



July 2024

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

## HORSFORTH CHAPLAINCY PROJECT

### Welcome to our summer newsletter!

At the heart of HCP is a belief in the **synergy** of God's people, that is, **working together** we are more than the sum of our parts. It can take time and a little effort to understand each other and to recognise how others express their love for Christ, but there is both **joy and great riches** unearthed in doing so.



Rhoda, Laura and I in our work with HCP are privileged to see that **synergy happening** time and time again in Horsforth. I hope as you read this newsletter you will be **encouraged** by further evidence of the strength of Christian witness when we **work and worship together**.

NOTE: We were delighted to welcome **Laura** into our team in March this year as the new Refugee Support Worker - you can hear more from her on page 3! *With love from Duncan, Rhoda and Laura.*

### Highlights



#### Lent Talks

**Lent Talks 'Big Issues and Faith'**: We were inspired and challenged as many of us from across the different churches gathered to listen to our 4 **thought-provoking** Lent Talks on 'Big Issues and Faith'. Our fantastic speakers were Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogul on **Refugees & Suffering**, Joyce Simpson on **Education**, Rev Jon Swales on **Climate Change/Environment**, and Bill McCarthy on **The NHS and Faith**. These events show how churches can work in partnership to organise and run mutually beneficial events where we can enjoy **meeting and learning** together.



#### Food Pantry

**New Food Pantry building**: It was only one year ago when the first conversations emerged about bringing a **Community Food Pantry** to Horsforth, so it is amazing that the new purpose-built building (next to Horsforth Shed at St James') was opened on 2nd July. This was only possible due to great **local partnerships** and much hard work - applying for funding, drawing up plans, sourcing free materials, and volunteers working on the building. It's a great example of **churches and community** working together to support those who need a bit of help.



#### Summer Events

**Lots of Summer events**: An **Election Hustings event** was added to our other summer events of free games at **Horsforth Gala, Cream Tea and Civic Service** at the Grove, and churches contributing to **Horsforth Walk of Art** - this made for a busy few weeks! We assisted with the well attended Hustings which was run efficiently and fairly by friends at St James' as a service to our community - in all these events we saw **generosity shown & connections made**.



Helping Horsforth Flourish



In Matthew 13 Jesus told a parable about a farmer who went out to sow seed.

## Sowing Seeds

**Open the Book reaching over two thousand children**

In January we were invited in by Newlathes to deliver our Open the Book assemblies. This means we are now telling a story in **every Horsforth Primary School** and reaching 2100 children every half term. Dramatised tellings of Gideon, The Calling of Samuel, David and Goliath and Jonah and the Whale have engaged and thrilled. Eight **faith inspiring assemblies** in a week, made possible by a team made up from **across our churches**. Our work in Horsforth High School continues every Thursday lunchtime with groups for years 7,8,9 and 10. I work with Aneta from Emmanuel church to run the groups. We have been really encouraged that **seeds are taking root** and a number from the groups have started to attend church activities.



## Preparing the Soil

## Creating Healthy Community Spaces



Horsforth Civic Service, Horsforth Hustings and Horsforth Gala all took place within 6 action packed days for Churches Together. What a privilege to be trusted to **provide space** for our community to **connect & discuss** what's important to them & to build relationships. Events all soaked in prayer helping bring the best out of people, exemplified in the Hustings candidates standing together, allowing us to pray for them. 3 days after the Gala, the **newly built** Community Food Pantry opened at St James'- met with a smile, a coffee & cake, one pantry user said, "**we feel so cared for** - the pantry is beautifully set out, it's like shopping at M & S!"

## Horsforth Farmers' Market

## Bearing Fruit

"HFM is an expression of our Christian understanding of the need to **cherish the God given planet** on which we live. It is for this reason that we support local producers and provide a space in which the **local community can flourish**." God continues to bless the market. In October, HFM will be 12 years old, it is seen as a vibrant part of Horsforth life, a gift from the church to the town and a **positive space** for church to interact with the community. Volunteers from churches are present at each entrance available to talk, **to welcome** and to give out leaflets (around 300) sharing news from the churches. Every month it is a pleasure as a team to be available to have fruitful conversations about the things that matter or to **fruitfully connect** people with shared hearts who want to **build community** in Horsforth.



## Shoots of New Life

## The Worship Room

We are always encouraged to hear from new people who want to get involved and **have new ideas**. In March a gifted young musician launched 'The Worship Room' a **monthly evening of worship** for all who want to enter into God's presence and discover fresh intimacy with Him. They have been a wonderful blessing and it has been such a pleasure to support them. People who don't yet profess faith have been coming and there is a **tangible longing for God** being expressed, shoots of new life being seen, something we are all praying for right across our town.

'And the seed that falls on good soil... will produce a crop 30, 60 or 100 fold..'

## Looking Forward

- **Leeds Trinity Fresher Fayre** Wed 18th Sept : Welcoming new students to Horsforth
- **Open the Book Assemblies** weeks beginning 30th September and week beginning 11th Nov
- **Rewind to Christmas** Friday 29th Nov and Tuesday 3rd Dec, **Carols in the Park** 14th Dec
- **Worship Room** one Friday each month, next one 20th Sept

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## Walking with People Seeking Asylum



Since I started as the **Refugee Support Worker** in March, I've been amazed at how welcoming Horsforth is towards people seeking sanctuary. I have been equally amazed by the **generosity** of people caring for and supporting one another - people from the Horsforth community **giving time and resources**, and many of the 180 men from the local hotel who are seeking asylum helping their peers and volunteering their time and skills. This **demonstrates God's love** for people and it is how Jesus asks us to live, with open and generous hearts.

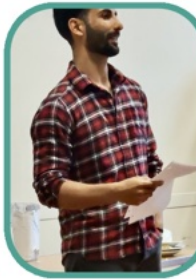


There has been lots for me to learn in the role, especially as Rose did a brilliant job before me. I feel very **grateful for and supported by** the team of Horsforth Town of Sanctuary volunteers that I'm leading, and by being part of a team with Rhoda and Duncan. Sometimes it's hard to see and hear about the **suffering and trauma** of the men who are seeking sanctuary who we get to know. Especially in those moments I pray, and remember that God cares about these people so much more than I do, and that **Christ gives hope** to all of us for new life and healing.



## Raising Awareness

In March we ran a **Finding Your Voice** course, where 16 people, including 2



Ukrainians who live locally, practiced **sharing their personal experiences** and representing their peers in public. The participants have been **courageously** sharing their stories of seeking sanctuary in local churches, to businesses, at university events, in schools and at the Great Get Together event in St Margaret's church during Refugee Week in June. And we're proud that 3 local schools who have supported Horsforth Town of Sanctuary activities gained the **School of Sanctuary award** in July.

Welcoming new people into the community brings wonders- here are some

examples! Some Eritrean men from the hotel joined the Walk of Witness at Easter and then **joined a local church** after meeting a pastor at the event. Some men who are seeking sanctuary volunteered at Horsforth Gala and absolutely loved **supporting the kids'** activities. An Iranian man with great carpentry skills who attended the Civic Service has since started volunteering at Horsforth Shed, including **making shelving for the new food pantry**. And a local **football group** has seen growing friendships with men who are seeking sanctuary able to join.

## Inclusion in the Community



## Practical Support and Events

These past 6 months we've given clothes to **over 300 people** newly arrived in Leeds



at clothing days at Holy Name Church - thank you everyone for your generous donations! Our weekly conversation club at the hotel has **become busier**, with 50 men & 10 volunteers attending. We've also had the joy of monthly Sanctuary Socials at St Margaret's Church and **many trips with groups** - to the cricket stadium, the Yorkshire Dales, museum, libraries, Golden Acre park, football tournaments and concerts. They've been a brilliant time **to get to know each other better** and explore the beauty of Leeds & Yorkshire together.

## Opportunities

Would you like people seeking asylum to come and **share their stories** at your group, business, school, church etc? People always find them moving and inspiring.

There are many **Volunteering Opportunities** including: Weekly Monday Conversation Club, Monthly Friday Socials, 6-weekly Clothing distribution days, group trips, Town of Sanctuary Steering grp - or just come along to play football!

Please contact Laura on [laura@horsforthchaplaincy.org](mailto:laura@horsforthchaplaincy.org) to find out more

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## 'Trellis - work'



The many gardeners among you know that some plants need a **framework** to help them grow and flourish - our project is no different, with much 'trellis-work' going on **in the background**. Since January I have taken on more elements of this nature, to help share the load between Duncan and myself. This has included managing **recruitment processes** when seeking our new Refugee Worker, '**supporting/mentoring**' Laura once she was appointed, being the **liaison person** for the HCP Steering Group, and taking on a project **to overhaul our Safeguarding documents**. Although it doesn't get mentioned much, Duncan also does a great deal of this 'trellis-work', plus we are very much helped by **being part of LCCT** that performs many 'back-office functions' for us such as employment, finance and policies. We are grateful for all these elements working together to enable us to **function and grow healthily** as a project.

## Community Connections



Being part of the **fabric of our community** means fostering relationships and connections in many different ways; I have continued to **build on our connections**, including learning the ropes and becoming a **reserve member** of the team at the **Food Pantry**, which resonates with my desire to be part of giving opportunities and support to those who find themselves with less resources for whatever reason. It has been a joy to get to know the attending members and the team, and to **work together**. Other ways of connecting have included: meeting with the new Climate Action Worker, attending and helping at some Climate Action meetings and events, making items for the Walk of Art, attending other **community & church events**, & ensuring we advertise events on our website and in the market notice sheet.



## Communications



I continue with the **regular tasks** of updating the website, creating an informative mailing each month, compiling the market notice sheet, and other posters, flyers and newsletters. Recent additions were **compiling a leaflet** about church activities to give out at the Gala (did you know you can get a cuppa and food in a church nearly every day of the week!), and **designing big boards** with interesting facts about each church for our **Church Quiz** at the Gala - scan the QR code to try your hand at the quiz!

## Our Support

We are deeply grateful to the many people who **give generously** to the Project, without which we would not be able to function. Currently approximately 80 % of our core income comes from individuals who give **monthly or one-off donations**, (apart from the time-limited Refugee Support Role which is currently funded by a grant from Leeds City Council).

If you would like to support us, please **email Duncan** at [duncan@horsforthchaplaincy.org](mailto:duncan@horsforthchaplaincy.org), or follow the guidance on our **Giving Form** on our webpage: [horsforthchurchestogether.co.uk/horsforthchaplaincyproject/](https://horsforthchurchestogether.co.uk/horsforthchaplaincyproject/). **Thank you!**

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, Rhoda and Laura

Feel free to **contact us** at:  
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## Helping Horsforth Flourish

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