



Contact

February '26 Edition

Hinckley
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH

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



New Year, New Elder

Following a unanimous vote at a previous church meeting, Mrs Catherine "Kate" Wake was ordained as an URC elder at Hinckley URC. The service, which included the ordination, was led on Sunday 18th January by Interim Moderator, Rev Dr Kirsty Thorpe.

Church Meeting

Church Meeting on Sunday 22nd February immediately following the 10:45 service.

Statement regarding Future

Ministry for Hinckley Members of the Synod's Ordained Ministry and Churches Group (OMCG) send their greetings to the elders and members at Hinckley United Reformed Church. Following a period of consultation and discernment we are pleased to be able to share with you an update regarding the proposals for future ministry at Hinckley. We are grateful to your elders for their partnership throughout the period in which our discussions needed to remain confidential. OMCG has agreed that the next minister of Hinckley should serve both as local church minister and as Synod Clerk (and that both roles be half-time scoped). A panel has been formed to oversee the process for the Synod Clerk element of the role; and the Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe has been appointed to serve as Interim Moderator, working with a Call Group for the local church minister element of the role. The appointment panel will work in partnership with the Interim Moderator and Call Group and the Profile for the combined role will be offered to the monthly Moderators' Meeting with a view to seeking and identifying a minister who feels drawn to exercising this ministry. We ask for your prayers for all tasked with overseeing the process.

Revd Geoffrey Clarke,
Synod Moderator, for OMCG

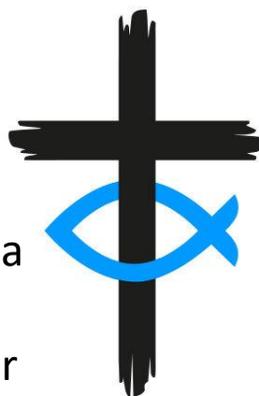
Safeguarding training

Church House is offering several specialist training modules this year. Please refer to the poster in the vestibule.

The modules are two hours and are via zoom.

If you wish to sign up please send your name, church, role and the course you wish to attend

to Emma.pearce@urc.org.uk



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Great START to the New Year
Elder, Julie P, began the START course for people looking to find some answers to the big questions of life and how that involves a relationship with God.

Start ►

The course takes place weekly at church and involves open discussion, videos, handouts & beverages all in a relaxed & friendly environment. Though the course has begun and was well attended, there is still room if you would like to get involved.

Contact Julie P for more details



Our own Jacqui B will be running the 2026 London Marathon to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Please see Jacqui for ways you could support and/or donate.



The February Prayer Walk will take place on Friday 30th (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 March Prayer Walk will take place on Friday 27th (9am) at the top of Castle Street, Hinckley (where the pedestrian area starts).



A Prayer for Gaza's Children

Commitment
for **Life**



*God who clothes us in warm garments of grace;
weave this cry for Gaza into the fabric of your
peace... We are ashamed at the depth to which
humanity can sink;
how eagerly we march to the drumbeat of war;
how easily we are seduced by violence justifying
narratives.*

*Mend our broken ways;
challenge our complacency;
protect the children of Gaza;
grant their families freedom from oppression
and bring Shalom to all who call The Holy Land
home.*

Amen



Make a donation to the
URC Gaza Appeal



<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/commitment-for-life-gaza-appeal>



Commitment
for **Life**

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. Psalm 100:4

As we make our way further into 2026, try 7 Biblical takeaways for the blessings of a life of thanksgiving

ONE - Eat cake everyday!

In the Old Testament it outlines sacrificial items like animals or cake. Nowadays we aren't called upon to make such sacrifices.

...be thankful of the small blessings as much as the large ones!

TWO - It may seem trivial, but start the week on a Sunday.

Don't let Sunday be the last day of the week that you limp into with whatever energy you have left. Give God the First Fruit of the week.

Let this be the start of your week that you offer to God in praise & worship.

Give thanks for the week to come, rather than surviving the week.

THREE - Make a joyful noise.

Put a favourite hymn or modern worship song on whatever playing device you have.

It is hard to dwell on the sorrows when you're singing worship to the Lord.

FOUR - Fill your heart.

Even in the darkest times – consider the blessings.

The joys may not always outweigh the sorrows, but we can all find something to be grateful for.

FIVE - Don't ask "why me?" – Ask "why NOT me?"

There are all sorts of reasons God will allow us to feel the heat of the furnace.

Sometimes its to learn from our own poor decision making.

Sometimes its to be a witness of God in our suffering,

Sometimes its build empathy & understanding for others,

& other times that we may simply be refined in the fire.

It may be a hard lesson – but so many times we can look back & understand why God put us through the furnace.

SIX - Recognise answered prayer.

We're quick to give our prayer requests, but do we thank the Lord every time for answered prayer?

Give thanks even those times God answers prayer, though not in the way we anticipated.

SEVEN - These things will pass.

Life is about contrast: Light & shade, Joy & suffering.

In a season of storms – even in the darkest season...

..weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

We are citizens of the Kingdom.

We have eternal life with God – the contrasts of life on this earth will pass.

Let our vision be eternal to match our eternal life – trust in God.

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



BACH @ ONE

In a change to the usual Wednesday at 1pm service format, 4th March sees our own HURC worship leader, David Crick, giving an organ recital of pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). German composer, JS Bach, was a man of deep Christian faith reflected in his music and will be referenced by David.

THE VINE



Happy New Year from The Vine ~ if you have made a resolution to help in the community and are able to assist us, we are in great need of volunteers.

Email thevinehinckley@hotmail.co.uk, telephone 01455 612345 or drop by in person and we will provide further details!

Our curated book shelves have new-year themes on wellbeing, nature and mental health - we also have a small selection of St Valentine's Day cards and gifts including more of our wonderful "Holy Socks".

Our newest menu item has been selling well: The Vine Sugar Waffles - a warm sweet waffle served with whipped cream and chocolate sauce or butter and jam.

We look forward to seeing you soon, check out our sale items and FairTrade sale when you pop in. All your support and prayers are appreciated as we strive to serve our customers and Christian community, do get in touch if you have any enquiries regarding Christian books, gifts or church supplies.

Grace,
The Vine Manager



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 March edition of Contact will be Friday 20th February. The next edition will be available from Sunday 1st March.

How are your feet?

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.

Isaiah 52:7



We are looking for Christians with a heart to serve others to partner in street chaplaincy and working with young people in our community.



- *Training & support given,*
- *Equipment provided,*
- *Working with other Christians*

- *DBS required with church leadership reference*

A pilot has already been carried out in conjunction with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and so we are looking for the next phase in partnership with other organisations

- *Hinckley town centre & other locations.*
- *Wednesday early evening (on street pop up youth work)*
- *Friday evening chaplaincy on the street.*



**For further information or to apply please contact Paul
EMAIL coachwake@aol.com or TEXT 07591 527942**

Church Life Youth



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

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

07734 225617



Girlguiding

Sign Up Today

RAINBOWS | BROWNIES | GUIDES

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

www.girlguidingleicestershire.org

Contact Us

HINCKLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
The Borough | Hinckley | Leicestershire | LE10 1NL
www.hinckleyurc.org.uk

ROLE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
FAMILY	Rachel Cobb	07930 628011	repooolehcar@hotmail.com
OUTREACH & COMMUNITY	Paul Wake	07591 527942	community@hinckleyurc.org.uk
SAFEGUARDING	Chris Sharrock	-	chris.sharrock@ntlworld.com

Wednesday @One Services

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

28 Jan	Paul Wake (Chaplain)	United Reformed Church
4 Feb	Major Carol Evans	Salvation Army
11 Feb	Rev Kimberley Ford	St Johns, Hinckley
18 Feb	John Moore	Hinckley Baptist Church
25 Feb	Elaine Woods	Refreshment UK
4 Mar	David Crick (Bach recital)	United Reformed Church

Teas & coffees are served after the 30-minute service.

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 2 Timothy 4:2 (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 (except Dec), starting at the top of Castle Street,
Hinckley. Starting at 9am and ending at the church.
- HOUSEGROUP** Please see David Crick & Rob Cobb for details.
- PRAYER GROUPS** Monday (eve) online, Thursday 10-11am (church &
community), Friday 10-11am (ecumenical).

FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICE SPEAKERS

- Jan 25th Margaret Marshall
Feb 1st Richard Knott (Parade)
Feb 8th Rev Colin Offor
Feb 15th Rev Lesley Moseley (Communion)
Feb 22nd Steve Ward
Mar 1st Julie Payne



Sunday services start 10:45am \ unless otherwise stated