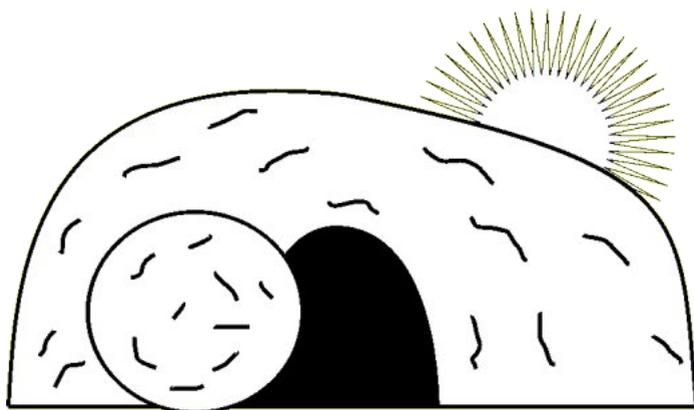


CONTACT

Groby
United Reformed Church



APRIL 2015

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK



29th MARCH - 4th APRIL:

Please pray for the events during Holy Week, particularly for the Maundy Thursday Communion Service. Ask God how you can become involved and re-dedicate yourself to Him in this most special week of the year. Pray for all

5th - 11th APRIL:

The Mission Shaped Ministry course comes to an end in May for some of folks in our churches. Please pray that through all the learning, ideas and aspirations the will of God for Groby will become very clear. Pray for us to recognize this will and to focus our efforts in time and money to build God's kingdom. Please pray for all of us to play the part God will allocate to each one of us..

12th - 18th APRIL:

Our church is in constant need of maintenance. Please pray that there will always be sufficient funds available for our needs and thank God for the many willing hands that do so much of the maintenance work that we take for granted. Please pray for Dave, Phil, Peter in particular

19th - 25th APRIL:

Please Pray for Barbara and Kay Blick as they faithfully provide us with Bible Notes. Please pray for those who prepare these Notes to help us to understand and to apply God's Word in our lives. Please pray for our own way of reading the Bible, and should you require Notes, then Barbara and Kay would be happy to give you advice.

26th APRIL - 2nd MAY:

Continue to pray for the right person to come to Groby to lead and develop the children and family ministry. Please pray for the EXTEND as they are going to interview possible candidates. Please pray for us as a church to support the work with our time and money.

- Ruth Ivens

WELCOME FROM YOUR ELDER



How's your day going? How's your year going? How's life for you at the moment?

Each one of us will have a different answer to the question. There's a song that we sing at Rehema entitled 'When the storms of life are raging'. It reminds me of when Jesus was in the boat with the disciples when a storm blew up and the disciples were afraid they would drown. They didn't fully appreciate who Jesus was and they were amazed when the wind and waves obeyed Him and became calm. Do we fully know who Jesus is? Do we fully trust Him to calm the storms in our life?

Until Jesus returns and we have the joy of a new heaven and a new earth, our lives will not be perfect. There will be happy times, when life is going well for us and for those we love; there will be times of celebration and great rejoicing, but there will be other times when life is difficult, when we are full of sorrow and when we don't understand why we are going through such trials. Jesus knows exactly what you're experiencing at this time and how you're feeling. He is fully human and fully God. He shares the joys and sorrows in our lives and He understands in a way that no-one else can.

As we 'celebrate' Easter, we think of the pain and suffering of Good Friday. We imagine the physical torture, the mental suffering and the emotional pain for Jesus, His family and His friends. What a difference a day makes! How desolate they must have felt, how lost and without hope. But it had to be so. Jesus had been chosen by God even before creation (1 Peter 1:20) and only His sacrifice, the One person without sin, could atone for our sins and make us right with God. So, we recognise our part in Christ's suffering and we are humbled by His great love for humanity and His willingness to do God's Will. Then we turn to the wonder of His resurrection; the awesome reality that He defeated death and won the victory for us. "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death... and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death" (Hebrews 2: 14-15). He overcame death that we might have eternal life through His sacrifice. What joy, what rapture! What a difference a day makes!

So, no matter what life is like for us at the moment, no matter what today may hold, if we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, He will share in all our earthly joys and sorrows. He will bring us comfort, hope, wisdom, guidance, joy, peace, love. He will provide whatever we need when we need it and, as we remember His sacrifice at this very special time of year, we can look to the future with confidence. We can trust that when the storms rage in our lives He is in our boat with us and we can call on Him to help us. God is faithful and we can trust Him. He is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever. So, no matter what we're experiencing at the moment, or where we are in the world, it's the very same sun that lights our days now that 2,000 years ago was darkened at Calvary, it's the same moon and stars that Jesus and His disciples looked upon that now draw our eyes heavenward, and it's the same God we serve. And as we serve Him now, just as Jesus did then, we can rest in the knowledge that He is Sovereign Lord and His plan is being worked out with every action we take and with every prayer we pray.

So, try to "Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a), even when it seems impossible. Our earthly life is transitory, our life with God will be eternal and He has already prepared a place for us there (John 14:2). What joy, what rapture!

Furaha Pasaka (Happy Easter),

- Mary Stait

TWEET



Nicky Gumbel (@nickygumbel) 20/03/2015 13:45

God designed you with a purpose in mind. You are not an accident. Your life has huge significance. God loves you. You are of infinite value.

- Rachel Hiscocks

GOLDEN OLDIES ENJOY SERENDIPITY

On a gloriously sunny afternoon in February 41 guests turned out to enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship.



Trash in the Attic was a big hit with an Astrolabe - a surveying astrology, time-keeping instrument confounding most people. Astrolabes were first made around 150BC and this reproduction was previously used by CTG for 'Journey to Bethlehem'.

'Brush Strokes' followed with some serious card making, where lovely cards were produced and put on display. Many were taken home to be sent out to family and friends.

Four of our Young People, whose presence was very much appreciated, came along to serve sandwiches, cake and trifle, while the guests were baffled by a game of Who Am I? We discovered some most surprising facts about the Team!!

What a great opening programme to the Golden Oldie Year.

- Joy Russell

HUJAMBO! - HOW ARE YOU



Our 6 month team are settling in well and getting stuck into some fantastic projects! There are 8 x 6 month-ers, plus 2x 4 month-ers and 2 have just finished their trip after 8 weeks! And another 10-12 arrive in April!

PROJECTS:

They are building a house for Tabu: a widow with 6 children. The team are currently bricklaying & enjoying developing close



relationships with her. They have completed their first water tank & started another two. 3 goat sheds have been built, enabling this project to expand and grow. The Health Centre is progressing well too. We hope to have it completed by April as we have enough funding

to complete everything up to government standards. We then, however, must focus on completing the Doctor's House as the Health Centre cannot be opened until this is finished. So, we still need to look at funding for completing the whole project. We would like to get the Centre up and running by the summer – so please pray for God's provision in this.

MY PRAYER POINTS:

1. Praise God for the current team & all that God is doing with them, through them and in their lives.

2. Praise God for the opportunity I had to go away with the Musoma Ladies' Missionary Bible Study group. It really was a massive blessing to have time to relax, refresh, study God's word deeply and to laugh together. Pray that in our Bible Study times we can grow deeper in our relationships with God and that by this we can then continue to be great witnesses for Him.



3. Praise God for the time I get with Mum being here. She is doing a fantastic job at Rehema and massively transforming lives and situations there. It's great to see God at work!!!

4. Pray that as we continue to come across serious health cases that God will provide us with the practicalities and wisdom to deal with them.

5. The Market Garden has been a mixture of success and disappointment. There was a great harvest of tomatoes and they are reaching a good price in the market. Unfortunately, we have not had much success with the cabbages due to fungal infection. It is not only affecting our farm but other farms nearby too. The garden really needs to make a profit this year otherwise we will be forced to close it down. The garden provides much needed income for the Rafiki group and has potential to make a massive difference, so please be praying for the project.



6. Praise God for the launch of our Child Sponsorship scheme. Praise God for those sponsors who have committed to financially supporting children through school. Please pray for the sponsorship scheme that God will bless us with wisdom in how to attract more sponsors.

7. Please pray that as I continue to learn Swahili I will have the time & motivation and that conversations & understanding will improve.

8. Pray too that I can continue to serve God through the work I do with GoMAD. Pray that I can do my job well and that as I serve those around me I can glorify God. Lives Changed...

I am loving my time out here and feel very privileged to be serving God here. He is constantly nurturing and teaching me more of who He is and my need to **Trust Him in EVERYTHING!** Thank you again for all your love & support. I am also so excited for Charlotte Hiscocks coming out in June!!! Please pray for God's protection and blessing on her as she prepares for her trip and that she will grow closer to God as she experiences the work He is doing here.

MUNGU AKUBARIKI (God Bless You)

- Deb Goodhead,
In-Country Leader:
Go MAD (Go Make a Difference) in Tanzania)

PRAYER IDEA

This is an idea for the whole family to get involved in!

Take a jam or coffee jar and decorate it.



Cut up some bits of paper and put them by the jar with some pens or pencils. Put the jar somewhere accessible to everybody at any time, e.g kitchen table. When something good happens or someone has been kind to you, write it on a slip of paper and put it in the jar.

Make a routine of opening the jar once a day or once a week when everyone is together, reading the slips and saying thank you to God for His blessings. Maybe you could even glue them all into a book to look back at in the future to see how God has blessed you!

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. Isaiah 44:3

- Sue Mckenzie

BAPTISMS

Sunday 26th April at Kirby Muxloe Free Church

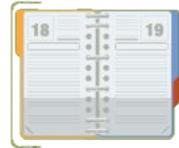


Tim Down, Sam Lomas and Kory Burford will be baptised at a special service on during the afternoon. Please pray for them as they prepare for this really important step on their Christian journey, and come along a support them on the day!

-Sue Mckenzie

CHURCH YEAR CALENDARS

At last....! Copies are available at the back of the church, and will be e-mailed out as well.



- Sue Mckenzie

PRAYER FOCUS

Please continue to pray for an increase in families with younger children coming to church.



- Sue Mckenzie

GOD CALLS ELDERS

The ministry of elders, as we have it today, has its origin in the New Testament, which witnesses to the variety of models of service in the early Church. Eldership is a characteristic of many Christian traditions which have their roots in the Reformation.

Eldership is a recognised ministry in the United Reformed Church - elders are ordained for life, and here, they serve the church for a maximum of 2 terms of 3 years before taking a break. They have an essential part to play in enabling the congregation to live a healthy and fruitful life as God's people, and in providing the leadership required for mission, witness, and service. It is important to remember that the elders work as a team. Together with the minister, they have responsibility for the life of the local congregation, but no one person is expected to have been given all the gifts required, so a team of people with different gifts is needed, who then work together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

EVERY church member has a part to play in nominating and voting for elders - they are elected by the church meeting, and their selection and appointment should be undertaken with great care and undergirded by prayer. Elders are people in whom others have recognised the spiritual gifts that can aid the leadership of the church.

During the service on April 26th, and at Church Meeting on Tuesday April 28th, we will look at the Bible background to eldership and what it means and pray together about it. Then, in May, all church members will be asked to prayerfully consider who they would like to nominate as an elder. Voting will be during the Church meeting on Tuesday 30th June.

- Sue Mckenzie

MEET MITANI FROM MUSOMA, TANZANIA

This is Mtani. He is 21 years old and lives in Kyamajoje, Musoma, Tanzania with his Grandmother. 2 years ago Mtani was a young, fit and healthy man who worked hard for a living. One day, however, his life was turned up-side down.



Mtani, whilst climbing a palm tree to collect coconuts for his boss, slipped and fell. He injured himself badly. After many trips to the hospital and doctors telling him he would recover soon, Mtani eventually discovered that he was in fact paralysed and unable to use his legs. Over the last 2 years since our GoMAD Team back in 2013 came across him and learnt his story, we have been supporting Mtani to help him build his life so he can be independent again. Volunteers have provided wheelchairs, toilet facilities, a new bed as well as supplies of food & health care and a water tank.

In January of this year Mtani was given a very special opportunity, that is, to learn a trade. He decided he would like to learn woodwork and is now being sponsored to study at Lake Victoria's Disability School, where he is living for the next year. He will learn the trade and they will also teach him many other skills about what it means to live with a disability. It is a fantastic Centre and they really do nurture the whole person!

We are excited to see where this leads- but the goal is to get him to a place where he can work, earn a living, support himself and manage his disability. He has been 100% reliant on his grandmother for a very long time and so please pray that as he develops new skills and a new way of life God will guide him & provide for him. Please also pray for continued healing on a very severe bedsore wound. Mtani is a pleasure to know and he has an incredible faith in Jesus.

- Deb Goodhead

TEACHING & WORSHIP PROGRAMME



Real Life, Real Issues: inspiration from
the life of Simon Peter

Peter's story through parts of the Gospels and Acts, and then
the letters of 1 and 2 Peter. - Sue Mckenzie

5th APR 15 - Easter Sunday

7am Communion at Old John, Bradgate Park

10am Rev Sue McKenzie Elder: Dave Lomas/
Communion Tim Symonds (C)

12th APR 15

10am Samantha Aspinall Elder: Tim Symonds
'Picking up the threads'
John 21: 1-14

19th APR 15

10am Zac Alard Elder: Trevor Pringle
'Putting Things Right'
John 21: 15-19

26th APR 15

10am Rev Sue McKenzie Elder: Dave Harrup
All Age Service

HELPING HANDS APRIL 2015



WORSHIP

Tim Symmonds
5th Tim Symmonds
& Debbie George
12th Karen Harrup
& Sue Annable
19th Tom George
26th Viv Limb

CRECHE

Lynda Symonds
5th Rachel and Linda
12th Hilary and Ruth
19th Lewis and Hily
26th Catherine and Suzie

COFFEE

Joy Russell
5th Kay B & Kay P
12th Sue LB & Hily
19th Judith & Anne B
26th Pat C & Mary P

FLOWERS

Barbara Conlon
5th Mrs K. Blick
12th Mrs C. Ward
19th Mrs. B. Gardiner
26th Mr. & Mrs. D. Collins

WELCOME

Joy Russell
5th Anne B & Barbara L
12th Joy & Peter
19th John & Elaine
26th Trevor & Mary

MEDIA

Tim Symmonds
5th Mark Hiscocks
12th Barry Du Boulay
19th Chris Down
26th Dave Smith

Afternoon: Tim Symonds

CLEANING

Mary Stait
3/4th Pat C, Kay B, Joy & Peter
10/11th Jeanette & Barrie, Anne, Hilary
17/18th Kathy D B, Lynda H, Sue & Lewis
24/25th Dave S, Sue & Mike (Help needed)

GOOD FRIDAY - CHATTABOX

FRIDAY 3rd APRIL 1.30— 3.30pm

St. Philip & St.
James Church,
Markfield Road, Groby
LE6 0FL

Activities, crafts, songs
and the Easter story!

Year 1 - Year 6
children and we ask a
parent or carer to stay
with your child.



No need to register in advance.

If you are able to help with the craft areas, serving refreshments or chatting with those who come, please add your name to the sign up sheets in either church or contact me on 231 3090.

- Louise Corke

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

2nd April 7.30pm URC

An opportunity to reflect on the most significant meal that Jesus shared and what it means for our own lives



- Sue Mckenzie

WELCOME BOOKLET

Copies of this booklet are available in church to give to visitors and newcomers to introduce us and highlight some of our activities.

-Sue Mckenzie



Welcome
to
Groby United Reformed Church

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16





CHRISTIAN AID

MEET LOKO

Afraid, alone, in pain. Loko's choice in life is simple: 'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die.' Four times a week, in a

remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve. She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says. Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.



CHRISTIAN AID UK

Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. From **10-16 May**, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko. This fantastic witness is a chance to take the mission of the church into your community. Find out how you can play your part at www.caweek.org



CHRISTIAN AID IN GROBY

Look out for the sign up notice for collectors which will be at the back of the Church from Sunday 19th April. Last year Groby people generously gave £4,410.40. If you haven't been a collector before please consider if you could this year. Not every road had a collector last year – it would be great to reach the whole village.

- Mary Pringle

SOCIAL EVENT

CYCLING & WALKING - 9th MAY

We are off to **RUTLAND WATER** on Saturday 9th May. Some folk will walk 7 miles while others will cycle 20-28 miles.

Alternatively come & picnic only. Please put this date in your diary, for further details see leaflets or contact me on 232 1733.



Pray for good weather!

- Lewis Mckenzie

PRAYER BOX

Our Prayer Box Team meets every **TUESDAY** – If you would value prayer, please complete a prayer card and place it in the box at the back of the church.



- David Harrup

BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday, and may the Lord bless you:-

BEN STOKES	3 years	7th April
DYLAN KIRBY	4 years	21st April
SOPHIA NORTON PAGETT	3 years	23rd April

-Sue Lawrence Brooks

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

I'd like to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone from both Groby churches who contributed In any way to this very special event,-- From flying the flag (can you imagine putting those up; he was obviously a mountaineer!) to making all those cups of tea and washing up. Another job was putting all the chairs out, and we couldn't have done without the techi man to show the photos and play the music, and also the brilliant pianist, and our little singing group; not forgetting of course all the readers. All these went to making WWD of Prayer 2015 a success. I never realised how many people were involved. Thank you again, and hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

- Judith Robinson

FAIRTRADE RECIPE



CHORIZO AND HALLOUMI PASTA

You may have realised by now from previous recipes that I am rather fond of both chorizo and halloumi. Well, this recipe is another one of our made up ones which combines both! It makes use of Fairtrade pasta. Fusilli or penne are both available from the Just shop.

INGREDIENTS (Serves 4)

- 1 pack halloumi cheese, diced
- 2/3 of ring of chorizo, thinly sliced
- 400g cherry or baby plum tomatoes, quartered
- 1 medium sized red onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, sliced
- 250g **FAIRTRADE** penne or fusilli
- FAIRTRADE** black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Knob of butter

METHOD

- start by heating the oil and butter in a sauté pan and then add the halloumi and fry, turning occasionally, until the cheese is golden and crispy on the outside. Remove from the heat
- place the pasta in a pan of boiling water and cook for the recommended cooking time
- in the same pan that you have just cooked the halloumi cheese in, now cook the chorizo. After a couple of minutes add the onion and then the garlic, stirring the ingredients and aiming for the chorizo to have a nice crisp edge
- add the tomatoes to the chorizo and onion mix and continue stirring periodically while the tomatoes cook down. Add black pepper to taste. Put the halloumi back into the pan to warm back through
- once the pasta is cooked, drain and add to the sauté pan and stir
- serve and enjoy!

- Catherine Ward

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Thurs 2 April 15	Maundy Thursday communion (CTG)
Friday 3 April 15	Chatterbox
Sunday 5 April 15	7am Easter communion at Old John
Thurs 21 April 15	Talking to God
Sat 25 April 15	CTG Prayer Breakfast P&J Lead / URC Feed
Sun 26 April 15	Baptisms at Kirby Muxloe

- Kathy Du Boulay

MAY 2015 ISSUE

CONTACT

Next Deadline 19 APRIL 2015

Please submit articles to me by the above date, preferred via email.

This magazine is published in print and on the church website, grobyurc.com. If you would like to be added or removed from the paper copy distribution list or the monthly hyperlink email list, please let me know.

- Mark Hiscocks, hiscocksm@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHY & FAITH

A workshop day at St Bernard's Abbey

On Tuesday 3rd March Chris Down and Joy attended a workshop led by Rev. John Potter, a former professional photographer and Minister of Abbots Road U.R.C . After coffee and opening worship we were straight into some history of images as part of the Christian faith with a nod to the bad press, especially Deut 4 and Isaiah 10: 10-11.



We were a group of 8 very different personalities with mixed photography skills, ranging from technocrats to 'leave it on auto-focus' snappers. John was a superb and amusing teacher and very patient when explaining exposure balance and ISO numbers. He encouraged us to create our own artwork being inspired by scripture, hymns and poems. I not sure his advise that 'diagonals are dynamic' worked for my interior shots of the abbey; they look as if I was standing on one leg when I took them!

We had lots of flexible time to reflect, ask questions, snap, eat and chat, but mainly folk drifted off into the grounds in their own little world - snapping and enjoying the solitude and sunshine.

I really enjoyed a lovely quiet day out, learned many tips and hints and loved seeing John's beautiful artistic photographs.

- Joy Russell

TALKING TO GOD



An opportunity to spend time together talking to God about our Church on a Tuesday evening

ONCE A MONTH at 7.30pm
One hour of prayer led by Elders

DATE – **TUESDAY 21 APRIL 15**

Everyone welcome and everyone important

- Kathy Du Boulay

FAIRTRADE

Were you part of Groby does Fair Cake and Cuppa?

Fairtrade Fortnight has come and gone, but hopefully the message will continue to spread throughout Groby.



At the time of writing photographs have come in from 15 different groups and societies. Look out for the photo montage in the May edition of Spotlight.

Don't forget that Fair Trade means that the people who grow our cocoa, sugar, tea and coffee get a fair price for their products. It enables them to look after their families, send their children to school and it has a positive effect on their surrounding communities. Spread the message!

Groby United Reformed Church
member: Evangelical Alliance UK
www.grobyurc.com, LE6 OFE



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Youth Worker:	Ruth Cross	07759 087804 ruth.cross@outlook.com
Secretarial Team:	Phil Holmes	0116 2253335 maxmellhouse@hotmail.com
	Peter Russell	0116 299 6164
Hall Lettings:	Kay Peel	07510191182

Sunday Morning Worship (10am)

All Age with Y.church (children's session) Holy Communion as announced. Babies and toddlers can be cared for on Sunday mornings. The church building has a loop hearing system, wheelchair access, a toilet for the disabled & baby nappy-changing facilities.

Home Groups: Wed & Thurs evenings – see an elder for details.

Weekly Activities:

Monday:	9.30-11.30am	Noah's Ark Club for toddlers and families.
	6.30-7.30pm	Genesis* (children years 4-6)
	7.45-9.00pm	Rock Solid* (young people in years 7-9)
Wednesday:	7.30-9.00pm	Revelation* (teenagers, years 10-13)
Thursday:	10.30-12.00am	Fair Cuppa* at Groby Village Hall.
Friday:	9.30-11.30am	CATCH* Coffee and chat (in term-time)
	7.30-9.30pm	Gap* (young people in years 10-13)
Saturday:	8.00-9.00am	Prayers, all welcome

*These activities are run jointly with St. Philip & St. James Church as part of 'Churches Together in Groby'