

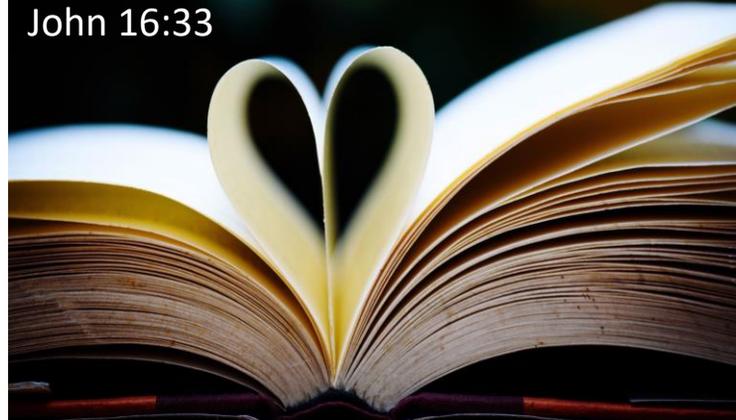
Contact

March 2024

GREETINGS to the March edition of CONTACT, the newsletter for Hinckley United Reformed Church. We are well into the period of lent as we ready ourselves for Easter, the highlight of the Christian year. From the preparation of our heart over lent, we enter the solemnity of Holy Week, before the triumph of Resurrection Sunday.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33



A BIG THANK YOU to Penny Randriamahavorisoa for the last year of excellent editorship of CONTACT newsletter. I, Paul Wake, will be taking it on with light hands so if anyone has an interest in the role then I would be happy to work together or hand the baton on. In the meantime, please forward any articles to Paul Wake (community@hinckleyurc.org.uk).



Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9 NIV

Minister's Letter

Rev Andrew Mudharara

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:1-7 (NIV)



The Church was experiencing growth and the growth of the Church included people from different cultural and racial backgrounds. This diversity in the church brought its challenges and there was a need for the Church to address the challenges. We are not told how long it took the Twelve to hear about the oversight or how long it took to resolve the situation.

Minister's Letter *(continued)*

The conflict between the Hebrews and the Hellenists was a division over language and culture. The Hellenists were Greek-speaking Jews. They raised concern that the Aramaic-speaking Jews, likely natives, overlook the Hellenistic widows in the distribution of food. "Widows" may imply any who were disadvantaged in some way. The Hellenists were most likely immigrants and a minority in this new community of believers.

The community may have been in denial that the Hellenistic widows were being overlooked. This is one of the greatest challenges we have in our world and Church today. There are many people who are in denial that there are groups of people in the community being overlooked. If the community is in denial, then the community will do nothing about the pain of their fellow human beings. Sometimes denial of the injustice is a coping mechanism for the community when afraid to confront the injustice around us. I wonder how those who were "whinging" about being overlooked were viewed by those who may have been in denial that there was a problem.

Acknowledging that there is a problem is a challenge, in the sense that you would have to have a "word" with the perpetrators and it's not easy when you are part of the community and the victims are also part of the community.

Challenging injustice is the mandate of the community, not just individuals. We all have the responsibility to challenge one another when it comes to injustice among us but it is not an easy task to do. The twelve handled the situation by asking the community to choose from amongst them "men known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" (verse 3). There was need for wisdom to deal with the situation.

Fear of the powerful voices who may want to maintain the status quo is a big challenge that Paul had to deal with publicly in ***Galatians 2:11-21***. Paul had to speak to Cephas to his face about being two-faced for fear of standing up for the marginalised - in this case Gentiles, but Christians.

Speaking up against injustice is not always welcome. Instead of being supported and heard sometimes people are labelled "trouble - makers" to shut them up.

We are all called by God to speak up against any oppression of any peoples by any peoples anywhere.

NEWS FROM THE VINE

Christian Book &
Coffee Shop
(Jessica Harrison)



Thank you to everyone who has been bringing in their donations of second hand books (of all varieties!). They are greatly appreciated and are helping us get some much needed extra revenue. Please keep them coming in and do let your friends know as well!

Another way you can help us is to become a Friend of The Vine. Friends are people who are passionate about The Vine and are keen to help its ministry continue in Hinckley. They donate a monthly amount of at least £5.00 by standing order. In return they receive (along with our sincere gratitude) a news-letter each month plus two vouchers for free drinks and a 10% off voucher to spend on gifts and books in The Vine (excluding fair-trade goods). We have leaflets on the counter that tell you more or please speak to the manager if you are interested.

Our Take Note and Kids Corner books are now in stock with lots of titles for Easter (especially for children) plus lots of other exciting new titles for all ages including devotionals, biographies, novels and Bibles – all at great discounts.

We have a selection of cards for Mothering Sunday (10th March) plus lots of great gift ideas from mugs, notelets, boxed pens, books, fairly traded crafts and chocolates!

Thursday 6th March is World Book Day and as usual we will have a selection of titles for all ages available for just £1.00 each! There are always some great bargains to be had – only while stocks last!

Throughout Lent we will be serving hot cross buns as an addition to our usual menu – served oven warmed, toasted or as they come with butter and jam if you like it!

We will be closed for the whole of the Easter weekend including Good Friday, Easter Saturday and the Bank Holiday Monday.

CHURCH RAMBLE (Tony Thomas) This morning was a lovely day for walking. There were eight of us altogether on the gentle paced 3 mile walk and yet the walk was finished in what seemed like no time at all. The weather was mild and the skies cleared. The spring flowers were everywhere - Pansies in Hollycroft Park, Daffs and Crocuses in the gardens. Also Cherry Blossom, Camelia and others. What a grand day to enjoy each others company and appreciate God's creation. The March walk will take place on Tuesday 19th so hopefully by then the fields will have dried out and we will be able to do something more adventurous. Details of the venue will be announced nearer the date.

Loaded

LOADED is the name of our work with young people in our community. We are delighted to continue to host the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides unformed groups.

As a church we believe strongly in supporting young people in our community, including supporting education in our area. March sees us continuing to deliver assemblies, ethics classes, and religious education.

If you are connected to a school or college in the area and would be interested, please email community@hinckleyurc.org.uk or call 07591 527942.

2024 also sees our physical active initiative brought to Hinckley. Currently we are working with



NUNEATON JAGUARS American Football team in delivering activities into local Hinckley schools and some community pop-up sessions.

Finally, we hope to be announcing an exciting new partnership with a local not-for-profit group that work to support young people to develop in a fun environment. Look out for it in next month's Contact.

Family



STAY & PLAY / SPARKLERS /SPROUTS

Experienced children's worker, Rachel, heads up our children's team. We run a very welcoming and friendly group for children under 5yrs with their parent/guardian on Mondays.

This group is ideal for all parents, grandparents and guardians. Our Wednesday group is more focused on supporting children with childminders. Activities at both groups include play time with a selection of toys, books & games. Also refreshments and some interactive singing.

Our Sprouts group happens during our church service on Sunday with opportunities for children to learn and grow in a fun & safe environment.

FAIR TRADE ANNIVERSARY

It is the 30th anniversary of the FAIRTRADE Mark in the UK this year. That means 30 years of farmers and workers around the world driving positive change in their communities, using the power generated when you choose Fairtrade.

Today, your Fairtrade commitment is more important as ever, as farmers take on rising costs and the climate crisis.

Fairtrade accredited products are available from major supermarkets in Hinckley and all over the country ... look out for the logos on tea, coffee, hot chocolate, bananas, chocolate, roses, clothing and gold.

Look for these logos when out shopping (the logo with the black back ground is used nationwide, and the white background logo is used more in Aldi and Lidl) -



Also, in March, to mark **Red Nose Day** why not head down to TK Maxx and grab yourself a special piece of Red Nose Day clothing to support Fairtrade cotton farmers from Western Uganda. All of the cotton in TK Maxx's Red Nose Day T-shirts, sweatshirts, totes, pouches and aprons is Fairtrade certified.

Sourced from the Rwenzori Farmers Marketing Co-operative Society in Uganda, this co-operative made up of over 500 farmers has been supplying Fairtrade certified cotton for TK Maxx since 2012 and has been using the benefits of certification to raise incomes and send their children to school.

Our Church is a Fairtrade accredited church and we hope to be able to celebrate the national Fairtrade Fortnight (which will be 9th to 22nd September) again this year with a Fairtrade Breakfast ... look out for details in *Contact* nearer the time.

For more information on Fairtrade please speak with either Phillip Lindley or Carole Wallis.

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Deuteronomy 8:10

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

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SAFEGUARDING	Chris Sharrock	-	chris.sharrock@ntl.world

Easter Services

28th Mar 7pm | Maundy Thursday Communion | Rev Lesley Moseley

31st Mar 9am | Easter Sunday Breakfast Communion | Rev Lesley Moseley

31st Mar 10:45am | Easter Sunday | Rev Andrew Mudharara

Wednesday @One Services

Weds 1pm 6th Mar

Weds 1pm 13th Mar

Weds 1pm 20th Mar

Weds 1pm 27th Mar

Rev Robin Handsford (Hinckley Great Meeting)

Rev Daniel Cheyne (Hinckley URC)

Mr Paul Wake (Hinckley URC)

Rev Andrew Hall (St Catherine, Burbage)

What's On

- MONDAY** **STAY & PLAY** | Children's Playgroup
Welcome to all with children 5yrs & under
10am-noon (side entrance)
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GROUP | Help &
support for those with English as a 2nd language
noon—2pm (side entrance)
- WEDNESDAY** **SPARKLERS** | Children's Playgroup (5yrs & below)
Group primarily for childminders with 5yrs & under
9:30-11:30am (side entrance)
WEDNESDAY @ONE | ecumenical service for all
1pm-1:30pm (front entrance)
- THURSDAY** **DROP-IN** Chat & Coffee/Tea. All welcome
2-4pm (front entrance)
- FRIDAY** **PRAYER GROUP** | All welcome
10-11am (front entrance)
- SUNDAY** **SERVICE** | All welcome. Children's group.
10:45am-noon (front entrance)

MONTHLY PRAYER WALK | All welcome

Friday 29th March 9am at the top of Castle Street,
Hinckley. Ending at the church @9:45am.

HOUSEGROUP (CRICK) Wednesday 13th March 7:30pm | at the Manse
(COBB) to be confirmed.

Anyone not in a Housegroup and would like to, please
contact David C, Rob C or Paul Wake.

Coming Soon



ORGAN RECITAL

@ Hinckley United Reformed Church

Saturday 18th May 3pm

DAVID SAINT

*(Director of Music at St Chad's RC
Cathedral, Birmingham)*

ADMISSION: Adults - £5;
Under 18s / students - Free

