



NEWSLETTER Sept 2025

HORSFORTH CHAPLAINCY PROJECT



Welcome to our September 25 newsletter!

We have been thinking recently about looking for **where the Spirit is working** and joining in alongside. It was **very encouraging** at the Pentecost event to hear each church share **1 thing the Spirit is doing** in their church, and as we look forward we want to be **open to God's leading** in ourselves, others, our community & nation, and set aside time to **pray and seek God**. We have seen His **faithfulness** these last 6 months when both myself (Duncan) and Rhoda had time off work due to health issues, and we have **been grateful** for support from others. In this issue look out for our **'Kids Interview'** on page 2 and **a moving story** from Ayman on page 3! Please **pray for Laura** at a time of significant change - see more on page 3. Thank you!

Highlights

Easter Events



At Easter the **Rewind to Easter** interactive sessions for all Year 4 children went very well, and it is testament to the strength and skills of our **volunteer team** that others were able to step up as Duncan was recovering from illness at the time. The **Walk of Witness and outdoor service** were very well attended and ably led by Nigel Sinclair, followed by hot cross buns and fellowship at The Grove. One lady commented that she found the service **'very moving'**, reminding her of her childhood.

70 people at Pentecost Event



At this **special Pentecost event** there was a great atmosphere of **unity, faith and prayerfulness** for our town, as our team led a varied programme including: great worship, 1 minute stories from each church on what the Spirit is doing in their church, **7 prayer stations** with information and chance to pray in small groups, and **gathered prayer** around a map of Horsforth. Duncan shared the **inspiring story** of how he heard the **clear call of God** to start the work of the Horsforth Chaplaincy Project alongside HCT 14 years ago, to enhance and support the work of Horsforth Churches Together with paid time and resources, and found that as he **stepped out in faith**, God provided through **faithful and generous donations** from individuals and churches. Why not be encouraged by **watching the video** - just scan the QR code/click the image. Feedback from those attending the event was fantastic, with many saying it was an **uplifting evening**.

SCAN TO WATCH



Helping Horsforth Flourish



I am thankful for **14 years of Horsforth Chaplaincy Project**. God's provision of finance, a great team, and a steering group with vision, has given us **continuity and consistency** in our work. That means the Horsforth **Year 11 connect group** which is just getting its GCSE results as I write, has known us from coming into their **primary school assemblies** from ages 4 - 11, experienced **Rewind** in year 4 and 5, and then spent 5 years **opening the Bible** on a lunchtime once a fortnight throughout their high school years till aged 16. What a privilege it's been to **introduce them to Jesus!**

Open the Book - Kids interview!

We asked William (Yr 4) and Isaac (Yr 5) for their thoughts on Open the Book!

William

What score out of 10 would you give Open the Book?
10 out of 10!

What do you like about it?
Learning about Bible stories

What was your favourite story?
Moses leading the Israelites to the new land, because I like the bit when they walk through the Red sea

What do your friends think about Open the Book?
They think it's good, that it's cool that they walked through the water

What have you learned about God?
I have learnt that God can basically do everything.

Isaac

What score out of 10 would you give Open the Book?
10 out of 10!

What do you like about it?
People going up to the front to join in

What was your favourite story?
The fiery furnace – when they were walking around it and the angel appeared.

What do your friends think about Open the Book?
They think it's good

What have you learned about God?
He provides things to help people when they need them.



I am thankful for **two Alpha courses** which ran in Horsforth, one in the spring term at Leeds Trinity with OLK parish, and one at Cragg, with over 70 people involved across the two courses and a number of people **deciding to be baptised** after attending. It is so exciting to see people from of different ages, backgrounds and nationalities **encounter Christ** and joyfully choose to follow him.



We are continuing to pray 'Lord help us to join in with what your Spirit is doing. Help us to be FAT - Faithful, Available and Teachable at this time.'

Rev Nigel moves on after 12 years



On Sun 31st Aug we gathered for a picnic to say a fond farewell to **Revd Nigel Sinclair** of St Margaret's Church, who has served in Horsforth for 12 years. As he starts a new part-time post in his native North East, we wish him all the very best; we are so grateful for his **imagination, leadership and 'can-do' attitude** - he could always be counted on to say 'yes' to our requests and to step up in times of need, such as when tragedy hit the town. Nigel said recently 'Horsforth Churches Together is the **best I have ever experienced**, instead of spending time looking inwards discussing whether we agree with each other, they just **get on and do** fantastic things with great unity and an **outward looking focus**'.



Walking with People Seeking Sanctuary



Over the past 10 months I have been exploring how I can keep **equipping myself** to work with people from **different cultures** as I take part in building God's Kingdom. As a result, on 1st Sept I started a **part-time internship** called Unreached. I'll spend time studying topics like worldviews across different cultures, storytelling, and the globally diverse church. I'm excited to work with my church community in **Mosaic** and continue with the **refugee support work** in Horsforth to apply what I'm learning, grow in faith, and **pray and listen** as God continues to guide me. Parallel to this, the Leeds City Council grant which funded my role finished in May. We have applied for other grants, without success yet. However, due to small grants and people's generous donations, plus some more promised, I'm thankful **I can continue working** in my role supporting HTOs for **1 day per week** (a change from 2 days per week). This change is exciting! It will also be a challenge to **adapt** how we work as a team to keep supporting the project and all our **brilliant volunteers** with me having **less time** each week alongside my internship and other job at ExpensePlus.

Spotlight Story!

Ayman's Story - Moving On



Being in Leeds has been a **transformative experience** through which I was able to participate, inspire, and positively affect the migrant community and by extension, the British community, through volunteering, raising awareness, and public speaking. When I came to Leeds, I was **embraced by Horsforth Town of Sanctuary, loving, compassionate** individuals driven by the sole purpose of bridging the gap between migrants and their hosting community. I **volunteered with them** as a steering group member and Arabic-English interpreter. I also participated in **raising awareness** through arranged visits to a primary school and Horsforth sixth form, and I was also able to **deliver a speech** regarding the refugee-seeking experience. Both were very humbling and eye-opening experiences. Whilst in Leeds I also took several other opportunities to **volunteer** - with Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PAFRAS), Leeds City of Sanctuary, Migrant Access Project, as well as Young Migrants Matter: Changemakers Community through which we are working on creating a comprehensive guide for **migrants to enter university**. Lastly but not least I will be taking IELTS exam, University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) and Access to HE (Medicine) to **join a medical school** to finish my qualification and **become a doctor**.

Ayman, from Sudan, volunteered with us from Nov 24 - he was moved to a house in Hull in August 25.

Awareness Raising and Volunteering

In February, 16 people from a sanctuary-seeking background completed the **Finding Your Voice** course. Participants learnt public speaking skills to **share their stories** and experiences. They have since **given talks** in schools, at our two wonderful Horsforth Great Get Together events, and the University, and led a stall at the farmer's market. We have welcomed and trained over **25 new volunteers**. Some people who are seeking asylum have been **volunteering** at Horsforth Community Cafe, Horsforth Community Garden, the gardening group at St Paul's Church in Ireland Wood and helping to renovate Holy Name Church and the Grove Centre. The **brilliant team** of committed regular volunteers continues to work hard while also having fun, organising **monthly distribution of clothes**, running the **weekly drop-in** at the hotel, **football tournaments, monthly socials** and **trips** to the Yorkshire Dales, leading to **new friendships** growing as we enjoy **welcoming** new people from across the world into the Horsforth community.



To get involved in any aspect please email Laura on laura@horsforthchaplaincy.org Thank you!

Helping Horsforth Flourish

A Journey



Some people are aware that I was diagnosed with breast cancer at the beginning of this year and have been on a bit of **a journey** with it since then. I am so grateful it was **found early** (through regular screening) and that there is no evidence that it has spread. I had an operation in February, which took some time to recover from, followed by radiotherapy in April, resulting in a lot of fatigue, which I am still experiencing with some days better than others. **The journey continues** as I try to balance periods of activity and rest and allow my body to heal completely. I am very **grateful to God** for His presence and **amazing comfort and love** through this time, and that after some periods off work, I have been able to manage to continue to work through phased return & flexible working.

Pentecost Appeal and Event



Apart from keeping up with the regular work of the **website, mailings and market sheets**, one more significant area of work recently was being involved in the **preparation, running and follow up** of the Pentecost Event. Some of you will have seen the **Appeal letter/leaflet** we produced and arranged for all churches to give out on Pentecost morning, and I made a **map of Horsforth** and **led the gathered prayer** section of the event. It was really good to see people from across all the churches **worshipping, praying and standing together as one**, and though we don't often 'shout' about the work of HCP, this was an opportunity for people to understand more clearly **how we operate** alongside Horsforth Churches Together and that we are largely dependent on donations.

Refugee Work Transitions

I have also been **working closely with Laura** and the **Horsforth Town of Sanctuary Team** to help with applying for grants, contribute to a **smooth transition** from 2 days a week to 1 day a week paid time for Laura, and oversee the transfer of financial processing & all other aspects to LCCT. I will continue to **support Laura** as she streamlines her work tasks & starts her internship, and **support the group** by helping with management / background tasks as needed.



Update on finance

We were **very grateful** to have some responses to the recent appeal, from both individuals and churches, but we still have some **baseline shortfalls** as follows:

- Around **£4,000** shortfall in overall project costs
- Around **£2,000** shortfall for Refugee Worker post (now 1 day a week) plus other project costs.

DONATE



To donate, **scan the QR Code** /click on 'donate' for online giving, or **use these details**:
Reference: HORSFORTH, Payee Name: Leeds Christian Community Trust, Acct no: 20129563 Sort code : 60-83-01, OR email support@horsforthchaplaincy.org

With **many thanks** from all of us at Horsforth Chaplaincy Project:
The Steering Group: Peter Mawson, Rozel Daltrey, Jo Bailey, Jane Linley, Pete Gillions,
and **The Staff Team**: Duncan, Laura and Rhoda

Feel free to **contact us** at: duncan@horsforthchaplaincy.org, rhoda@horsforthchaplaincy.org,
laura@horsforthchaplaincy.org

Helping Horsforth Flourish