



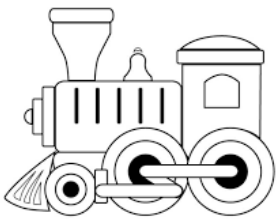
Contact

Winter 2024/25

WELCOME to the Winter edition (Dec '24/ Jan '25) of CONTACT, the newsletter for those associated with Hinckley United Reformed Church.

DEPARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

While we will certainly miss our departing minister, Rev Andrew Mudharara, his wife (Candid) & their daughter (Tavonga); we will be sending them off with a blessing. Following his final service here on Sunday 19th January we will be having a meal to show our love for them.



2024 Toy Appeal



This festive appeal has been growing rapidly since launching in 2009, and marks a 'huge' partnership effort between Hinckley Council, County Council, Salvation Army, Hinckley Area Food Bank, and Work Link, as well as numerous other supporters.

It helps provide toys and food vouchers to hundreds of struggling families, thanks to the generosity and support of local groups, churches, businesses, and the public.

Donation bins around the town will also sport a QR code of the appeal's Amazon wish list, where donors can choose a toy, order it online, and send it directly to the organisers.

Alternatively, come along and join us to donate at our TOY SERVICE on **Sunday 1st December (10:45am)**.

All toys donated should be brand new & toys for teenage boys especially welcome.



December's Monthly Prayer Walk will take place on Friday 27th (9am) at the top of Castle Street, Hinckley (where the pedestrian area starts).

January's will be on Friday 24th.

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.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14**

Christmas is a time that seems so pivotal in the year that we approach in bitter-sweet expectation. We often think of loved ones that are no longer with us, overly plan, spend far more than we can afford on trinkets & luxuries and we decry the commercialisation of Christmas while simultaneously taking part in it.

Given the significance society places on it, Christmas does not get the top billing in the Bible that many non-readers would expect.

The most powerful text about the birth of Jesus does not even lie in the Nativity, but the four simple words in the Gospel of John...

The Word Became Flesh

THE VINE



Jessica Harrison

News from The Vine - as we head into December we will be fully embracing Christmas with a tree, lights, carols and (once again) our festive specials as an addition to our usual menu! If you are not familiar with this the specials consist of an additional filling to either a toastie, cob or sandwich of turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce, a mince pie served warm with cream and hot mulled (non-alcoholic) punch. These are sold separately or as a meal deal for the bargain price of £6.00! If you are planning to come and enjoy this deal in numbers over four then please give us a heads up so we can adequately cater (01455 612345).



We still have plenty of Christmas cards and gift ideas in stock so do keep us in mind when doing your Christmas shopping. We've recently had some lovely new items in our gift corner - stationery, jewellery, wall plaques, coasters, mugs and (for the first time) embroidery sets - so do drop in for a browse.

We are still in need of extra help at The Vine - we particularly need a volunteer to help cover Thursday lunchtimes. This doesn't necessarily need to involve food handling so long as you could use the till - please do get in touch if you would like to join our team. We are also still looking for the right person to be our new assistant manager - please make contact with us for more details. Jessica (manager).

God Bless
Jessica Harrison
Manager

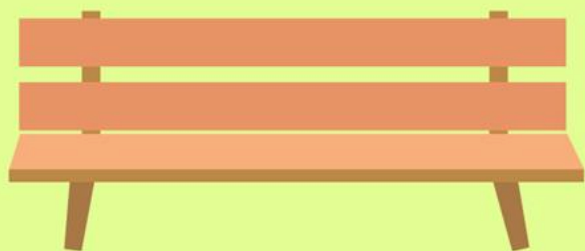
Synod Picnic in the Park



The
United
Reformed
Church
East Midlands
Synod

SATURDAY 31 MAY 2025, 11AM - 3PM

**ROCK UK FRONTIER CENTRE,
NORTHANTS, NN9 5UH**



**BOOKING
DETAILS**

**COMING
SOON**



**SAVE
THE DATE**

MUSIC

FELLOWSHIP

GAMES



URC
YOUTH ASSEMBLY
2025

All are

welcome

Arrive as strangers, leave as friends

7-9 March 2025

New venue with twin rooms and menu choices
Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton, NN3 8LL

**A fun weekend to have your say, make friends
and find fellowship**

Worship - Bible study, music, prayer spaces,
late night communion

Youth Decides - discussion on issues that matter to us -
leading to action and engaging the wider church

Workshops - grow your skills and thinking
while exploring the theme

Entertainment - campfire, karaoke, sports, games and more

£120 early bird until 1 December / **£150** from 2 December
until 2 February 2025

Please talk to your church and synod about help with funding.
Open to Year 10 / S3 students up to 25 years inclusive.

Book your place today:

<https://linktr.ee/URCYouthAssembly> or contact children.youth@urc.org.uk



Here's a taste of Youth Assembly 2024
Just scan the QR code, or visit
www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_3npX0Ww00

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

We collect items for the local food bank and for vulnerable people in the community, sometimes sleeping rough.

Are you able to donate? Our local community food bank has a particular need for these items:

baked beans, pasta sauce, biscuits, small tins of fruit and veg, 400g tins of veg, fruit juice, chocolate, confectionary.



Postman Pat's Christmas Postbox Appeal

Please see the special delivery letter we received
(below) at the Contact head offices...



*"Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for making good use of the Church
Postbox. It will be in the church for you to post your
cards until Friday the 13th December at midday, and
the Christmas cards will be delivered to you all on
Sunday the 15th of December! So please start writing
them today as the 13th will come rushing by!!!*

*Postman Pat & his helpers Kathy and Ian
xx Happy Christmas xx*

Save the date!



*Organ Recital
@ Hinckley United
Reformed Church*

Saturday 24th May 3pm

*on the historic Holdich
organ given by*

*Rachel Mahon (Organist
and Director of Music,
Coventry Cathedral)*

.....Keep the date free!!!



Hinckley URC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

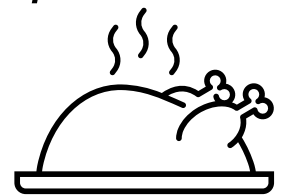


Don't be on your own on Christmas Day!

Let us celebrate the birthday of Jesus together!
We will be holding a day of activities, party games and even Christmas lunch at the church, following the Christmas Day service.

Do you know someone that would benefit? Please tell us so we can book a place for them.

See Paul or Kate for more details.



Sign Up Today

 **Girlguiding**

RAINBOWS | BROWNIES | GUIDES

Barwell, Burbage, Earl Shilton, Hinckley, Market Bosworth, Sapcote, Sheepy Magna, Stoney Stanton

www.girlguidingleicestershire.org

Now is the time to order the **URC Reform magazine** for 2025. The yearly subscription is £29.50.

In an effort to contain costs the number of copies will be reduced from 10 per year to 8 per year at 6 week intervals but the content of each copy will increase so that there will still be 400 pages a year. I have always found the magazine informative and thought provoking and having read the October issue on AI challenging.

Please contact Malcolm Hooke if you wish to subscribe for the Reform Magazine.

I have 2 copies of the URC Prayer handbook left so again please contact Malcolm Hooke or Sue Saunders if you wish to have a copy.



A CHRISTMAS CRACKER

MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 6-7PM

Tickets Available

@ HINCKLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH LE10 1NL

2024 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

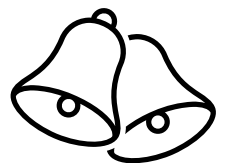
1 Dec (10:45am) Toy Service & Parade Service

8 Dec (7pm) Blue Christmas Service

22 Dec (4pm) Carol Service Sunday (no morning service)

24 Dec (7pm) Christmas Eve Communion

25 Dec (10am) Christmas Day Family Worship



WINTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Speakers for Sunday Services, starting 10:45am unless stated

DECEMBER

Dec 1st 10.45 Rev Andrew Mudharara
(*Toy Service/Parade*)

Dec 8th 10.45 Visit from Tom Foxon
(*Good News for Everyone - formerly Gideons UK*)

Dec 8th 7.00pm Rev Lesley Moseley
(*Blue Christmas*)

Dec 15th 10.45 Rev Andrew Mudharara
(*including Holy Communion*)

Dec 22nd 4.00pm Carol Service
(**Note: no morning Service**)

Dec 24th 7.00pm Rev Andrew Mudharara
(*Christmas Eve Communion*)

Dec 25th 10.00am Rev Lesley Moseley
(*Christmas Day Family Worship*)

Dec 29th 10.45 Hazel Coley

JANUARY

Jan 5th Rev Andrew Mudharara

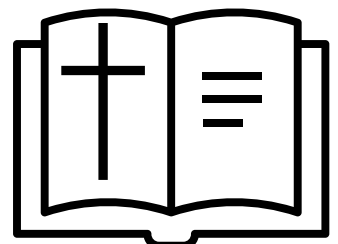
Jan 12th Julie Payne (TBC)

Jan 19th Rev Andrew Mudharara
(*including Holy Communion*). *Followed by meal.*

Jan 26th Steve Ward

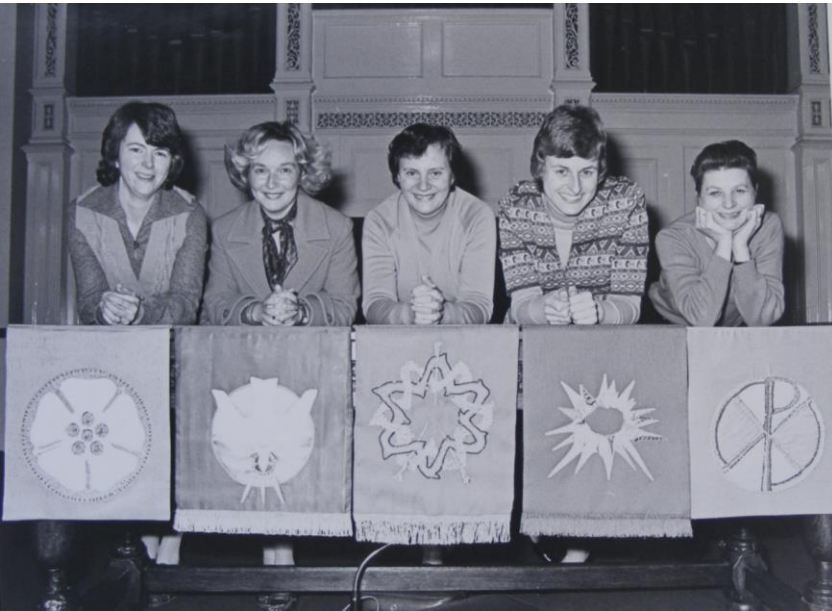
FEBRUARY

Feb 2nd Paul Wake (*Parade*)



From Independent Chapel to Hinckley United Reformed Church

(part 6) By Phillip Lindley



Pulpit falls made by ladies of the congregation in 1980

Renovation

In 1983 Martin Ballard was appointed to prepare a feasibility study of the use and structure of the church premises for now and in the future.

The option to renovate the existing buildings was chosen in 1984 and John Wright (Modern Design Group) was appointed architect for the project.

In 1986 the Church was listed Grade II by English Heritage.

1988 saw the launch of a £160,000 appeal for the renovation scheme, and work began in 1989.



New spiral stairs to gallery installed.



Stone-lined well found under floor of sanctuary.

Contacts & Social Media

HINCKLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Borough | Hinckley | Leicestershire | LE10 1NL



01455 637518



www.hinckleyurc.org.uk



Hinckley United Reformed Church "The Borough Church"



hinckley_urc

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

Wednesday @One Services

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

Weds 27th Nov Andrew Hall, St Catherine's, Burbage

Weds 4th Dec Paul Wake, Hinckley URC

Weds 11th Dec John Moore, St John's, Hinckley

Weds 18th Dec Christmas Music (David Crick), Hinckley URC

Weds 25th Dec Christmas Hinckley URC Service

Weds 1st Jan No service

For more information, please contact Charles Leggat 07754702241

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

- 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

Last Friday of each month at the top of Castle Street,
Hinckley. ending at the church @9:45am.

HOUSEGROUP Please see David Crick & Rob Cobb for details.

We pray that every reader, whether members of the church or in the wider community, experience the true blessings of God this Christmas and New Year.

While we hope you all receive wonderful presents from loved ones, meditate that we have already received the greatest gift in Jesus Christ Himself.

**Happy Birthday, Jesus!
Joy to the world!**

