

*Hinckley*  
UNITED  
REFORMED  
CHURCH

# Contact

## May 2024

**WELCOME** to the May edition of CONTACT, the newsletter for those associated with Hinckley United Reformed Church.

**PHYSICAL SPRING** is truly upon us as we see God's creation in its full explosion of blossom. While we have the benefit of lush greenery, please spare a thought and prayerful consideration for those farmers dealing with the issue of wet fields.

**Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.**

**James 5:7 NIV**



**SPIRITUAL SPRING** truly begins on Easter Sunday, as we marked the Lord's victory for us over sin & death with His resurrection on this momentous day. How fitting that we had the blessing to welcome new members into the church and, more importantly, be there at the baptism of another citizen in the Kingdom of Heaven.

# ***"Where you from?"***

Paul Wake  
Community & Outreach

As we go to press our beloved minister, Reverend Andrew Mudharara, is away for a few weeks visiting the country of his birth and taking a well-earned rest from his ministry duties.

Our minister is further afield in Zimbabwe of course, but due to the blessing of our youngest daughter's 21<sup>st</sup> and the sadness of a family funeral, my wife & I had to travel between Yorkshire & the East Midlands a number of times recently. It led to me to contemplate how I would describe myself to others when asked where I am from. Would I call myself a "Midlander", though only having lived here a short time, or would I call myself an "exiled Yorkshireman". This lends itself to the cliché that "You can take the person out of Yorkshire, but you can never take the Yorkshire out of the person".

Is it important to acknowledge where we are from? Well God believes it is as many times we are told where figures are from in the Bible and how a geographical location can sometimes determine some of the character of a person.

This even related to Jesus, known as the Nazarene. Born in Bethlehem and exiled as a baby. Whether projected or real, even Jesus was tainted with regional prejudice.

***"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.***

***"Come and see," said Philip.***

***John 1:46 NIV***

Having a sense of identity of where we are born or raised can undeniably have an affect on us, though if we are Christians our true identity lies in being citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

***There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus***

***Galatians 3:28 NIV***

Political borders may use geographical features to mark a territory, but many times mankind has decided upon an imaginary line on a map.

God does not recognise political borders. Look how quickly covid spread without acknowledgement of border control. When dawn breaks, the rays of sunshine do not have to clear passport control in each country.

A recent visit to Tennessee reminded me that I had far more values and character traits in common with those I was staying with than others, who do not believe in Jesus, that I had grown up with in my own hometown.



The ramifications of these verses carry far more significance than our fellowship with other followers of Christ in our church, our community or around the world.

# *"Where you from?" (continued)*

In a world tearing itself apart in conflict, it is important we challenge the narratives we are fed by the worldly media. As Christians we are always going to feel a spiritual affinity with Israel, but how do we square that up with the Christian community suffering in Palestine? Are they not our brothers & sisters in Christ? There are many that love the Lord in the Ukraine, but are there not many that love the Lord in Russia too?

As followers of Christ, we are called to look beyond the political world, beyond the physical world and look at all situations with a spiritual view point.

We should not condemn a whole nation or people because of the actions of its leaders, however unjust their actions. One of the most respected theologians of the twentieth century, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was a German and wrote his most Spirit-inspired work during the Nazi regime. The darkness of man's sinful heart can never extinguish God's light. No regime born of man can ever carry more authority than God.



Despite what we are fed by the media, the world cannot be divided into "good guys" & the "bad guys", like some 1950s B-movie western.

As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, our love should cross all borders. As we pray for those suffering hunger & the threat of shell fire in Gaza, we should also pray for those Israeli families suffering loss and uncertainty for their kidnapped loved ones.

The challenge for Christians is to put aside the political narrative by looking at every conflict with an eternal vision and, regardless of race or nationality, pray for all those in danger & suffering the consequences of mankind's eagerness to subjugate others.

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP IN MAY (Sunday 10:45am unless stated)**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> May  | Rev George Lea                                      |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> May | Julie Payne   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> May | Rev Andrew Mudharara (inc Holy Communion Pentecost) |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> May | Paul Wake   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June | Rev Andrew Mudharara                                |

10:45am unless stated. Followed by refreshments

THE  
VINE

**Christian Book &  
Coffee Shop  
(Jessica Harrison)**

As the weather (hopefully) starts to improve now we will have our garden open again with the option of outside seating available. This is also a lovely time of year to book an afternoon tea with us. Our popular tea needs to be booked in advance (we ask for 48 hours notice please) and consists of a selection of sandwiches, a freshly baked scone with jam and clotted cream, two types of homemade cake and a drink of your choice. All this is just £12.00 per person. We can take bookings for larger groups – just contact us and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

This month we look forward to receiving the new selection of discounted books known as "Take Note". This will have a mixture of special offers on Bibles, new titles, biography, devotionals, CDs and more. Look out for our posts on our social media once they've arrived.

We are recruiting both paid and voluntary staff again. The paid position is for a supervisor for one day a week alternating Fridays and Saturdays. We have a job description and person specification available for anyone interested. Application is by CV and covering letter. Volunteers are always needed for as much or as little time as you can spare. If you, or someone you know would be interested in joining our team please do get in touch – [thevinehinckley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thevinehinckley@hotmail.co.uk) 01455 612345.



**May's Monthly Prayer Walk** will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> (9am) at the top of Castle Street, Hinckley (where the pedestrian area starts). It 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.



## ***Loaded (Youth Ministry)***

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A recent youth mission trip to Carson Newman University, a Christian college in East Tennessee USA, has proved very fruitful. We had hoped to have some American visitors join us in June, but a sports injury has curtailed the visit. However, following meetings with several Christian organisations we will soon have some exciting sports ministry news to announce for 2025.

Our partnership with GRAYS DRAMA ACADEMY officially started after the Easter school holidays. We look forward to bringing you an update on how it is all going next edition and some news on upcoming performances.

**LOADED** (Paul "Coach" Wake) please email [community@hinckleyurc.org.uk](mailto:community@hinckleyurc.org.uk) or call 07591 527942.

## ***Family***

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By Rachel Cobb

It doesn't seem like long ago we were talking about the busy time we had over Christmas – but since then – we have been just as busy!.

Our Sprouts group on a Sunday have been looking at the book of Matthew from the very beginning – which has been fun. We have 3 children on a regular basis, but we have welcomed new faces and some of our older ones returning which has been great to catch up with them.

The Sparklers and Stay and Play have been working really well. Both groups have a good number of children, parents, grandparents and carers. The morning is full with toys, crafts, messy play and wonderful singing time – which is much appreciated. For Easter all the children received an Easter Egg and a Christian Easter story book.

I have been leading assemblies in Westfield Infant School each month – which I love!

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April we were invited by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to organise the crafts for the St George's Day event.

There were dragons, flags, faith shields and much more. We had a busy time and the children certainly had fun. It is wonderful to be working with our local council and they do appreciate our input.

In March, it was a joy to be part of the Uniform Groups Thinking Day celebrations – we worshipped together with them in church and a couple of us stayed with them throughout the day as they did lots of activities. It was such a blessing to welcome the young people. We hope they had a great day.

Thank you to everyone who prays, helps and supports the work we do.

God bless you all.



Push back  
against  
poverty



christian  
aid

## Malcolm Hooke

Many thanks for those who at short notice helped at the Christian Aid Fayre at St. Mary's on 21 April and for the donations of plants for the URC plant stall. Details of money raised at the Fayre and for the quiz will be in the June magazine.

CHRISTIAN AID week is from May 12 to 18th. Please put your donations in the CA envelopes provided and place them in the tray on the round table by the spiral stairs, during the month of May.



The CHRISTIAN AID charity Curry night at the Windsor Tiffin Burbage will be on Wednesday 26th June.

Ticket numbers are restricted so early booking is advised. Contact Malcolm Hooke if you wish to go. Cost per ticket £22.

## *Contacts & Social Media*

HINCKLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
The Borough | Hinckley | Leicestershire | LE10 1NL



01455 637518



[www.hinckleyurc.org.uk](http://www.hinckleyurc.org.uk)



Hinckley United Reformed Church "The Borough Church"



hinckley\_urc

| ROLE                 | CONTACT              | TELEPHONE                         | EMAIL  |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| MINISTER             | Rev Andrew Mudharara | 01455 634398<br>/ 07725<br>747936 | <a href="mailto:revandrew@hinckleyurc.org.uk">revandrew@hinckleyurc.org.uk</a> |
| FAMILY               | Rachel Cobb          | 07930 628011                      | <a href="mailto:repoclehar@hotmail.com">repoclehar@hotmail.com</a>             |
| OUTREACH & COMMUNITY | Paul Wake            | 07591 527942                      | <a href="mailto:community@hinckleyurc.org.uk">community@hinckleyurc.org.uk</a> |
| SAFEGUARDING         | Chris Sharrock       | -                                 | <a href="mailto:chris.sharrock@ntl.world">chris.sharrock@ntl.world</a>         |

## *Organ Recital*



***Organ Recital***  
***Saturday 18th May 3pm***

***Hinckley United Reformed Church***  
***Guest organist – David Saint***

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

## *What's On*

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- 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 24<sup>th</sup> May 9am at the top of Castle Street,  
Hinckley. Ending at the church @9:45am.

- HOUSEGROUP** (CRICK) next meeting Wednesday May 1st at the Cricks  
(looking at 2 Thessalonians)  
(COBB) To be confirmed.  
Anyone not in a Housegroup and would like to, please  
contact David C or Rob C.

**SYNOD PICNIC** (1<sup>st</sup> June) has been cancelled, due to an issue with the venue.

## *Wednesday @One Services*

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Weds 1pm 1 <sup>st</sup> May  | Mr Paul Wake (Hinckley URC)                   |
| Weds 1pm 8 <sup>th</sup> May  | Mrs Sheila Grice (Sapcote Methodist)          |
| Weds 1pm 15 <sup>th</sup> May | Pastor Derek Marvin (Trinity Lane Church)     |
| Weds 1pm 22 <sup>nd</sup> May | Rev Simon Wearn (Holy Trinity, Hinckley)      |
| Weds 1pm 29 <sup>th</sup> May | Rev Robin Handsford (Great Meeting, Hinckley) |

Wednesday at One services are an ecumenical service available to all, regardless of church or doctrine. All are welcome with teas & coffees served after the 30-minute service.