



# *Contact*

## *May '25 Edition*

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

**Holding  
hope in her  
hands**

Christian Aid Week  
11-17 May

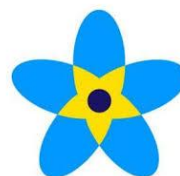


**Find out more about Aurelia later in Contact**



*Songs  
of  
Praise*

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May  
10:45am & refreshments



ALL WELCOME to our  
Songs of Praise Open Service  
(Dementia Friendly)



**Organ Recital** on the historic  
Holdich organ given by Rachel Mahon  
(Organist and Director of Music,  
Coventry Cathedral)  
**Saturday 24th May 3pm**  
@ Hinckley United Reformed Church



# What a Witness

## Hinckley & Burbage Churches Together 2025 Walk of Witness

Good Friday 2025 saw Christians from across the community walk together through Hinckley in remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.



Many of the churches across Hinckley & Burbage were represented as hundreds walked from St Peter's RC Church, down Castle Street to the Market Square. People were then invited to Hinckley United Reformed Church for refreshing drinks and mountains of buttered hot cross buns. Kathy (Hinckley URC) commented, "We've never had so many in for it". Several Christian leaders from the community led walkers in prayer, praise and an Easter message. These included Derek Marvin (Churches Together chair & Trinity Ln),



Rev Ian Hill (St Marys), Paul Wake (Hinckley URC) and Simon Cooper (CEO of Refreshment UK). Readings were done by David Cobb, Mayor Councillor Robin Webber-Jones and Deborah Cox. Hymns in the Market Square were accompanied by the Salvation Army band.

The walk was certainly a witness through the streets of Hinckley, especially during a busy Friday Castle Street market. Stall holder, Geoff, said, "You certainly couldn't miss you lot. I loved it." As well as a witness to the community, the walk was filmed by a local BBC film crew and broadcast later that day on BBC East Midlands local news (available on BBCiplayer, 18<sup>th</sup> April).

Paul Wake



## ***The Power of Prayer, part 1 by Paul Wake***

***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV**

In the Lord's Prayer we are certainly given the model of a perfect prayer. It contains elements of adoration & praise, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. More of these in later parts.

Prayer is one of the cornerstones of Christian faith, yet it is so personal. Open or clasped hands? Silent or out loud? Is there a right or wrong way to pray? Rather than getting caught up in the mechanics of praying, perhaps the most crucial point of all is that we pray in the first place.

If prayer is two-way communication with God, then silence while actively listening during prayer is just as important as relaying what lays on our hearts to Him.

May the Lord forgive my scepticism, but I doubt any Christian that tells me they pray enough. I once knew a church leader who admonished his flock for giving thanks for a space in the car park. Yet the Lord invites us to bring all those things laid on our hearts to Him. Who are we to judge others for their concerns and anxieties? I am sure if we remembered some of the concerns we had as children they would likely seem trivial to us now. When we are called to pray for one another, so we should never suppress or judge one another's prayers. Instead, we should be encouraged.



Our church has a range of opportunities to pray together communally, however you feel most comfortable to do so, about the issues laid on our hearts.

Whether in silent prayer or vocalised, we invite you to join us in prayer...

- MONDAY evening online weekly prayer group with a focus to pray for one another. Open to all.
- THURSDAY (10am) weekly prayer group with a focus to pray for the church and related activities. Open to all.
- FRIDAY (11am) weekly prayer group with a focus to pray for the community and one another. This group is open to all Christian denominations. Open to all.
- SUNDAY (10:20am) weekly pre-service prayer group with a focus to prepare our hearts for the service. Open to all.
- MONTHLY prayer walk (9am) on the last Friday of every month, starting at the top of Castle Street, with a focus pray for our community.

Please look to our features "News of the Family" and "Everywhere Prayers" for prayerful concerns we would love you to join us in your own time.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.  
11 - 18 MAY

For 80 years, Christian Aid has worked among the most disadvantaged communities across the world to relieve poverty, suffering and injustice and to campaign for human rights and environmental sustainability. With its roots in Christian faith and principles, Christian Aid believes in the dignity of every human being. This year's Christian Aid Week appeal focusses on helping indigenous communities whose livelihood and survival are threatened by climate change.

In many countries, the climate crisis is causing both the dry and the rainy seasons, that would once arrive with predictability, to intensify and shift erratically. As a result, vital crops are failing, plunging farming families into hunger and poverty.



Inbeloved grandchildren - has known this land for most of her life, farming to support her family and neighbours. But she has witnessed radical changes. This is her story:

"When I came to the forest, there was lots of water close to the community, and it wasn't that hot. Today, it's a different story. Our water resources are drying up. It means we cannot water the crops and there is no food production. Climate change has been killing our crops, and this is our food."

But the unstoppable power of hope is in the hands of farmers like Aurelia. She's leading her community in the fight to overcome the challenges they face by sharing skills and knowledge gained from Christian Aid's agricultural training with their partner, Congcoop. Together, they are cultivating native seeds, conserving water and producing fertiliser to make their farming practices more climate resilient. But Aurelia and her community shouldn't be tackling this alone.

Our gifts can fund vital training and supply the tools which are required. With our support this Christian Aid Week, more farmers like Aurelia can build their resilience to extreme weather and regain control of their harvests. Gift envelopes are available at the back of church, along with copies of 'Abounding Hope', Guatemala, Aurelia - who has raised eight children and now helps to take care of her Christian Aid's daily devotional magazine for Christian Aid Week 11 - 18 May.

# THE VINE

Jessica  
Harrison

Now that the sun is out it's a great time to book an Afternoon Tea. We serve a lovely tea, all made fresh to order with homemade scones and cakes for just £13.50 a head. All we ask is that you book at least 48 hours before - do consider us if you have a special occasion or just fancy a treat! In June we have one of our annual special weeks - Independent Bookshop Week, which runs from 14th - 21st June - where we will be giving away a mystery book with every book purchase of £10 or more! We will be expecting new Take Note books towards the end of May and new Kids Corner books in mid-June - as ever we will put new arrivals on our social media, if you would rather get updates via email just let us know and we'll add you to our mailing list.



**May's Monthly Prayer Walk** will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> (9am) at the top of Castle Street, Hinckley (where the pedestrian area starts).

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.

As our church prepares to grow in serving God by serving and loving our community & seeking His word, please join us in our prayer for growth...



*God of Mission,  
Who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our  
planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*



### **BACKPACK APPEAL**

Do you have a backpack you seldom use? Do you have toiletries, a torch, a sleeping bag, some new socks, hat or gloves to put in it? Please donate your items to Paul (Community & Outreach)) so we can put together backpacks for those in our community sleeping rough.



# House Group By Heather C

At the monthly Wednesday night house group, we have recently started the Gospel of Luke. Typically, we usually use a Bible commentary to give us insights into the passages. In March, we tried something different, bible journalling. Bible journalling is a technique and craft activity to help individuals pull out the key moments or messages from the passages that they are reading. Basically, there are three steps: read, reflect, represent. So initially we read and then listened\* to two passages from Luke, before pulling out keywords, and then key phrases that we thought stood out for us as individuals as being the most important. These may be a verse, phrase, or form the key message to take to heart from the passage. It could also be what you might share with another individual.



We then entered on the crafty bit for the remainder of the session. Journalling Bibles have wide side margins to be used to record the message that comes from reading the passage, not in a note form or bullet points, but in an more illustrative or diagrammatic way such as simple drawings or illustrated texts. It does not need to be perfect or clever, just something that means something to the creator - a take home message. Having applied the passage to a meaningful visual and personal representation, it may remain in the memory longer than a thought or a note. Some ideas are shown here along with our efforts. Having not had any warning that they were going to try this, some in our group enjoyed, others not so keen, but all had a go. So Bible Journalling will not be for everyone, but you might like to try.



\* We listened to a free audio version of the Bible available on YouTube and read by David Suchet. Search terms to find links to OT and NT - **Bible, Suchet.**

# Church Walk

Tony T

The forecast for the walk looked very 'iffy' so it was a surprise to find that the clouds started to clear as eight of us (and a dog) strolled round Thornton Reservoir on Tuesday 15th April. Perhaps more accurate to say that 7 strolled and the eighth member rattled his way round - the surface of the path is very stony in places so the buggy with it's small wheels gave Ian's inners a bit of a shake! Afterwards we retired to the garden centre across the road for a refreshing cuppa.

The next walk is planned for 30th April when we hope to see lots of bluebells. The venue is Ulverscroft Grange and Manor. We will aim to meet at the Manor at 10.30am for a short walk in the woods. After this we will make our way up to the Manor where there is a tea room and there is a model railway display. The tea room serves lunches - but the choice is a bit limited. Please see Tony T for more details - directions and menu etc.



***Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.***

**Genesis 13:17**

save THE date

Advanced Notice: Saturday 11th October - Free Church Choirs Festival of Church Music at Coventry Cathedral. Our choir will be taking part, if you would like to sing in the Festival, anthem books are available (£12.00). If you don't wish to sing but want to attend, please keep the date free.



# Hinckley & District Museum

| Small museum...Hidden treasures

30 Lower Bond St, Hinckley

[Hinckleydistrictmuseum.org.uk](http://Hinckleydistrictmuseum.org.uk)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number 1015922



## Event Days

Events held regularly through the summer holidays including; Stone Age – Roman – Tudor – Victorian. See the website for more details.

## Talks

Our annual talks programme offers a monthly talk from March to November (excl July & August). Open to all on fascinating historical subjects. See the website for more details.

## ENTRY FEES

Museum Entry    £4 Adults / Children (5+) £1 / Members Free

Event Days        £4 Adults / Children (5+) £2 / Members Free

Talks                £5 Non-members / £1 Members



## EVERYWHERE PRAYERS

*We ask you to consider adding these subjects for prayer to your personal prayer list...*

Please join us in praying for the prosperity of the shopkeepers & market stall holders that provide crucial services for our community.

Please pray for our partnership with Falcon Support Services to help vulnerable people in the community as they add Tuesday morning to their Wednesday drop-in sessions. (Also contact Paul W if you would like to be involved in this work).

Please pray for the many young people within the youth groups that utilise our building; Rochelle Dance School, Hinckley Branch Guides/Brownies/Rainbows and Grays Drama Academy.

Please join us in the *Leading Your Church Into Growth* prayer (contained in this May edition of Contact).

Please pray for the vulnerable individuals we encounter and assist within the life of the church.

Please pray for all those that volunteer & support the various ministries involved in and associated with the church.



At Rochelle, our aim is to provide children and adults of all ages with training and confidence to achieve their goals within a friendly, fun and hard working environment. Various classes are held in Ballet, Tap, Musical Theatre, Modern Jazz, Freestyle, Acrobatics, Theatrecraft, Hip Hop as well as Insanity and Stretching and Limbering.

[rochelle-dance.co.uk](http://rochelle-dance.co.uk)

Tel 0794 912 1442

At Grays Drama Academy CIC we are passionate about teaching the key elements of Acting, Singing and Music for stage and screen. We cater for students from 6 years upwards and our classes are fun, educational, exciting, and fully engaging for pupils of all ages.



[www.graysdramaacademy.co.uk](http://www.graysdramaacademy.co.uk)

07734 225617



**Sign Up Today**

**RAINBOWS | BROWNIES | GUIDES**

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

[www.girlguidingleicestershire.org](http://www.girlguidingleicestershire.org)

# 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**

**MUSIC**

**FELLOWSHIP**

**GAMES**

**SAVE  
THE DATE**





## *Contacts & Social Media*

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



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



Hinckley United Reformed Church "The Borough Church"



[hinckley\\_urc](https://www.instagram.com/hinckley_urc)

ROLE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
FAMILY	Rachel Cobb	07930 628011	<a href="mailto:repooolehcar@hotmail.com">repooolehcar@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>

## MAY SERVICE SPEAKERS

Sunday services commence 10:45am

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Songs of Praise
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Graham
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Lesley Moseley (communion)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Wake
Sun June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rev Keith Salter



### CONTACT DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions and information for the June edition of Contact will be Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May. The next edition will be available from Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

## ***What's On***

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MONDAYS	<b>STAY &amp; PLAY</b>   Children's Playgroup Welcome to all with children 5yrs & under 10am-noon (side entrance). Term-time only. <b>INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE</b>   Help & support with practising English for speakers of other languages. noon—2pm (side entrance)
WEDNESDAYS	<b>SPARKLERS</b>   Children's Playgroup (5yrs & below) Group primarily for childminders with 5yrs & under 9:30-11:30am (side entrance). Term-time only. <b>WEDNESDAY @ONE</b>   ecumenical service for all 1pm-1:30pm (front entrance)
THURSDAYS	<b>DROP-IN</b> Chat & Coffee/Tea. All welcome 2-4pm (front entrance)
FRIDAYS	<b>PRAYER GROUP</b>   All welcome 10-11am (front entrance)
SUNDAYS	<b>SERVICE</b>   All welcome. Children's group. 10:45am-noon (front entrance)

### **MONTHLY PRAYER WALK** | All welcome

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May at the top of Castle Street, Hinckley.  
Ending at the church @9:45am.

**HOUSEGROUP** Please see David Crick & Rob Cobb for details.

## ***Wednesday @One Services***

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

30th April	Simon Wearne: Holy Trinity, Hinckley
7th May	Anne Hayward, Holy Trinity, Hinckley
14th May	To be confirmed
21st May	Daniel Cheyne, Hinckley United Reformed Church.
28th May	Paul Wake, Hinckley United Reformed Church.

For more information, please contact Charles Leggat 07754702241  
All are welcome with teas & coffees served after the 30-minute service.