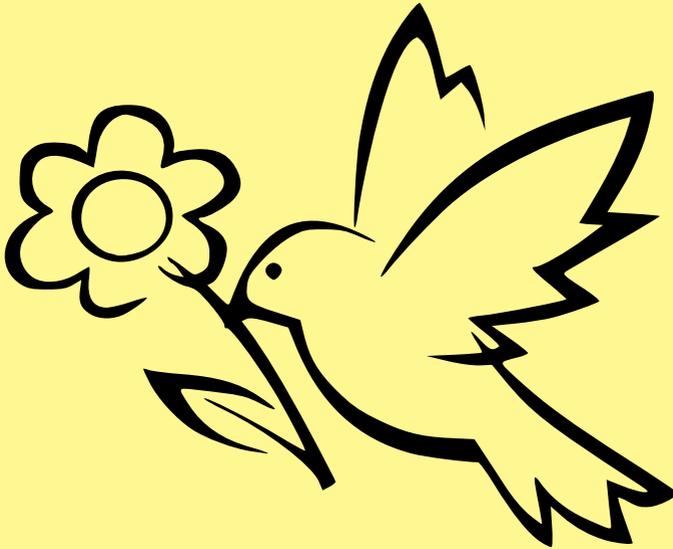


# CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby  
United Reformed Church



Churches  
together  
in  
**G**roby

April 2016

# PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

## 27TH MARCH - 2ND APR 16

Sue and Lewis are on holiday this week. Pray for them, thanking God for all that they do and asking Him to give them rest and refreshment and a renewing of the Holy Spirit as they take this much needed break.

## 3RD – 9TH APRIL 16

Please pray for the Elders in their ministry to lead and to serve the fellowship. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill them with wisdom, insight and with a vision to move the church forward.

## 10TH -16TH APRIL 16

What a success Love Groby Tasters has been. Please pray for the ongoing aim of this venture to make more disciples for Christ. Pray also how you might be involved in some way, even if it is just to visit on the occasional Saturday morning. Pray for the team leading the project that God will sustain them as it carries on much longer than expected!

## 17TH – 23RD APRIL 16

Our prayers for this week are for Ruth Cross and her family. Please pray for a good maternity leave; pray for God's blessing to guide Ruth and Ben at all time in their new role as parents.

## 24TH -30TH APRIL 16

The fruitfulness course has come to an end. Please pray for an abundance of fruit to be visible as a result of studying this topic. Please pray for us to be obedient to God's prompting on our frontlines. Please pray that we may encourage each other in this ministry.

Are you aware of the Church's Prayer Chain? For Urgent Prayer requests, please contact Ruth Ivens on 2876038.

- Lynda Hawkes & Ruth Ivens

# WELCOME FROM OUR MINISTER



On Friday, I visited The Christian Union at Groby College. The group, who meet each Friday lunchtime, had decided to make an impact on the wider College community by giving out Easter eggs to the students during their lunchtime. That Friday it was a small group who gathered to do this and I joined in as we were loaded up with Cadbury's Creme eggs to give away. Dan (the new Youth worker from Desford) had bought – wait for it – 300 of them! Each egg had a message attached to it saying 'Jesus Loves You'. We agreed that we would say clearly that the eggs were a gift from the Christian Union to wish them a Happy Easter. It was a simple (and as difficult) as that.

It did not take long to give away 300 chocolate eggs – reactions were often a bit disbelieving to start with – was this serious? Was it a joke of some kind? But then most were genuinely surprised and grateful, accepting the egg and the greeting that accompanied it. Congratulations to those few brave C.U. members who were courageous enough to do this. We do not know how God will use those moments of interaction, but one group asked Dan so many questions that he had to refer them to a website.

We don't KNOW how God is working through us most of the time.

We don't KNOW where God may take us in these exciting times.

But not knowing these things is no excuse, because that is exactly what FAITH is all about. The disciples certainly did not KNOW fully what the amazing and life changing implications of the death and resurrection of Jesus were to start with. They did not KNOW that they were going to be the first Christian church. They did not KNOW what the gift of the Holy Spirit was that was promised by Jesus. And even when these things began to become clear, their reaction was similar to that of the students when handed the gift of an Easter egg. Really? You must be joking? Who me? Who us?

We may have faith in God, but he has even more faith in us. We are called as disciples to follow in the footsteps of Jesus – being and making disciples for him.

‘Discipleship is not an optional extra for the enthusiastic spiritual elite, or for ministers/pastors paid to do such things. It’s not cheap nor a quick fix nor another badge to wear; it’s a lifelong journey and commitment. It’s the Plan A strategy of Jesus for everyone who chooses to follow him.’

That quote comes from a book entitled ‘From the Acorn of Discipleship’ written by David Bedford who is the speaker at the Church away Day in May. I hope you already have the date booked, as I feel sure it is going to be a significant day in the life of this church. There are more details about the day later in this edition of ‘Contact.’

With warm greetings in Christ

- Sue Mckenzie

## TWEET

Nicky Gumbel @nickygumbel

16/03/2016, 18:11



APPRECIATE THOSE WHO LOVE YOU. SERVE THOSE WHO NEED YOU. FORGIVE THOSE WHO HURT YOU. THANK THOSE WHO HELP YOU.

- Rachel Hiscocks

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## SPRING/SUMMER PREACHING THEMES

The elders spent some time talking through some possible topics and themes for preaching over the next few months. We looked back over the past topics and decided that the letter to the Ephesians would complement well the Fruitfulness series just completed. Entitled: 'Blessed to be a blessing', Ephesians is a great 'post Easter' letter celebrating all God has done in Christ, and what he promises to do through his church, growing and gifting individuals to build up the body of Christ. As mature disciples, all are called to live out their faith in order to be a blessing to others and bring glory to God.

In July, we return to the Gospels, and to Luke, in order to explore the teaching of Jesus in parables. Some familiar ones, some less so, these stories Jesus told are treasures that deserve regular unpacking to make us think about faith and to challenge us to see things through the eyes of faith and not our own.

In the autumn we will turn to the Old Testament and to the powerful figure of Elijah.

If you have ideas for future preaching themes or topics, please do mention them to an elder or to me

- Sue Mckenzie.

## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

During Fairtrade fortnight, four members of our homegroup attended an evening with Zaytoun. We heard a very interesting talk from a Palestinian olive farmer called Mohammed Hamada. He was one of the first farmers to register with the Palestine Fairtrade Association, established in 2004. Mohammed is a full-time farmer and now has 1200 olive trees. He sells an average of three tonnes of organic Fairtrade olive oil each year. He is able to support his family of seven children, and also gives 10% of his harvest to the needy. Fairtrade has been very important to Mohammed and fellow members of the village Cooperative in Burqin - the premiums have helped supply tools and equipment for farmers and also a new playground and desks for a village school. Regular payments mean Mohammed can pay his children's education expenses and invest in expanding his crops.



We also heard from Manal, the managing director of Zaytoun, a UK social enterprise founded in 2004, which imports and sells fairly traded Palestinian artisan food. She spoke of the problems caused by the troubled political situation, but also of the great pride the Palestinian farmers take in their work. Zaytoun is supporting an olive tree planting project run by PFTA. Details can be found at [www.zaytoun.org/plant\\_a\\_tree.html](http://www.zaytoun.org/plant_a_tree.html). The Just Shop sells a range of Zaytoun products, including olive oil, Medjoul dates and herb mixes.

It was a privilege to hear from two very engaging speakers with direct experience of the benefits of Fairtrade. Zaytoun also organise trips to Palestine to coincide with the annual olive harvest, so if you fancy a holiday with a difference...

- Jan White

## WELCOME PROJECT

Thank you to those brought in tea and coffee in March – our donations are much appreciated by the project's clients.

To continue our regular support in April – please bring in just the following items -

Sunday 3rd April – any type of breakfast cereal.

Thank you.

You can also continue to help by praying for the project, for the individuals caught up in this desperate situation, and by offering practical help (see Roger).

Some of Christian clients have escaped persecution in their own countries – through knowing God they have found real freedom. Thank God for this.

- For more information please see Roger, Ruth or David H.



**FELLAS FOLLOWING FOOTPATHS**



**Thurs 7th April  
7.00pm from the  
URC car park**

**(see David H for info)**

**Churches  
together  
in  
Groby**

## WHAT WILL THE FELLAS DO FROM APRIL WITHOUT THEIR FILM & FOOD?

Whilst we have the lighter evenings the Fellas will be going outdoors and Following Footpaths around Groby. We will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month from April until September. Each month we will walk out of Groby and back via a different route.

We will be walking for 60-90 minutes on at times muddy/rough paths – so walking boots and possibly waterproofs required. If the route takes us by a local pub we will stop for a short drink.

The first walk in April will probably take us out towards Ratby to pick up the Ivanhoe Way to Glenfield and then back into Groby through Marina Park

This is a Churches Together evening and fellas from both churches are encouraged to come along with a non-church friend.

For more information please see me.

- David Harrup

The logo for 'ENCOUNTER' features the word in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A large black cross is superimposed over the letters 'O', 'U', and 'N'. To the right of the word, there is a stylized white dove with its wings spread, set against a background of colorful, wavy lines in shades of blue, orange, and red.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.15pm**  
**Praise & Worship**  
**and a shared encounter with God**

**For 2016 Encounter is usually the fourth Sunday of the month.**

# TEACHING & WORSHIP PROGRAMME



‘**BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING**’, Ephesians is a great ‘post Easter’ letter celebrating all God has done in Christ, and what he promises to do through his church, growing and gifting individuals to build up the body of Christ.

- Sue McKenzie

## 3RD APR 16

10am            Ray Haywood & David Harrup            Elder: David Harrup  
New Life in Christ

## 10TH APR 16

10am            Rev Sue McKenzie            Elder: Phil Holmes  
Alive in Christ: Blessed, chosen and loved  
Ephesians 1: 1-14

## 17TH APR 16

10am            Rev Sue McKenzie            Elder: Dave Smith  
Saved by grace through faith            / (C) Tim Symonds  
Ephesians 2: 1-10  
Communion

6.30pm            Reflective service at URC

## 24TH APR 16

10am            David Harrup            Elder: Rachel Hiscocks  
All Age Service

7.15pm            Encounter

# HELPING HANDS APR 2016



## CRECHE

Linda Symonds  
3rd Rachel and Linda  
10th Hilary and Ruth  
17th Lewis and Hily  
24th Catherine and Suzie

## MEDIA

Tim Symonds  
3rd Barrie DuBoulay  
10th Matthew Hiscocks  
17th Phil Holmes  
24th Chris Down

## COFFEE

Joy Russell  
3rd Jan & Kathy dB  
10th Ann T & Barbara C  
17th Dave & Hilary  
24th Two Kays

## FLOWERS

Barbara Conlon  
3rd Mrs. K. Blick  
10th Mrs C. Ward  
17th Mrs. B. Gardiner  
24th Mr. & Mrs. D. Collins

## WELCOME

Joy Russell  
3rd Anne B & Barbara L  
10th Joy & Peter  
17th John & Elaine  
24th Trevor & Mary

## CTG FAIRCUPPA

Violet Atkins  
7th Margaret & Romaine  
14th Linda  
21st Connie & Beryl  
28th Glennis & Neta

## CLEANING

Mary Stait  
31/1st Dave S, Sue & Mike, Mary  
7/8th Ruth, Sue LB, Jean (help needed)  
14/15th Linda & Tim, Jan (help needed)  
21/22nd Pat C, Joy & Peter Kay B  
28/29th Jeanette & Barrie, Anne, Hilary

# WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



4th March 2016

About 30 people, drawn from both congregations, attended the Women's World Day of Prayer Service at St Philip & James on Friday 4th March. The service had been written by the Christian Women of Cuba and focused on families and children – "Receive Children, Receive Me".

A drink of fresh lemonade was available on arrival and then Alan Tyler set the scene with an illustrated introduction to Cuba, which was very informative. The 'Reflection' during the service was led by John Fryer, the CTG Families and Children Worker. Refreshments and a chance to chat followed the service.

Our three "Girls" (from St Philip & James Sunday School) are worthy of special mention – Grace Ryan, Josie Payne and Hope Mwenya – they all read clearly and confidently. Well done and thank you girls.

My thanks also go to all who took part, again representatives from both churches, and all who helped in any way – your support made it happen!

Next year's service has been prepared by the Women of the Phillipines and will be held on the first Friday in March (3rd) 2017, hopefully at the URC. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

- Gill Tyler, St Philip & James Church



**Christian Aid Week: the week we love every neighbour**

## Christian Aid in Groby

Please look out for the sign up notice for deliverers and collectors which will be at the back of the Church from Sunday 24th April. If you haven't been involved before please consider if you could help this year.



We believe in life before death

UK registered charity no. 1105851 Company no. 5171525 Scot charity no. SC039150  
Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI069154 and ROI charity  
no. 20014162 Company no. 426928. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks  
of Christian Aid. Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance.  
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**prayer  
breakfast**

**Churches Together in Groby Prayers  
on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 8.00am to 9.00am -  
focused on praying for the outreach and  
witness of the churches in Groby.**

**All are then invited to stop for breakfast at  
Love Groby TASTERS.**



*love* **GROBY TASTERS**

*As churches we love Groby so to celebrate we're inviting you to  
Saturday Mornings of fun for all ages.*

**GREAT COFFEE, BACON COB, CAKES AND BOUNCY INFLATABLE**

**Every Saturday**  
9.30am-12pm



**GROBY URC  
CHAPEL HILL**

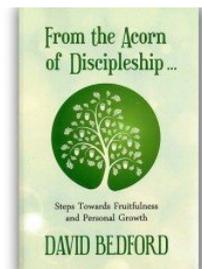
# CHURCH AWAY DAY

SATURDAY 21ST MAY 2016

MAPLEWELL HALL SCHOOL

9.30AM – 4.00PM

A day for everyone to grow in faith and to have fun!



Speaker: **REVD DAVID BEDFORD**

URC minister in Canterbury and author of 'From the Acorn of Discipleship'

In his book, David seeks to help all believers in Christ become active, fruitful disciples themselves and at the same time disciple others. He believes that from the acorn of discipleship, once again can grow the oak tree of the Body of Christ.

**'WHEN WE DO DISCIPLESHIP, JESUS DOES HIS BIT AND BUILDS THE CHURCH; WHEN WE DON'T, HE HAS NO BUILDING MATERIAL WITH WHICH TO BUILD.'** p14

Breakfast will be available from 9.30am, there will be worship, stimulating, Bible based and challenging talks from David Bedford, discussion, crafts, games, a BBQ lunch, outdoor Communion, creative prayer and activities for children.

Booking forms will be available during April, and we will be looking for some help with one or two things as well.

We highly recommend reading David's book. It is available from the URC bookshop:

<http://urcshop.co.uk/books/from-the-acorn-of-discipleship>

or from Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/From-Acorn-Discipleship-Fruitfulness-Personal/dp/1910197289>

Please speak to the planning group for more information:

Rachel Hiscocks, Dave Smith, David Harrup, Sue McKenzie

## Calling All Cleaners – your views count!

If you're on the cleaning rota please take a few minutes to complete this survey, then cut it out and place it in the box at the back of the church by **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April**:

We are reviewing the Church cleaning and want to hear your views:

1.	Do you clean the church together as a team or individually?
2.	Which areas of the build do you personally clean?
3.	How long does it take you each time?
4.	Do you struggle to find time on a Friday or Saturday to clean?
5.	If so, would you prefer to clean on another day? If yes, do you have a preference for which day?
6.	Do you think people should be on the cleaning rota for a fixed term, or should people stay on the rota till they 'resign'?
7.	The current rota means each team cleans once every six weeks. Is this ok, or how often would you prefer to clean?
8.	Would you be willing to organise the cleaning rota?
9.	Do you have any further comments or suggestions?

Thank you. - Mary Stait

A graphic for a birthday celebration. The words "Happy Birthday" are written in a large, orange, cursive font. The word "Happy" is smaller than "Birthday". The text is surrounded by several five-pointed stars in blue and green. Some stars have a black shadow effect.

# Happy Birthday

Happy April Birthdays to:-

BEN STOKES  
DYLAN KIRBY  
SOPHIA NORTON-PAGETT

-Sue Lawrence Brooks

A poster for a church meeting. The background is light blue. At the bottom, there is a blue line-art illustration of a church building with a cross on its roof. An orange banner with white text is overlaid on the bottom part of the church illustration.

**Church Meeting**  
**Tues 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
**at 7.30pm**

**"a family friendly church"**

Chapel Hill, Groby, Leicester

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 7 April	Fellas Following Footpaths
Tues 19th April	Talking to God
Tues 26th April	Church Meeting
Sat 30th April	Prayer Breakfast



- Kathy Du Boulay

## PRAYER MEETING

This is an opportunity to talk to God about our church

**TUESDAY 19 APRIL 16, 7.30PM**

**'WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?'**

It is an hour of prayer led by an elder – all are welcome and encouraged to come along.



- David Harrup

## MAY 2016 ISSUE

**NEXT DEADLINE SAT 16 APRIL 2016**

*CONTACT*

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, [MAGAZINE@GROBYURC.COM](mailto:MAGAZINE@GROBYURC.COM)



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## 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.
	6.00-7.15pm	Chattabox Mondays* (children years 3-6)
	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'.