



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

## HORSFORTH CHAPLAINCY PROJECT

### Welcome to our summer newsletter!

It is nearly a year since 'one became three' as Horsforth Chaplaincy Project became a team - going from one full time to three part time staff. It's good to be a team and we've been busy organising Prayer, Easter events, Alpha, Town of Sanctuary Launch, the Gala, plus ongoing work with schools and the market etc.



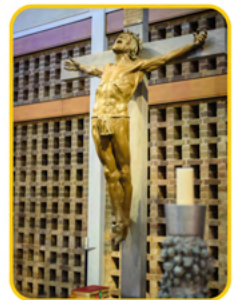
Throughout all of this we continue to think and pray about how God wants to 'Help Horsforth flourish', our newly adopted motto. Of course the work here is nothing without **all of you and the churches** as we all work together. We are blessed by so many wonderful people who volunteer, pray and give, to make all we do happen. With heartfelt thanks, *Duncan, Rhoda and Rose*.

### Highlight Events

#### Easter



**The Walk of Witness** following the cross along Town Street was welcomed by many who stopped to listen, watch, wave and take pictures; a wonderfully reflective service '**7 words from the Cross**' at Trinity University Chapel in front of their lifesize statue of Christ Crucified was very moving; and it was a joy to see lots of children hunting for eggs and meeting the characters of the Easter Story at St James' Church.



#### Town of Sanctuary



**The Town of Sanctuary Launch Event** saw around 150 people coming together at St Margaret's for fun, international food, art by school children, music, personal stories from refugees, and current information. There was a lovely atmosphere of solidarity and positivity, breaking down barriers and enhancing awareness amongst those attending.



#### Horsforth Gala



**Horsforth Gala** turned out to be a hot day with many families appreciating a place to sit & rest. 'Oh let me give that to my son, he loves Jesus' - was one mum's response to being given a **scripture card**. The HCT area is an expression of God's hospitality, something for all ages, free of charge and always welcoming – plus this year also our Paddington Bear activity thinking about **Messages of Hope** for those seeking sanctuary.





My time is currently spent on three main areas - **sowing seeds of faith in the younger generation** through Primary and Secondary schools work, **building community** through Horsforth Farmer's Market and Community events, and **leading / working together** in our small team.

### Children and Young People

In our **Primary Schools** work, we've nearly made it to the Promised Land! This year the **Open the Book** team have journeyed from Creation to the Promised Land. A great team of volunteers have brought God's work through Abraham, Joseph and Moses to over 1600 children delivering 36 assemblies in total. We even took Open the Book on tour to the Gala.



In our **Rewind to Easter** sessions, the question 'Why is it called Good Friday?' was the one we were asked most regularly, as we invited **every year 5 child in Horsforth Schools** to spend 90 minutes rewinding into the Easter story, meet the characters, journey through the events of that Holy Week and wonder about the meaning of it all. In terms of **Horsforth High School**, working with Aneta (the Youth & Children's Worker at Emmanuel) plus Oliver and Evan, we are running **Connect** for three year groups, Year 9, 8 and 7. This summer term we are looking at the 'I am' sayings of Jesus.

### Building Community

'**Vibrant, friendly, well organised, fun**' are all words I have heard people use about **Horsforth Farmer's Market**, as well as the appreciation you hear for the great quality food they can buy from proud enthusiastic local stall holders. The market is a much loved gift of the Churches to our community. The church in the centre of our community, and part of helping Horsforth flourish. We were also delighted to support the **Coronation celebrations**, providing our stalls in what was another great community event. **The Community Events** we ran during the last 6 months were of course the **Easter Walk of Witness**, **Horsforth Town of Sanctuary Launch Event**, and **Horsforth Gala**, which you have read about on page 1. These all take a fair bit to organise but are vital expressions of our faith as salt and light in our society and community.



### Alpha Course

Lister Hill and Cragg Hill teamed up to run the Alpha course, with five weeks at Lister and five weeks at Cragg. Around **a dozen guests** enjoyed a lovely cooked meal taking time to chat before tucking into some hearty conversation around the themes of Alpha.



### Looking Forward

Here is a reminder of things coming up in the next period of time - do continue to join with us in these events and in prayer for this next season:

- **Cream Tea (2pm) and Civic Service (4pm)** Sun 23rd July at St James' Church
- **Cafe of Hope** Weds 11th October - a chance for all churches to come together and share our dreams and hopes for the future in Horsforth
- **Christmas activities** - Carols in the Park, Card distribution, Rewind to Christmas and so on!

Helping Horsforth Flourish



## Walking with people seeking sanctuary



The highlight of the last 6 months for me has to be the **Horsforth Town of Sanctuary Launch event** at the end of April - it was a very special and moving evening as around 150 came together to share lovely food and reflect together about what else we can do to be **a town that offers welcome and opportunities** to refugees and friends seeking asylum. Our friends worked hard to make excellent food from the Ukraine, Bolivia, Iran, India and Pakistan, the colourful art from 5 schools on the theme of 'Welcome' made a lovely exhibition, we enjoyed fantastic music from LS18 Rocks, Asmarina Voices and individual singers, we heard personal stories from 3 refugees, did a myth-busting quiz and were updated about the current situation.



### Raising Awareness



As well as through this event, we have continued the important work of **touching hearts and changing minds** through talks in 5 schools and The Forum, including giving space for people seeking asylum to tell their story. Following this, pupils from the schools made a wonderful array of **Welcome pictures** for the event (put into 100 frames donated by Ikea) and we have been gifting to those seeking sanctuary. Woodhouse Grove is now working towards becoming a School of Sanctuary.

A key part of our work is facilitating those seeking sanctuary to **become included and involved** in local society and events - some examples are: volunteering at Morrisons for a Foodbank drive, cooking at the Town of Sanctuary event, sitting on assessment panels for College of Sanctuary Awards, sharing their stories as Experts by Experience at events, joining in a local football group, and taking part in producing an art display on the theme of Green by the Water for Horsforth Walk of Art.

### Enabling Inclusion



### Practical support & Advocacy



Many thanks for all the donated clothes!

Volunteers continue to work hard to meet the **practical and emotional needs** of a group of men housed in a local hotel - a good system is now in place for **processing donated clothes** and bikes, links with other agencies enable **days out**, such as this dry stone walling session in The Dales, and through tenacious advocacy and many meetings, Leeds City Council have agreed **5 free passes to a local Leisure Centre** (Leeds Active) which can be used by different men each day. This pilot will be rolled out across the city for groups of those seeking asylum in other hotels. One man who is a professional weightlifter has been accepted into a weightlifting club and won competitions already!

In addition we are pleased to have been involved in setting up a **support group** for hosts of Ukrainians, which is now linked with LASSN and has regular meetings at St Margaret's.

## Town of Sanctuary Meetings

A key part of this work continuing and developing are the **Town of Sanctuary Meetings**, which are now held on the **SECOND MONDAY of the month** at 5.30 -7pm at St Mary's church.

We are in need of **more members to join us** - why not come along and give it a try?

Helping Horsforth Flourish

## Connecting, Communicating, Celebrating



I started the year with preparing for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, putting together an 8-section display for our **Drop in Prayer event**. Some people dropped by and browsed the displays, and others stayed for the 'on the hour' prayer slots on different themes. It was a great way of **connecting**.



A key part of my regular work is to enable **effective communications** across our Churches Together community and the wider Horsforth community. This means :

- Updating the **Horsforth Churches Together website** with events coming up
- Creating **images, adverts, posters and newsletters**; taking **photos** and editing them
- Creating and sending **monthly mailings** and a **monthly flyer** for the Farmer's Market

This all ensures we have a **clear presence on the internet** and also enables us to reach 200 people on our mailing list and 300 visitors to the Market **spreading the word** about local church-based events like Perfectly Pitched, Grove Cinema, church cafes, Messy Church and other community events such as a recent Horsforth Dementia Friendly talk. I also feel it is important to **celebrate** what we have done together by sharing articles & photos of events on the website.



Another part of my work is **supporting with events**, sharing the load with Duncan in coordinating volunteers etc for things like the **Walk of Witness** and **Horsforth Gala**, and recently helping at the **Farmer's Market** creating and running children's activities. I also take on **specific projects**, and I was really pleased to be able to link all our churches with the creators of the **Horsforth Textile Map**, resulting in lovely pieces being made by creative people in each church to represent our churches on the map!

## Our Support Needs

God has been good. Over the last few years and especially when you consider the challenges of Covid and the cost of living crisis, we are so grateful that through the generosity of our regular givers we have not needed to put out an appeal for extra giving. **Thank you so much!!**

As we look to the 2024 budget, **to continue to work as we are now**, we need to raise another **£6000**. One way of breaking this down is to say we need 2 people from each of the churches in Horsforth to give £25 a month. If you think you could join our amazing group of regular givers to help this work continue and grow (or can pass this on to someone), **please get in touch**.

You can give using **online banking** as follows :

a) Please set up a payment with the REFERENCE: HORSFORTH, using these bank details:

Payee Name: Leeds Christian Community Trust (LCCT) Account no: 20129563 Sort code : 60-83-01

b) Please email Duncan at [duncan@horsforthchaplaincy.org](mailto:duncan@horsforthchaplaincy.org) with your full name for our records and ask for a Gift Aid form if relevant.

OR **alternatively** please email Duncan at [duncan@horsforthchaplaincy.org](mailto:duncan@horsforthchaplaincy.org) for a manual giving form.

With **many thanks** from all of us at Horsforth Chaplaincy Project:

**The Steering Group:** Peter Mawson, Rozel Daltry, Jo Bailey,  
Jane Linley, Pete Gillions,  
and **Duncan, Rhoda and Rose**

Feel free to **contact us** at:

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[rhoda@horsforthchaplaincy.org](mailto:rhoda@horsforthchaplaincy.org),  
[rose@horsforthchaplaincy.org](mailto:rose@horsforthchaplaincy.org)

## Helping Horsforth Flourish

Horsforth Chaplaincy Project is part of Leeds Christian Community Trust Charity No.1096860, and is endorsed by Horsforth Churches Together