



# Contact

## September '25 Edition

Hinckley  
UNITED  
REFORMED  
CHURCH

**WELCOME** to the September edition of CONTACT, the newsletter for all those associated with Hinckley United Reformed Church and our wider community.

## Bangladesh

It's that time of year when we ask you to dig deep and hopefully donate to the work of Commitment for Life in our partner Bangladesh.

Hamida and her family relied on the unreliable income of her husband Abdul who is a day labourer. He worked very hard but there was never enough money. Hamida was always hopeful that something better would happen. Through her local women's group she learnt agricultural skills and then because of your donations she was given a loan to buy cows.



You can read her full story in the Commitment for Life magazine. There are copies in the front vestibule.

Envelopes for donations are on the table in church. Please talk to me if you want any more information.

Carole Wallis

**WE NEED YOU!**



Would you be able to help out for a couple of hours with the children's group on the following days?

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> & Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Sept**  
**PLEASE TALK TO RACHEL**



# Snapdragon Festival

What a blessing to live in Hinckley! (and you don't hear that very often). But, Cat Stilling and the events team at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council organised a fabulous Snapdragon Festival (again!) for our community and town and it's a privilege to be working alongside them doing the crafts for the event. Although we had to be in the church for the Monday and Tuesday, due to the windy weather, the children were able to follow the Snappy dragon trail to the church and we still had lots of families coming to see us to do the crafts. Monday was music day, so we made guitars, harmonicas, shakers, maracas, panpipes - so it was a very noisy day!



Tuesday was sports themed, so it was pom-pom catchers, discus, ribbons, tennis rackets and medals. We were back in Argents Mead on Wednesday for National Play day - so we had junk modelling, bracelets, stone painting, cup catchers, tube animals and sponge boats. Everyday we had a variety of bookmarks, bracelets and pictures saying how much we are loved and known by God. We also had a prayer tree of hope, where some great conversations were had and some wonderful prayers were written. It was a very busy few days but an amazing time. Thank you so much to all who helped in any way from URC and from Churches Together. It was a great opportunity to witness to our community.

*Rachel*

On the following Sunday we were joined by young members of Grays Drama Academy for our SNAPDRAGON family friendly service, performing a short play for us with Rachel giving us a taste of the week.

# ***“Set the net up on the right”***

## ***Outreach in our community***

***Paul Wake***

What does American Football have to do with fishing? Apparently a lot when the common factor is being directed in the Lord’s work.

***He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.***

**John 21:6 (NIV)**



A few weeks ago we asked for prayers for outreach work in connecting with disengaged young people in our community. We see more and more young people not engaging in traditional activities (uniformed groups, social clubs or sports teams). Like any young person they want to belong somewhere, but for many reasons do not wish to join a structured group. Sometimes they may not have an interest in the activities, sometimes they may feel judged, sometimes their households may lack the finances and sometimes clubs & groups are not always fully inclusive.

So what does that have to do with churches? Everything. Acts 1:8 and other verses remind us that we are called to show God’s love to all and witness of His glory.

BUT where to start?

We approached Christians from other churches and then the local council with a proposal. It was the council that asked for weekly sessions in Argents Mead over August. Friday 29<sup>th</sup> sees the last of these before the format changes to “pop-up” activities in areas of town with ASB (anti-social behaviour) “hot spots”.

On the first Friday doubts were expressed if young people would show up. Would our nets be empty like the disciples’ night of fishing in John 21?

We set up cornhole (a bean bag throwing game) and an obstacle course with some young people getting involved immediately.

Though as soon as we put up the American Football passing net, it went crazy.



# ***“Set the net up on the right”***

## ***Outreach in our community (cont’d)***

The young people were engaging with all the activities, but the American Football passing net just seemed to have a real hold on them. They were enjoying the challenge when it was not as easy as it first looked. They were listening to instruction/coaching and seeing the direct benefit of being more successful. These activities allowed engagement with the young people and with the parents of younger children taking part. While people would occasionally use the other apparatus, the net was in use non-stop with loads of young people really enjoying it. Smiles all round. The first Friday session saw 35 young..

..people engaged & the next 45. Who knows what will come of this? At the least we are preparing the ground. And so much for doubting God’s plan. It was not until a few days after the first session that I realised I had given someone a prophetic answer. When asked at the start of the session where I wanted the passing net set up, I answered, “Set the net up on the right side.” On reflection, just like when that net was hauled in straining with fish, we knew the Lord was with us. As we prepare to go out on the street to engage more young people, please pray the Lord continues to bless the work.

## **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.

### **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

### **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.

## Jacqueline's fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support

The number of people diagnosed with cancer is growing, we're doing whatever it takes to help more people with cancer get the best care the UK has to offer, whoever and wherever they are.



*"As most people know by now I was successful in getting a place through the ballot for London Marathon 2026. Even though I am running as part of Hinckley Running Club. I have chosen to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support who supported both my Grandad & my cousin, Geraldine, before they passed away in 2024."*

Jacqui has a link on her facebook page or see her for the JustGiving donation link.



The September Prayer Walk will take place on Friday 26<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.





A prayer for our commercial community from Rev Malcolm Clarke...

*Dear Father*

*In view of the economic concerns of the world, of our continent, and of our nation, we pray in particular for the businesses of the Town in which we live, some of whom will be stretched to the limit by rule changes made in Business Rates and in National Insurance. We pray for the women and men who run these businesses and for their families, who depend upon them for their everyday livelihood. We pray for the BID Town Centre members and for those who run and support BID.*

*Since we are all residents and workers in this same community help us all to encourage and support one another and help us to express our support in practical ways wherever possible. Come Lord Jesus and bless our Community with Faith, Hope and Love.*

*In Jesus' name.*

*Amen*

*save <sup>THE</sup> 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.

# THE VINE



**News from The Vine** - We have had lots going on behind the scenes this month – having started working here in January it is hard to think we are closing in on the end of summer soon! Thank you all for your kind words and renewed interest in The Vine and all we aim to achieve through our faith in Jesus. Our new selection of books called 'Take Note' (a quarterly consignment of select titles) is now in stock. There are some beautiful bibles which would make ideal gifts, a selection of student / teenager books and many inspiring and engaging texts for you to explore. Do please drop in and take a browse. Please can we ask for your prayers for our volunteers, those with health concerns at present and those that have stepped up to give even more of their time and effort to support us.

Please do spread the word that we are always looking for more volunteers – the main tasks are washing dishes, taking orders and making drinks in exchange for a truly warm and welcoming Vine family, a drink or lunch on us (depending on shift length) and a first-look at all the lovely books, cards and gifts we have on offer. Get in touch or pop in anytime if you or someone you know has any queries about this, we are always happy to show people around to get an idea of what the role involves. We hope you have all enjoyed the warm spells of weather and have managed to keep cool – we now have additional stock of new fruit shoot flavours and chilled mars bars if you happen to stop by and need some extra energy in your day.

**Grace**

***I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; for without me you can do nothing.***

**John 15:5**



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.*



### **CONTACT DEADLINE**

The deadline for submissions and information for the October edition of Contact will be Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September. The next edition will be available from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September.



Talking

Faith



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church  
East Midlands  
Synod

# Talking Faith Day

Saturday 13 September 2025

WORSHIP

10.00am - 3.30pm  
St Martins House, Leicester  
Bring your own lunch

WORKSHOPS

BIBLE STUDY

A day of encouragement as we explore together the Synod focus of Talking Faith

Opening Worship and Keynote will be delivered by friends from Mersey Synod,  
**Revd Louise Franklin, Revd Stuart Radcliffe and Emma Jackson.**

We will also have workshops led by **Revd Martin Ferris** (East Midlands Synod),  
**Lindsey Brown** (URC Evangelism and Ecumenical Officer), **Revd Louise Franklin** and  
**Emma Jackson.**

The day will conclude with a short Bible study.

Come to be inspired in **Talking Faith** in your everyday life, a fun day of  
fellowship and friendship together.

Resources and information will also be provided to help Talking Faith continue  
to be explored in our churches.



All are welcome to join us for this free event!  
Early booking is recommended as we have limited spaces.  
visit: <https://bit.ly/talkingfaithday>





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.



**GRAYS DRAMA ACADEMY**

[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)

HINCKLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
The Borough | Hinckley | Leicestershire | LE10 1NL  
[www.hinckleyurc.org.uk](http://www.hinckleyurc.org.uk)

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>
SAFEGUARD-ING	Chris Sharrock	-	<a href="mailto:chris.sharrock@ntlworld.com">chris.sharrock@ntlworld.com</a>

### *Wednesday @One Services*

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

**3rd Sept, Paul Wake (Hinckley URC)**

**10th Sept, Fr Michael (St Peter's, Hinckley)**

**17th Sept, Anthony Thacker (St Mary's, Hinckley)**

**24th Sept, Robin Hanford (Great Meeting, Hinckley)**

For more information, please contact Charles Leggat  
07754702241

All are welcome with teas & coffees served after the 30-minute service.

*speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

**Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)**



- 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).  
**FALCON DROP IN** 10:30-12:30 Falcon (SS) for advice  
with housing & support services.
- 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  
The prayer walk takes place on the last Friday of the  
month, starting at the top of Castle Street, Hinckley.  
Ending at the church @9:45am.
- HOUSEGROUP** Please see David Crick & Rob Cobb for details.
- PRAYER GROUPS** Monday (eve) online, Thursday 10-11am (church &  
community), Friday 10-11am (ecumenical).

## **SEPTEMBER CHURCH SERVICE SPEAKERS**

- 7th Sep Geoff Milnes  
14th Sep Rev Dr Janet Wootton (*including  
Holy Communion*)  
21st Sep Rev Daniel Cheyne  
28th Sep Nigel Roberts  
5th Oct Rev Daniel Cheyne (*Harvest*)

