

**C DCUC**

**Records of the United Reformed Church**

**1939-2021**

**Accession number:** 23/21

**Historical Background:** The origins of the East Hull United Reformed Church lay in two chapels that had been started to support Congregationalists in the area, and who had had no place of worship since the closure of the Latimer Chapel in 1919. The first, was founded in 1929, and was called the Emmanuel Chapel. In 1933 this congregation joined with the other chapel, which had been meeting on Summergangs Road and had been overseen by the Albion Church. Together they formed the East Hull Congregational Church, which was to serve the area around Hull's Garden Village. Initially they met in the Reckitt Garden Village Hall but after this had been damaged by the bombings in 1944, they moved to a house on Westcott Street. Much of the work of keeping the church together during this period came from Sheila Holt (née Sproxton). With the end of World War II, a site was acquired from the Finch family, on Clifford Avenue, at it's junction with James Reckitt Avenue. Built to a design by A.P. Taylor, the East Hull Congregational Church opened in 1953, with Rev. Alan Wright as the first pastor or minister.

The church would grow and for many years successfully served a large residential area in the east of Hull. It acquired allotments for church members as well as hosting a cadet division of the St. Johns' Ambulance Brigade, the 11th Hull Boy's Brigade and the Girl's Brigade and a 'Messy Church'. In 1972 nationally the Congregational Church in England and Wales joined with the Presbyterian Church of England to form the United Reformed Church (URC), which the East Hull Church supported.

In the latter part of the 20th century, the East Hull URC was involved in two joint pastorates, firstly with the Holderness Road URC in Hull (1969-1993) and then when that was dissolved, with the church in Withernsea, in the East Riding from 1994. In 1997 the Rev. David Purse resigned as pastor at Withernsea, and although the joint pastorate was never formally dissolved, the two churches retained some links. In 2011, the building itself sustained some considerable damage after pipes burst. In 2013-2014, Sue Ripley, the long time secretary to the church served as Convenor-elect of the Yorkshire Assembly. After several years without a pastor, and with the problems of a dwindling congregation, changing local demographics and issues associated with the coronavirus outbreak, the decision was made to close the church in September 2020.

**Custodial history:** Records deposited by the The United Reformed Church Yorkshire Synod in May 2023

**Description:** Includes records of the East Hull United Reformed Church and Holderness Road United Reformed Church

**Arrangement:**

C DCUC/1	Records of the East Hull United Reformed Church	1939-2021
C DCUC/2	Records of the Holderness Road United Reformed Church	1995-2015

**Extent:** 15 bundles & 1 item

**Related material:** For more records of the East Hull United Reformed Church see collection C DCUE. Deeds for the East Hull United Reformed Church can be located at reference C DCUR/5. An Order of Service for the Opening and Service of Dedication of the church in 1953 is at L.285.8 EAS. An obituary of Sheila Holt, one of the founders of the East Hull Congregational Church can be found the Hull Daily Mail 22 April 1993.

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

<b>C DCUC/1</b>	<b>Records of the East Hull United Reformed Church</b> <b>11 bundles, 1 item</b>	<b>1939-2021</b>
<b>C DCUC/1/1</b>	<b>Financial records of the East Hull United Reformed Church</b> <b>5 bundles</b>	<b>Aug 1965- Jan 2021</b>
C DCUC/1/1/1	Financial statements of the East Hull United Reformed Church Includes income and expenditure 1 bundle	Aug 1965- 31 Dec 1970
C DCUC/1/1/2	Financial statements of the East Hull United Reformed Church Includes income and expenditure 1 bundle	31 Dec 1973- 31 Dec 1979
C DCUC/1/1/3	Financial statements of the East Hull United Reformed Church Includes income and expenditure 1 bundle	31 Dec 1980- 31 Dec 1999
C DCUC/1/1/4	Financial accounts of the East Hull United Reformed Church 1 bundle	31 Dec 2000- 31 Dec 2009
C DCUC/1/1/5	Financial accounts of the East Hull United Reformed Church 1 bundle	31 Dec 2010- 31 Jan 2021
C DCUC/1/2	<b>Correspondence of the East Hull United Reformed Church</b> 4 bundles	Jan 2000- Nov 2020
C DCUC/1/2/1	Correspondence of the East Hull United Reformed Church regarding grants for the provision of facilities for people with disabilities Includes plans of proposed car park, front approach and disabled toilet, and church layout 1 bundle	29 Aug 2000- 1 Aug 2002

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C DCUC/1/2/2	Correspondence of the East Hull United Reformed Church regarding grants for building work and landscaping of the rear gardens Includes copy of community initiatives budget application form 1 bundle	20 Feb 2007- 18 Feb 2008
C DCUC/1/2/3	Correspondence of the East Hull United Reformed Church regarding insurance claims for damage caused to building and theft of lead Includes an account of an alleged injury when five young people were seen cartwheeling off the roof of the church and an ambulance was called to the scene 1 bundle	11 Apr 2001- 4 Nov 2020
C DCUC/1/2/4	Correspondence of the East Hull United Reformed Church regarding the refurbishment of the church roof Includes polyroof proposal which includes photographs of the church and roof 1 bundle	24 Jan 2000- 26 Aug 2015
C DCUC/1/3	Yorkshire Synod Church building file for the East Hull United Reformed Church Serial number 4A09. Includes correspondence regarding closure of the church, papers regarding gas, water and electricity supply, and papers regarding flood damage to church in December 2010. 2 bundles	12 Jan 1999- 7 Apr 2021
C DCUC/1/4	East Hull Congregational Church Roll of Honour 1 item	1939-1945
<b>C DCUC/2</b>	<b>Records of the Holderness Road United Reformed Church</b> <b>Mostly consists of correspondence</b> <b>4 bundles</b>	<b>Mar 1995- Nov 2015</b>
C DCUC/2/1	Correspondence file of the Holderness Road United Reformed Church 1 bundle	10 Mar 1995- 15 Aug 2006
C DCUC/2/2	Correspondence file of the Holderness Road United Reformed Church 1 bundle	13 Feb 2007- 6 Nov 2008

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C DCUC/2/3

Correspondence file of the Holderness Road  
United Reformed Church  
Includes correspondence regarding the sale of the  
closed church and lease of the car park  
2 bundles

10 Jan 2009-  
20 Nov 2015