to join our ecumenical prayer group at 10am. August's walk will be on Fri 30th.

CHURCH RAMBLE by Tony Thomas

At the the time of writing we are yet to partake in the June ramble - so a report on that next time.

During the summer months, walks are scheduled for 16th July and 20th August - however a decision will be made closer to the time as to whether they will take place depending on availability.



*Malcolm Hooke is looking to step down as **Christian Aid** rep for HURC, we're looking for someone to take over this role. Please speak to an Elder if you are interested.*

Missio Dei

Would you like help or support in sharing your faith with others?

Wednesday 31st July will see us start a 5-week workshop to offer spiritual and practical guidance & support in engaging with others about our faith. Called **MISSIO DEI** to reflect God's missionary nature that should be reflected in our daily lives.

The 90-minute workshops will be held at church, though we will also have some structured opportunities for practical application in a supported environment. Each session will be a safe & relaxed conversational space where we will talk about our experiences, share our fears and encourage one another.

Each evening session, starting 7:30pm & ending at 9pm, will show us that God has already equipped us for this work.

We will have fun activities during the sessions and opportunities to explore the great commission further.



Talk to Paul (Wake) to book your place or email

community@hinckleyurc.org.uk

TWAM

Tools with a Mission



You may recall that we have collected tools for TOOLS WITH A MISSION in past years. TWAM is a Christian charity based in Coventry that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.

In doing so, they also support UK communities through volunteering opportunities and contribute significantly to environmental sustainability by reducing waste and carbon emissions in the UK.

Some tools have already been donated and I will be arranging collection soon. If you have suitable tools please get in touch during June. The definition of tools is very wide - garden, carpentry, car maintenance, sewing machines, household, computers, plumbing to name a few. Please check with me if you are unsure.

Thank you, Tony T



01455 637518



www.hinckleyurc.org.uk



Hinckley United Reformed Church "The Borough Church"



[hinckley_urc](https://www.instagram.com/hinckley_urc)

Last edition we invited people to submit their testimonies. Since the last edition, our church has lost a stalwart in Keith Griffiths. We could think of no better testimony than Keith showed throughout his life. We asked close friend, Malcolm Hooke, for an abridged version of the wonderful eulogy he gave at the celebration of Keith's life.

An abridged tribute to Keith Griffiths

In the mid 1950's John Mason invited Keith to come to worship at the 'Cong's', he came and he stopped.

Keith already had a strong Christian faith and with Ruth whom he married in 1955 they became active members of our church in the borough.

In addition to the demands of his teaching career and his sporting activities he served the church in many different roles over the years.

Leader of the 14/18 young adult group in the Sunday school. Deacon and then Elder at Hinckley URC. Local lay preacher, Churches Together representative, chair and committee member at Work Link, pastoral visiting, and many other things.



But perhaps Keith and Ruth will be remembered most for their 35 years of creating and then organising the weekly ecumenical service that became Wednesday at 1.00pm. Keith exercised a pastoral ministry to all who came to the services.

To all of us who benefited from his friendship over the years we knew him as kind and considerate, as someone who was always ready to encourage and support us and was always interested in what we and our families were doing.

His epitaph can be found in Matthew 25 the parable of the talents:

“Well done good and faithful servant.” Keith was a talented man of faith and he used them all to the very end of a long life. Thanks be to God for all that he was and did.

Malcolm Hooke

From Independent Chapel to Hinckley United Reformed Church (part 2)

In 1722 the building of a new meeting house (now known as the Great Meeting) began. In a letter of September 1722 a student at the Academy, Philip Doddridge, wrote –

At present we have the hurry of building, and nothing can be seen from my closet window but bricks and mortar, timber and sand. However I hope that this will not last long, for the meeting goes on very fast, and will be finished by Christmas. It will be a pretty large place and, I hope, well filled, for we have a congregation of 500 people, and all perfectly united ...



Philip Doddridge (pictured), later to become a celebrated theologian and hymn writer, preached his first sermon at the evening service on the opening day of the meeting house in November 1722.

In the early 1760s the congregation split over the interpretation of the nature of God and Jesus, and out of their Trinitarian convictions the Independents left the meeting house. The Great Meeting has been the home of the members of the Unitarian persuasion since this time.

The Trinitarians first met in a barn in Bond Street, and then in a building up a yard in Castle Street. Finally, in 1766 they began building a new meeting place in Stockwell Head.



In June 1860 a meeting was held in the chapel to approve a motion to build a new chapel with schoolrooms, as the congregation had outgrown the current building. The old chapel was duly closed in 1868, when the new Congregational Chapel was opened in the Borough. The old chapel building was sold in 1869 and subsequently became part of a hosiery factory. By 1875 it was the armoury of the Leicestershire (Hinckley) Volunteer Corps, and from 1895 it was again being used as a factory.



The new chapel was opened on 25th March 1767.

By Phillip Lindley

Loaded (Youth Ministry)



Hopefully we will be able to give some exciting involving our commitment to local schools in the September edition of Contact, as the new academic year begins.

Our service for the young people of the Nuneaton Jaguars U16 team & their families was a great experience. Now known as the "Hotdog service", due to the post service meal, the players and families were thrilled by the friendly welcome from the church.

The team captains did an excellent job in giving the Bible readings and the service contained several filmed messages from coaches in the USA that support sports ministry in the UK. Players were presented with a Fellowship Of Christian Athletes (USA) Bible.

RIDE + STRIDES **for Churches**

The annual Ride and Stride event is taking place on Saturday 14th September. We have supported this event in the past but not since COVID. I have registered the church for the event and have indicated that the church will be open from 10am through 'til 2pm. I will therefore be looking for volunteers to man the front vestry to sign people in - if you can help for an hour it would be greatly

appreciated. I will be also receiving forms for sponsorship - although at this point in time I don't know if Christine and I will be cycling. If anyone else would like to receive a sponsorship form and take part by cycling or walking around the local churches - please let me know.

Thank you, Tony

Contacts & Social Media

HINCKLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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www.hinckleyurc.org.uk



Hinckley United Reformed Church "The Borough Church"



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ROLE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
MINISTER	Rev Andrew Mudharara	01455 634398 / 07725 747936	revandrew@hinckleyurc.org.uk
FAMILY	Rachel Cobb	07930 628011	repooolehcar@hotmail.com
OUTREACH & COMMUNITY	Paul Wake	07591 527942	community@hinckleyurc.org.uk
SAFEGUARDING	Chris Sharrock	-	chris.sharrock@ntl.world

Jacqueline is running the 10k race for life on 14th July in Leicester.

She is running this for her cousin & grandad who have both recently passed away as well as her dad who is now recovered.

The link is below or please speak to Jacqueline directly. Thank you in advance for your support.



<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jacquelines-race-for-life-2419>

What's On

- MONDAYS** **STAY & PLAY** | Children's Playgroup
Welcome to all with children 5yrs & under
10am-noon (side entrance). Term-time only.
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE | Help &
support with practising English for speakers of other
languages. noon—2pm (side entrance)
- WEDNESDAYS** **SPARKLERS** | Children's Playgroup (5yrs & below)
Group primarily for childminders with 5yrs & under
9:30-11:30am (side entrance). Term-time only.
WEDNESDAY @ONE | ecumenical service for all
1pm-1:30pm (front entrance)
- THURSDAYS** **DROP-IN** Chat & Coffee/Tea. All welcome
2-4pm (front entrance)
- FRIDAYS** **PRAYER GROUP** | All welcome
10-11am (front entrance)
- SUNDAYS** **SERVICE** | All welcome. Children's group.
10:45am-noon (front entrance)

MONTHLY PRAYER WALK | All welcome

Friday 26th July & Friday 30th August 9am at the top of
Castle Street, Hinckley. Ending at the church @9:45am.

HOUSEGROUP Please see David Crick & Rob Cobb

Wednesday @One Services

Wednesday at One services are a half hour ecumenical
service available to all, regardless of church or doctrine.
Wednesdays 1pm.

Details of the speakers for July & August will be released
when confirmed.

All are welcome with teas & coffees served after the 30-
minute service.