

# Contact

February 2024



***In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:6***

**The Borough, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1NL**

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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	tbc	

## Worship in February (10.45 am unless stated)

4 <sup>th</sup> February	Rev Andrew Mudharara
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Paul Wake
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Rev Andrew Mudharara <i>(including Holy Communion)</i> <i>Church meeting to follow the service</i>
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Rev Lesley Moseley

## Warm Space Drop-in (Thursday pm)

February 1<sup>st</sup> Chris and Kathy  
February 8<sup>th</sup> Ruth and Sylvia  
February 15<sup>th</sup> Phillip and Sue  
February 22<sup>nd</sup> Kate and Ann  
February 29<sup>th</sup> Chris and Kathy  
March 7<sup>th</sup> Ruth and Sylvia

## Minister's letter February 2024

Greeting to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who calls us to follow Him, watching and observing what He is doing so that we can learn to do the same. My prayer is that we may continue following Christ as a church and individuals and desiring to know Christ better each and every day of our lives.

I feel God nudging us towards intentionally proclaiming the message of God's love for all people and God's desire to have a personal relationship with all peoples (Proclamation of the good news), God's desire for us to make disciples of all nations teaching them to observe all the commandments taught to us ( Mathew 28:18-20) (Discipling one another) and taking care of each other as a body of Christ (Pastorally nurturing each other). God has entrusted these three elements to the Church. It is a great privilege to have God wanting to partner with us in the mission of ushering God's Kingdom in our communities. We each have a role to play in the life of the Kingdom of our God (1Corinthians 12:27). God has made us to be co-heirs of the Kingdom with Jesus His Son (Romans 8:17).

My encouragement this year to the church is to invite people we interact with throughout the week to "come and see" (John 1:46) what our God is doing in our midst and giving the people the opportunity to experience God in our gatherings. We have a responsibility to invite people to take part in the Kingdom as ambassadors of this Kingdom.

Discipling one another as believers is important for our growth as we sharpen each other in the Kingdom and helping us to be effective members of the body of Christ. Discipling is the process of walking alongside someone and helping each other as we all follow Christ. We have to allow ourselves to be helped by others and also taking every opportunity to help others grow in the relationship with God and each other. We should all genuinely seek to disciple others and to be disciplined by others.

Looking after each other as a local church is paramount to our being an attractive and drawing Kingdom. Jesus said through our loving and caring of each other shall all peoples know that we are the disciples of Jesus.

We have to allow Jesus to disciple and take care of us through His church at the same time allowing Jesus to work through us to disciple and taking care of others thereby by proclaiming the Kingdom our God. Blessings.

Rev Andrew Mudharara

## **News of the Family**

We remember Ethel F who passed away 7<sup>th</sup> January. Ethel's funeral will be 12<sup>th</sup> February at 12 midday. Condolences to Janet and all of Ethel's family and friends.

We pray for:

Dennis who is in hospital with chest infection and in need of more care.

Julie P's mum, Beryl, who has suffered a stroke.

Wendy H who is quite unwell at this time, and Malcolm caring for Wendy.

Along with those above, a number of the congregation have been unwell over Christmas and need our prayers:

Trevor is home now from another spell in hospital.

Nessa, as she prepares to move to Worcester to live with her daughter.

Arthur W, Paul and Annette, Ruth, Kathy continuing her recovery, Keith G, Richard P after his Op and Sue Ta and her family.

Please also think of:

Ann M, Betty H, Betty L, Jan and Brian B, Jean C, Joan L, Joyce M, Joyce W, Keith H, Lily S, Margaret and Peter G, Muriel L, Dave S .

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 S

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Congratulations to all those celebrating birthdays in February:

George L (on the 4<sup>th</sup>), Wendy H and Keith G (on the 5<sup>th</sup>), Callum C (on the 16<sup>th</sup> ), Robyn C and Richard B (on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ), Steve W (on the 28<sup>th</sup> ).

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.

*Thank you to everyone who sent cards and heartfelt messages after mum passed away (Ethel). It was a great comfort.*

*Mum's funeral will be at Hinckley URC on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 12 o'clock. All welcome.*

Janet A and family

*Lesley and Roger would like to thank everyone for the Christmas greetings and cards we received. We have not sent cards this year but made a donation to Hope into Action.*

## **A message from Postman Pat**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for using my special Postbox for your Christmas cards. Very proud to say you posted over 550 cards to your friends! Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

From Postman Pat, Kathy and Ian who all say thank you and God bless you all.

## **Community Interest Company information**

### **What is a community interest company (CIC)?**

It is a not-for-profit organisation registered at Company House. It has the validation & accreditation of a limited company without the additional requirements for charity status. The CIC focuses on one aspect in a community. This may be a geographical area, a community group (online or physical) or a single project.

Community interest companies: forms and step-by-step guides - GOV.UK  
([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

### **What is required to set up a CIC?**

A declaration of the aims of the CIC, documents (chiefly articles of association & a constitution), several trustees (without being directly related through birth or marriage) & a CIC bank account.

### **Why set up a CIC?**

There are a number of reasons beneficial to our outreach:

- It acts as an outreach gateway to those individuals that do not feel comfortable being involved with a church. Sadly, a community project run through a relevant CIC seems more approachable to some than one run by a church.
- It allows secular organisations that are agencies in the community more latitude in partnering on projects. For example, national local authority guidelines caution local authorities from working directly with religious organisations. It is regarded as irrelevant if this is a

community-minded church or a religious body espousing extremist views.

- Working in the community or alongside community organisations in projects, it provides access to certain grants that solely religious organisations are excluded from. Many aspects of community partnerships and building relationships with the community are deemed of enough benefit to be grant funded. These grants can offset some of the expenses of outreach work if they are deemed to make a positive contribution (mentally, physically & emotionally) to individuals in the community.

## What type of projects can be covered by a CIC & how can they be more than empty works?

Below is a table of some of the projects that were run in Yorkshire through a CIC, all of which we wholly or part funded through various community grants:

Project	Proposition to receive secular funding	Outreach Opportunities
Parent & baby/toddler group	Peer support group for parents/guardians, encourage physical & emotional development with children (through singing & activities).	To share the Gospel with young children through Faith-based songs & activities. For the church to show God's love for the community. An avenue to evangelise.
Sports-related activities	To engage young people, not engaged by traditional sports, to engage in regular physical activity. Also as a crime distraction project, especially anti-county lines.	To witness & teach of the glory of God through the avenue of sport.  To create a trusted relationships to disciple young Christians.
Men's counselling sessions	To provide peer & counselling support for men struggling with poor mental health.	To spiritually comfort & support men with poor mental health.
Social events & activities for people over retirement age.	Several projects; including a community allotment, social activities and an activity/social activity for those with limited mobility.	To share the Gospel. For the church to show God's love for the community. An avenue to evangelise.

The above groups were the most fruitful in terms of people that subsequently joined the church & made a profession of their Faith. There are positive case studies from each of the above groups, which also led to a number establishing a relationship with Jesus.

### **How much will the CIC cost the church?**

Nothing. Like Paul the apostle's tent-repairing activities, the work of the CIC will not be a financial burden on the church and be self-sufficient in its work, with the Lord bringing provision through various grant funders.

### **How will our church be involved?**

Two or three voluntary trustees appointed from within the church membership to oversee the community interest company and ensure its accountability. Projects funded through the community interest company should be determined and agreed through the church assembly.

### **Would appointed trustees be liable for any losses?**

Short answer, no. The primary advantage, as for other businesses operating as a limited company, is limited liability. This provides an important element of security for those who own and manage the business. At the same time, it provides some protection for any assets related to the social enterprise, which would not generally be available for an unincorporated entity – where they will often be held in the names of individuals.

Limited liability refers to the legal protection that shields the owners of a business from personal liability for the debts and obligations of the business. In the event of the business facing financial difficulties or legal issues, the owners' personal assets are NOT at risk beyond their investment in the business. As the trustees are not asked to provide funds, this entails purely any voluntary time spent.

*Paul Wake, Outreach Worker.*

## **Tuesday Lunch Event: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

February's lunch is Jacket potatoes and salad.

The donations from December's lunch of £200 was sent to Lawrence House, who have sent a very nice thank you letter.

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

Sue S

## **Prayer for Global Justice Now**

By the Global Justice team

Dear God,

While the world's people are battered by the effects of a cost of living crisis, the worst pandemic in a century, and disastrous climate change, the profits of the biggest firms on the planet nearly doubled.

We pray for those who are affected by these injustices, for those whose livelihoods are destroyed by the greed of corporations, for those who are denied access to life-saving medicines, and for those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

We pray that you give strength and courage to those fighting for solidarity, equality and justice. May their voices be heard, and their actions inspire others to join them in their fight.

We pray that governments and corporations around the world recognise their responsibility to protect human rights, the environment, and the common good, and take concrete action to promote justice and fairness. Amen.

## **Encouraging words**

Don't worry about anything; pray about everything; don't forget to thank God for the answers.

*Derived from Phillipians 4, verses 6&7.*

## **Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester**

Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which Thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which Thou has borne for me, o merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother. May I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly and follow Thee more nearly. Amen.

*Thank you to Ruth for sharing these.*

Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?  
Are you still prepared to follow?  
Have you made a choice to remain and serve,  
though the way be rough and narrow?

Refrain

*Will you walk the path that will cost you much  
and embrace the pain and sorrow?  
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you  
the disciples of tomorrow?*

Will you use your voice; will you not sit down  
when the multitudes are silent?  
Will you make a choice to stand your ground  
when the crowds are turning violent?

In your city streets will you be God's heart?  
Will you listen to the voiceless?  
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start,  
will you share your faith with the faithless?

Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith  
and believe it could be different?  
Will you share your views using words of grace?  
Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

*Refrain*

## **Membership course – for everyone!**

We have recently welcomed six new members. Before we formally welcome them in a worship service we will be offering a membership course. The course will take place on Wednesday evenings during Lent, from 21<sup>st</sup> February till 20<sup>th</sup> March. Time still to be finalised. Although this course is offered primarily to new members, **anyone who wants to understand more about the United Reformed Church** and the responsibilities and rewards of membership through study and discussion. We'll share a cuppa too. If you are interested please speak to Lesley so that we can prepare enough material for everyone. Any/all questions are welcome before and during the course.

## Monthly Church Ramble

A small group of 7 and a dog enjoyed the bright winter sunshine for a walk in the suburbs of Hinckley. It was very chilly so we were all wrapped up against the cold. The walk started from the Hansom Cab, walking down towards the A5 and then returning via Sketchley Lane and Burbage. Unfortunately the numbers were reduced due to so many people still recovering from winter colds and Covid coughs.

This month's walk will be on February 20<sup>th</sup>, venue to be announced. Please let Tony know if you will be walking.

## News from The Vine

Did you know that Easter is early this year?! As a result we will have our Easter cards, books, bookmarks, Easter Eggs, Mothering Sunday cards on display earlier than usual to help you get what you need in good time. Each time we put new stock out we will post it on our social media (on Facebook we are The Vine Coffee Shop Hinckley and on Instagram we are thevinebookshop). If you are not on social media, why not join our email mailing list to get the same updates? Either ask to be signed up next time you are in the shop or email us on [thevinehinckley@btconnect.com](mailto:thevinehinckley@btconnect.com) to be added to the list – you can opt out at any time.

Lent begins on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February and we have a selection of study guides to follow during the six weeks of Lent. We'll also be doing our usual Pancake Day special on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> with a one-off menu of savoury and sweet pancakes, served from 10.30-2.30.

For a long time we have been selling second hand Christian books and are very grateful for all donations. Recently we have been making a little extra money for The Vine by selling books online – these can be any type of book so if you are having a clear-out of books we would be happy to receive donations of books whether Christian or not.

As usual we are in need of volunteers, particularly for Wednesdays and Fridays. We are especially in need of people who can do food preparation. If you think you can help then please be in touch with Jessica on 01455 612345 or [thevinehinckley@btconnect.com](mailto:thevinehinckley@btconnect.com) or drop in for a chat.

*Jessica Harrison, Manager*

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

	<b><i>Duty Elder</i></b>	<b><i>Door Steward</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>	Christine Thomas	Kathy Smith Sue Thain
<b><i>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>	Rob Cobb	Sue Saunders Julie Payne
<b><i>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>	Sue Sanders	Jacqui Brown Heather Crick
<b><i>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>	David Crick	Ann Martin Paul Deeming
<b><i>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</i></b>	Christine Thomas	Sally Leggat Julie Payne
	<b><i>Coffee</i></b>	<b><i>Flowers</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	
<b><i>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>	Marilyn & Crawford Payne	R. Cobb
<b><i>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>	Sylvia Ellis Chis Sharrock	
<b><i>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>	Ruth Griffiths Karen Jones	S. Ellis
<b><i>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</i></b>	Carole Wallis Jacqui Brown	

## **Wednesday at One**

February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rev George Lea	Hinckley URC
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Anthony Thacker	St. Mary's, Hinckley
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mr John Moore	St. John's, Hinckley
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Andrew Mudharara	Hinckley URC
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Robin Handsford	Hinckley Great Meeting

## **Dates for your Diary**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Church meeting after service, including Treasurer's annual financial report

## **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

**Wednesday-at-One** – Wednesday 1.00pm

## **Wednesday Monthly House Group**

7.30pm at the Crick's Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

**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.*

## **Editor's note**

As some of you may be aware, I am handing over the editing of Contact. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed items and supported me in this role.

Penny R

Please submit material for the March edition of Contact by **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February**. The next edition of Contact will be available by **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February**.