

Just to keep in...

Contact

October 2022



*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love*



The Borough, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1NL

www.hinckleyurc.org.uk

Minister

☎ 01455 634398 / 07725 747936

Youth Worker

☎ 07930 628011

Church

☎ 01455 637518

Rev Andrew Mudharara

revandrew@hinckleyurc.org.uk

Rachel Cobb

repoclehcarr@hotmail.com

church@hinckleyurc.org.uk

Contact Information

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

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

Worship in October (10.45 am)

2 nd Oct	Rev Andrew Mudharara (<i>Harvest Festival & Parade</i>)
9 th Oct	Mr John Moore
16 th Oct	Rev Andrew Mudharara (<i>including Holy Communion</i>)
23 rd Oct	Rev Malcolm Clarke
30 th Oct	Mr Tim Lea
6 th Nov	Rev Andrew Mudharara & Rev George Lea (<i>Thanksgiving & Memorial Service</i>)

Sunday Lunch - October 2nd

There will be another church lunch on Sunday 2nd October (Harvest). Please bring your own sandwiches but soup and drinks will be provided. It's a great opportunity for fellowship together, please come along if you can.

Letter From our Minister

I am writing this letter in the context of Black history month of October and harvest time. I would like to encourage all of us as God's people to reflect on our role in challenging injustices in our world. I have alluded in my sermon on the 2nd of October, the role of Boaz in the book of Ruth as a kinsman redeemer and a type of Jesus who redeemed us from sin by standing up for us through the cross.

We may have found or will find ourselves in positions of being a privileged person not because of our doing but sometimes because of who our parents are, where we were born, our skin colour, our height, gender and the list goes on and on. The starting place is to be able to recognise that position and accept it and ask the question, how can I use this position to help others who are not in the same position as I am? A lot of times we do not view ourselves as privileged because of the negative implications of being privileged even when we are. We need to look around us and see the people around us that we can help.

When I recognised that as a male child in my family, I was privileged just because I am male and that my sisters did not have certain privileges like speaking on behalf of the family for example. I began to stop doing certain things like speeches on certain occasions and allow my sisters who are older than me anyway, but would not speak on behalf of my father or family just because they are women. Unless I refused to take those roles as a privileged male child, my sisters or even younger brothers would not have had the opportunity to speak on behalf of my father or family.

Challenging the status quo is not easy and sometimes it comes with a price but the price is worth paying to open doors for the marginalised people in our society today. Sometimes the marginalised people accept their "fate" (marginalised position) and accept their oppression as the norm until someone in position of privilege speaks on their behalf and empowers them. Sometimes marginalised people will not push boundaries because when they did, consequences were damaging and they will not dare try again.

Our role as people that have been rescued by the Son of God who chose to leave Heaven and came to identify with us as marginalised people, is to help others in our community who are marginalised by systems and structures to recognise their potential. What are the doors we need to open for other people to enter? What doors that are opened for me that I should

stop to enter so that others can enter as I may not need to enter that door to access the resources accessed through that door? Tough questions to think about.

May the love of God push us to stand up for the marginalised in our world.
Andrew

News of the Family

We continue to pray for Sue T, and give thanks that Joan and Trevor are now well enough to join us in church.

Pat J is now home from hospital following a fall but is in need of more care. We pray that David, Rob's dad will start to feel better now his treatment is complete.

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

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

Contact me by email or telephone

Sue Saunders

We are sad to announce the death of John Green on 20th September, devoted husband of Beryl. John and Beryl were married in this church and John's parents were active members here. His funeral will be held in the church on Monday 17th October at 1.00pm.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Congratulations to all those celebrating birthdays in October:

Phillip & Jacqui (both on the 4th), John P (10th), Mike B (13th), Ann S (14th), David G (18th), and Sue D (27th).

Wedding Anniversary: David & Heather (14th)

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

With thanks for all your best wishes, cards and the flowers from the church as we moved house. It was unfortunate that we caught Covid in the week before moving, but we much appreciated your phone calls of support and concern.

Best wishes

Heather and David

(Apologies, this should have been in the September Edition – oops! Ed)

A Harvest Hymn

*Yes, God is good: in earth and sky,
From ocean's depths and spreading
wood,
Ten thousand voices seem to cry,
God made us all, and God is good'.*

*The sun that keeps his trackless way
And downward pours his golden flood,
Night's sparkling hosts, all seem to say,
In accents clear, that God is good.*

*The merry birds prolong the strain,
Their song with every spring
renewed;
And balmy air, and falling rain,
Each softly whispers, 'God is good'.*

*We hear it in the rushing breeze;
The hills that have for ages stood,
The echoing sky and roaring seas,
All swell the chorus: 'God is good'.*

*For all Thy gifts we bless Thee, Lord,
But chiefly for our heavenly food;
Thy pardoning grace, Thy quickening word,
These prompt our song, that God is good.*

John Hampden Gurney

News from the Vine

News from The Vine - October 8th is a red-letter date for The Vine – it is Independent Bookshop Day! This is a lovely celebration of all bookshops, but especially those gems that still exist in some town centres – the independent bookshop. On this day the bunting goes up and customers are rewarded for their custom with giveaways. Christian bookshops extend the celebration and have a whole week to celebrate! This year Christian Bookshop Week starts on 22nd October and runs Saturday to Saturday – so the bunting will be up for a while! During this time, we'll have some special bookmarks to give away with all books purchased, we'll have some lovely notebooks to give away to the first book buying customers who spend over £10.00 and we'll also be giving out some vouchers for a free £5.00 National Book Token to any customers buying a book of any price during this time. The vouchers just need to be registered online and then a book token is emailed, which can be spent on another book at The Vine (or any participating bookshop).

At the beginning of October our Christmas cards, advent calendars and advent candles will go on sale, with more Christmas related stock going out as the month progresses. This year our packs of charity cards are in aid of Compassion and Embrace the Middle East. We have a larger number of boxed cards this year, which offer better value as well as cutting down on plastic packaging. We have all of our 2023 calendars in stock now and the Leprosy Mission diaries are available, with smaller pocket diaries coming soon. By the end of October, we will have our children's Christmas book selection in stock (Kids' Corner), which will include many lovely books at discounted prices, and make great gifts along with many other inspirational books such as Christian biography, fiction, Bibles, books on prayer, devotional books and gift books as well as our gift section and fairtrade craft.

We hope to see you during Christian bookshop week and throughout the autumn!

God Bless,
Jessica Harrison Manager

The climate in Galilee in Jesus's time

Lower Galilee, where Jesus lived most of his life, was Israel's lushest region, known for its sunny, temperate climate and its spring-watered lands. Each spring the valleys and slopes became an ocean of wildflowers and blossoming trees. Beginning in March, the area was covered by a vast blanket of green. The fertile land was a texture of vineyards and fruit orchards. Grapes, figs, olives, pomegranates, oranges, and other fruits flourished in its pleasant, subtropical climate.

First century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who knew the area well, wrote this about it:

Its nature is wonderful as well as its beauty; its soil is so fruitful that all sorts of trees can grow upon it, and the inhabitants accordingly plant all sorts of trees there; for the temper of the air is so well mixed, that it agrees very well with those several sorts, particularly walnuts, which require the coldest air, flourish there in vast plenty; there are palm trees also, which grow best in hot air; fig trees also and olives grow near them, which yet require an air that is more temperate. One may call this place the ambition of nature, where it forces those plants that are naturally enemies to one another to agree together; it is a happy contention of the seasons, as if every one of them laid claim to this country; for it not only nourishes different sorts of autumnal fruit beyond men's expectation, but preserves them a great while; it supplies men with the principal fruits, with grapes and figs continually, during ten months of the year and the rest of the fruits as they become ripe together through the whole year" (The Jewish War, Book 3, Chapter 10:8).

Thanks to Christine for submitting this article.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6

trypraying

A while ago we put a 'trypraying' banner outside the church and booklets in a box for people to take.



The members of the congregation were also given a booklet to read and pass on to someone else.

The following stories are from the 'trypraying website' – do you have a story to share about passing on your booklet to someone? It would be good to hear it.

- **Dog walking.** *"I had been looking for something to give to people I speak to while out dog-walking and so I ordered 10 trypraying booklets a year ago. I thought you may like to know that one of the first people I gave the trypraying booklet to was baptised in our church this week and 2 others have made commitments to Christ. The first one is our gardener; the others are people I have met while out dog walking. I have given all the other booklets out and people are still talking about God when I meet them."*
- **Buses.** *A lady whose journey to faith involved seeing a trypraying advert on a bus was baptised on Sunday. There was a lot more going in her life than seeing a bus, but the bus played it's part.*
- **Lanes.** *"I was in lane two. Stephen, who I had never met, was in lane three. We were busy swimming our lengths at the pool. We coincided at one end. After a quick comment thanking each other for lane etiquette he asked me what I did when I'm not swimming. 'Well, I'm involved in something called trypraying. You may have seen the logo on churches or buses.' Thus began a conversation about faith, God, the difference an experience of Christ makes to one's life and the believability of the evidence for Christ. Stephen kept pumping me with questions but after 20 minutes I had to go. I referred him to the website where he could read the booklet and suggested we meet for coffee. It was a novel place to witness and I'm praying he gets into the right lane."*

- **Clinic.** Andrew - not a believer - had been blown away at his C.O.P.D. clinic because the nurse had a trypraying booklet in her room. Referring to the booklet she had said, 'Sometimes this is all the hope I can give people.' Since that meeting, mentioned in our last mailing, Andrew obtained another four booklets and took them to her. This is a case of the unbeliever resourcing the believer to witness!
- **C.A.P.** "Thanks so much for sending through the books. One of my clients was impacted through reading the trypraying booklet and will be going to church for the first time this Sunday!"

Of course we don't always see God visibly at work like this, but the blessing of seeing good things happen in one place encourages us to trust God for things not yet seen in other places.

I plan to order some more booklets – some could be made available in the groups that are, and will be, using the church over the winter period. Also, people do take them from the box in front of the church and it would be good to keep that going even if we don't know the impact of it.

Christine Thomas

Tuesday Lunch: Tuesday 11th October 2022

October's lunch will be Cottage Pie. The lunch is open to all. If you would like to come, please would you let me know, thank you.

Sue S:

Church Ramble

The next walk will be on Wednesday 19th October at 10.00am – venue tba.

Tony T

Harvest

Les Greenway always brought the largest onions to place with the other harvest gifts in Church. All kinds of vegetables were on display plus a glass of water and a piece of coal. One year some clever clogs had the idea to have “A Harvest of Industry” We had all kinds of things including a motor car wheel that we produced at the factory where I worked.

Harvest is about bringing the best gifts we can and placing them before God. It is an old idea that goes back to Old Testament times. Things have changed and many of us will bring non-perishable gifts to add to our “harvest” display. Not many of us grow vegetables these days.

We hear at times about the health and wealth Gospel. People say if we trust in God then good health and abundant wealth are as good as guaranteed! For some it is an enticing Gospel but it does not compare with words that we hear of Jesus... “a man of sorrows” and “He gave His life that we might have life in all its fullness”.

My Bible Reading notes for one day in June took me to [2 Corinthians 9: 6-15](#). Stop reading these words and look at the Scripture!

If you read the Scripture you will have read that these verses are about Harvest, they are about Spiritual gifts given to us by God, they are about God giving to us. You will have read words like generosity, abundantly, and increase. *Verse 8 says...And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, **having all that you need**, you will abound in every good work.*

The note writer suggests to his readers *“Take stock today of the ways you have been blessed. Do not take any of it for granted. Give thanks to God for everything”.*

But then in some ways that is what Les Greenway did at Harvest time. He looked at the vegetables he had grown chose the best and then took them to Church and gave them to God. His gifts went down Windsor Street in his wheelbarrow! So is this the time we take stock of what God has given us over the past year, of what He has accomplished in us. We need to offer our thanks to Him.

George Lea

Bible Society in Ukraine – Please pray

Bible Society has worked in Ukraine for the last 30 years, translating and distributing Bibles. Its Director of International, Oldi Morava has been speaking to Premier (Christian News) about the current situation.



“Our dear colleagues are still working in Kyiv, where they have their headquarters. They are working very closely with a number of local churches and Christian organisations to distribute food and medicine, but also to distribute the Bible and especially Children's Bibles, as they go from one shelter to another.

“They have noticed that during this particularly difficult time, many people want to find strength and rest, but also comfort in their faith and in God's word. They're finding it particularly inspiring.

“They're reading the Book of Psalms for their own particular context. One of the Psalms that is becoming almost a Psalm for the whole of Ukraine is [Psalm 31](#)

“I would encourage everyone to read that, but read it from the perspective of young people, children and elderly people reading it in shelters, reading it in fear and the anxiety that they're experiencing, and see what those words actually mean to them.”

“What people in Ukraine have also experienced is this sense of unity amongst themselves and all the churches of different traditions, praying for their own people, praying for their country, but also a huge sense of solidarity around the world, from different church traditions and faiths praying for peace in Ukraine.

“I urge people to continue to pray for peace, especially for the leaders of various parties who are having to take important decisions that the Lord will change their heart and mind and they will change their plans - and those plans will be a plan for peace.

“It can feel that things are getting worse, but we need to hold fast to our faith that God is the Lord of history, and he is the one who can bring change beyond our imagination. So please pray for that.”

Rotas for October *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 Oct</i>	Karen Jones	Kathy Smith Sue Thain
<i>Sunday 9th Oct</i>	Christine Thomas	Richard Benham Carole Wallis
<i>Sunday 16th Oct</i>	David Crick	Sally Leggat Ann Martin
<i>Sunday 23rd Oct</i>	Roger Moseley	Paul Deeming Julie Payne
<i>Sunday 30th Oct</i>	Sue Saunders	Jacqui Brown Heather Crick

	<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Cashing</i>
<i>Sunday 2nd Oct</i>	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	Sally Leggat Christine Thomas
<i>Sunday 9th Oct</i>	Nessa Mason Karen Jones	Sally Leggat Tony Thomas
<i>Sunday 16th Oct</i>	Marilyn & Crawford Payne	Sally Leggat David Crick
<i>Sunday 23rd Oct</i>	Sylvia Ellis Chris Sharrock	Sally Leggat Malcom Hooke
<i>Sunday 30th Oct</i>	Carole Wallis Ruth Griffiths	Sally Leggat Christine Thomas

Wednesday at One

5 th Oct	Rev Anthony Thacker	St Mary's Church, Hinckley
12 th Oct	Rev Simon Weir	Holy Trinity Church, Hinckley
19 th Oct	Rev Pat Mukurombindo	Hinckley Methodist Church
26 th Oct	Rev John Berry	The Beacon Church, Hinckley

IMPORTANT NOTICE Church AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Church will be held on Sunday 20th November after the morning service. All are invited to attend. It has suggested that you might want to bring your lunch as there will be a fair amount of AGM business to discuss.

Thursday Afternoon Drop-in

The Thursday afternoon drop-in will open on October 6th and is part of the Warm Space initiative in Hinckley. Churches and organisations are opening their doors to provide warmth for those who can't afford to turn on their heating or are sleeping rough.

Our Church has been given a large amount of knitting wool. If anyone would like to knit hats or blankets which we can give away we would be very grateful.

We would also be grateful for donations of cakes which will go in the freezer or that have a long sell by date. If you have any questions, please see me.

Carole Wallis

Commitment for Life Prayer - October 2022

Prayer for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Commitment
for **Life**

Creator God, God of Palestine, God of Israel. When the Jubilee comes, all will be free, all will be forgiven, all will be returned. Bring a new jubilee to your Holy Land, Lord.

Let there be freedom for those who queue at checkpoints in the West Bank, freedom for those imprisoned for refusing military conscription, freedom for those blockaded in Gaza.

Let there be forgiveness for longstanding tensions between neighbours, forgiveness for acts that stem from fear instead of love, and we ask for forgiveness for own country's history in dividing the Holy Land.

Let refugees return to their homes, let olive trees be returned to their farmers, let the persecuted return to a place of safety.

Let our call for justice and peace be the trumpet call that heralds the Land's jubilee.

Amen

Diana Paulding

Hope into Action update

The church Hope into Action Group have begun looking for houses within a 10-to-15-minute walk of church. These will be forwarded to Hope into Action who will then look at the houses and buy one if they think it suitable. All of the money for the house will come from them. We are hoping to have a house ready for tenants by January.



This will need to be furnished so if you are thinking of getting rid of furniture, crockery, cutlery etc please consider donating it to us.

If you have any queries, please speak to *Karen, Lesley, Richard, Malvolia or Carole*

URC Church Life Review Group Request

As we celebrate our 50th Jubilee, the URC Church Life Review Group would like to hear your perceptions by discussing the questions below. You may do so at any convenient gathering, and we encourage you to think about reflecting on the questions during worship on the 30th October. Supporting worship material will be available via the Daily Devotions and Worship Notes accessed at www.unc.org.uk

1. The Jubilee year was a time of great joy. Reflect quietly on a time when you have felt most joyful in your church life.
2. The Jubilee year was a time of celebration. What would you like to celebrate about the United Reformed Church?
3. The Jubilee year was a time of liberation. Are there any church burdens that, if freed of, would liberate you to flourish?
4. The Jubilee year was a time of economic transformation and big dreams. If money was no object, what would you invest in to make your local church more effective?

Responses are requested by Monday 28th November. Please upload your response to <https://tinyurl.com/URCJubilee> or email churchlifereview@unc.org.uk or send by post to Church Life Review, 21 Crawford Gardens, Rutherglen. G73 4JP.

Honour the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce;

Proverbs 3:9

URC 50th Anniversary

This year sees the 50th anniversary of the formation of the URC, you were asked if you had memories of the discussions leading up to the 'Borough Congs' becoming Hinckley United Reformed Church.



Keith writes...

I was present in 1972 when the decision to join URC was made, but I can't remember much of the discussions which took place. The Church Minutes will reveal more.

I do recall there was some reluctance to give up the independence of the Congregational Church and the revered name of the 'Boro' Congs'. Church meetings then were held in what is now 'The Vine' and I can still visualise one committed and very active servant of the congregation getting up and leaving, never to return.

The initial vote did not achieve the required majority so, at a later vote, a number of we younger members arranged baby sitters and took our wives with us. For better or for worse this ensured a majority in favour and here we are today.

George recalls this...

I was at Burbage Congregational, our home Church, at that time PJ Thompson, known as PJ, was our Lay Pastor.

We had a number of Church meetings where the proposals were discussed for forming the URC from the Presbyterian Churches and the Congregational Churches. The deacons of the Church met a number of times with those from the Borough Congs.

My recollection is that it was disclosed at one meeting that there would be no room for Lay Pastors in the URC.

The Burbage Church invited two speakers to address us on the pros and cons of the proposals. First there was Graham Adams, then Pastor at the Narborough Church, and he was against the merger and that came over loudly and clearly.

The second visitor was WC Jones who was for the merger, sadly many of us thought he did not make the case for merger very clear.

What concerned many of the members was the threat that we would lose our minister should we join the URC, and of course PJ made this clear to us.

The vote was taken at a very special Church meeting, the rules were explained, members voted, the votes counted. There were only 3 or 4 who voted to join the URC, the rest were against it.

Well, both Churches are still meeting and worshipping, I am pleased to say...

From the church history:

- **1971** The Congregational Church in England & Wales Assembly voted 89% in favour of the Union; the Presbyterian Assembly voted 79.3% in favour, and the scheme was referred back to local churches for their decision on whether or not to join the proposed United Reformed Church by 17th December
- Church Meeting on 27th October votes on the Scheme of Union, but fails to raise the required majority [43 votes cast, of which 28 in favour and 15 against. 75% of votes needed for approval.]
- **1972** Congregational Church in England & Wales reported that 1,668 churches had voted in favour of the Scheme of Union (73.7% of the churches)
- Special Church Meeting on 25th October votes in favour of the Scheme of Union (61 votes cast, of which 50 were in favour)
- **1973** Last Church Meeting as a Congregational Church held on 2nd May.
- First Church Meeting as Hinckley URC held on 23rd May
- Leicestershire District of URC has 20 churches, 11 ministers and 1,528 members, and Hinckley URC has the second largest membership (after St.Stephen`s, Leicester)

Recalling the Ministry for August - September 2022

(As largely seen on the Church Web Site as THE WEDNESDAY WORD)

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

-----000-----

In reflection on the message for Sunday 21st August 2022.

Call to Worship, Psalm 71:1-6

In you, LORD, I have taken refuge.

Extracts from Jeremiah 1:4-10 **The Call of Jeremiah.**

Sermon – **Unqualified but Chosen.** When God calls us to serve Him, we may not feel qualified for the task. But God promises that He will “walk with us” providing help. God anoints us, providing the authority for us to follow the calling He has given us, as Jesus did for His apostles (Mark Ch. 3, v 14-15).

We shared Communion together.

-----000-----

In reflection on the message for Sunday 28th August 2022

Call to Worship, Psalm 105. v1: **Give praise to the LORD.**

proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

v2f: **Sing to him, give praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name.**

Story - 1. **The Waiting Room for Judgment.** The Judge considers the appellant who is charged with multiple sinning – the wages of sin are death says Satan. But The Defence Lawyer says, Payment for the sins is made in full by the death of Jesus on the Cross, because the appellant is a Christian. The Judge, God, declares Freedom and Everlasting Life.

Extracts from John 3:1-21 **Jesus Teaches Nicodemus**

Nicodemus, a Pharisee and member of the Jewish Ruling Council. considers whether Jesus has come from God. Jesus replied:

v3: **“I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”**

Nicodemus asks, v4: **“How can someone be born when they are old.”**

Jesus explained, v5f: **“No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the spirit. The Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

v7f: **You should not be surprised at me saying, ‘you must be born again.’”**

Jesus explains to Nicodemus that only if he believes this can he have eternal life

The truth is, v16f: **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,**

that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life....

...Light came into the world and...

v21: **...whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen**

plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Sermon:

Story – 2. **John, Ch. 3, v16.** A little boy is selling papers in a cold street to make a few coins. He has nowhere to sleep except a box, so he asks a policeman where he can find a warmer place to sleep. The policeman shows him an imposing building and tells him to go there and knock and say John, Ch. 3, v16. The boy did so and said John, Ch. 3, v16. And he was welcomed in and given food, a warm bath, a warm bed and breakfast the next morning.

They explained what John, Ch. 3, v16 meant and he decided what a good idea it was, particularly as he saw the snowflakes falling outside, so they let him stay in heaven with everlasting life.

-----OOO-----

In reflection on the message for Sunday 4th September 2022.

Call to Worship, Psalms, 139: 1-6, 13-18

v1: **You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.**

v13: **For you created my inmost being.**

And an audio from Revelations about God being Worthy of Worship.

Extracts from Luke 14:25-30. **The Cost of Being a Disciple**

V25f: Jesus addressed large crowds saying, **“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple...**

...Those of you who do not give up everything cannot be my disciples.”

Philemon 1:1-21

Sermon – **There is a price to pay.**

Part I: this is self-evident in the Luke Reading. To be a disciple one needed to give up everything, including one’s own life, to serve Jesus.

Part II: the congregation was asked to take part in a study of the Book of Philemon. Sections of those present were each asked to consider what each character in the story, Paul, Philemon or Onesimus might experience, once the result of Onesimus’ return to the slave master Philemon took place. It seems that the latter had a Church in his home and shared with Paul “Faith in the Lord Jesus”.

Onesimus, a slave, appears to have been “useful” to Paul and had been converted to belief in Christ and so now becoming “useful” to both Philemon and Paul – “as a brother in the Lord”.

(Yet still a slave amongst Philemon’s other slaves?)

Who has a price to pay? Philemon, perhaps, whose “slaves” are now free in his home church? Or is it Onesimus who is still nominally a slave, but still has Faith in Jesus? Or is it both?

There was an analogy made with our Church Meetings, where although all present are equal in Faith, perhaps they are often led by those with “The Gifts of The Spirit” .

-----000-----

In reflection on the message for Sunday 11th September 2022

Words were expressed noting that Queen Elizabeth II was at peace in Jesus, and that her son is now King Charles III.

Call to Worship, Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Extracts from Isaiah 11:1-9 **The Branch From Jesse**

v1f: **A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: from his roots, a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him.**

The hopes for a peaceful future for Israel are outlined in detail.

Extracts from Acts 2:14-21 **Peter Addresses the Crowd**

When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost,

v14f: **Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:**

(speaking in “tongues” - to each person in his own language)

“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you;

listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk.

No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.”

v17f : **“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit to all people....**

showing the wonders of the heavens above.

When the earth below, suffers the ultimate disasters:

v20f:..**At the great and glorious day of the Lord everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

Sermon: The reading from Isaiah is his vision (manifesto?) for a peaceful future for Israel, (v9) **with the earth filled with the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.**

If anyone has such a vision for the future of our church, they should make it known. The reading from Acts is Joel’s vision of judgement day. Those who have accepted the Spirit and believe in Christ will receive life everlasting

-----000-----

In reflection on the message for Sunday18th September 2022.

We were called to Worship with prayers and the Lord’s prayer and we kept a minute of silence in memory of the Queen’s death.

Extracts from 1 Timothy 2: 1-7 Instructions on Worship

Paul writes to Timothy, v1f: **I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour.**

Extracts from Matthew 28:18-20 The Great Commission.

v18f: Jesus said, **“ All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all.”**

Talk – To obey The Great Commission one must get away from ones cosy Church.

The Christian Motorcyclists 'Association (**MCA**) does this by setting up **Holy Joes** - refreshment tents at motorcycle festivals, some of which attract as many as a hundred non-Christian motorcyclists and often last for several days. After tiring activities the participants need a quiet place to refresh. The **MCA** tent is a place where they can do this and the 'Holy Joes' are able to raise religious topics and explain them in answer to questions. After the talk, the congregation shared Communion.

-----000-----

Thanks to Brian Beagley for summarising these services for us

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.

Robert Louis Stevenson

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the foreigner: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 23:22

Advance Notice

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

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

Job Description: Sprouts assistant (Family Worker)

Title: “Sprouts” assistant (Family Worker)

Employer: Hinckley United Reformed Church.

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

Salary: -N/A Voluntary.

Aim of the post

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

Core Responsibilities

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

Role Responsibilities

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

Person Specification

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

Next Steps

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

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

DBS Requirements apply to this role

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 2nd October – Lunch following Morning Service (Harvest)

Sunday 6th November -Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 20th November AGM (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 12th October 7.30pm (*Note change of date*)

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 November edition of Contact by Sunday 20th October. Articles can be emailed to dghc1@btinternet.com. The next edition of Contact will be available by Sunday 27th October.

Thank you to everybody who has submitted articles this month.

Did you hear about the old farmer who won the Nobel prize for agriculture?

He had been outstanding in his field for 50 years!