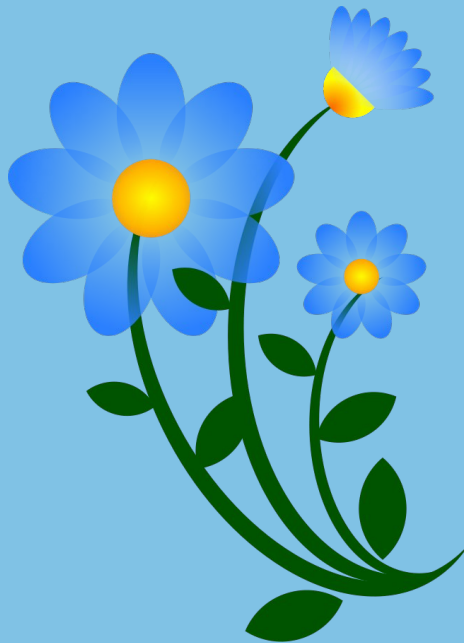


CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby
United Reformed Church



Churches
together
in
Groby

June 2017

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

4-10 JUNE 17

Our Elders have a huge responsibility whilst we have no Minister and they really need our prayer support, not only for this week but every week. Please pray for each of them by name that God will give them strength and wisdom and unity as a team whilst they carry out their vital work for us.

11-17 JUNE

Please concentrate your prayer this week on our need for a new Minister. Please ask God to prepare whoever He has in mind for us and pray that this will be revealed to us soon. Pray also that when the time comes, God will speak to each of us clearly to make His Will known.

18-24 JUNE

Next week we have our church AGM and the election of Elders. Please pray for this event and that God will guide you in the nomination and voting for the right people to take up this vital role in our church.

25 JUNE - 1ST JULY

We are relying heavily on both preachers from our own congregation and those visiting from elsewhere. Please give thanks to God for them and pray for their ministry in bringing God's word to us. Pray for them each

- Lynda Hawkes & Ruth Ivens

WELCOME FROM DAVE, CHURCH ELDER



We will soon be half way through the year, yet we have seen some big changes over the last six months that affects us in different ways. Ruth Cross our youth worker has left and moved to Market Harborough. Louise Corke vicar from St Phillip's and St James left after 14 years faithful service to take up a new post in the Diocese. Louise was a big part of our church too, sharing many events and activities over the years. Our minister, Sue has taken retirement after a long illness. Although Sue was only with us for five years she made a big impact upon our Church life and she and Lewis will be missed. Sue liked to use images in her sermons and one she referred to regularly was that of the mustard seed that can grow into a large tree, that symbolism of growth in faith. She introduced us to the Fruitfulness on the Frontline course which helped us to be more confident in building relationships on our front lines, wherever that may be, sowing those mustard seeds of faith.



Sadly Owen Hedges passed away in the Pilgrim Homes at Easter, after a long decline in his health and quality of life. Owen and Margaret came to our church in 1965; they sowed many seeds in their time, were such an inspiration and encouragement to many people starting out on their Christian journey, and were instrumental in many people coming to join the church. Owen served as an elder in our church for 21 years. Nobody will ever forget his sense of fun and constant stream of jokes. I said earlier that "Sadly Owen passed away", but really he was ready to go and he new exactly where he was going. His faith was unshakeable and he new the truth in the promise that we read in John 3:16 "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."

All of these people who have left us are on a new journey in their walk of 1

faith, have sowed many seeds in their time with us, but in many cases may never see the fruit of their labour. If you are like me, you are perhaps a bit of an impatient gardener wanting to see those plants you put in the garden start to grow and flourish. We are like that with our mustard seeds sown.

Owen would have seen many changes over the 50 plus years he was a member of our church, seeing many people come and go and many come to believe in the truths of the gospel. I am sure if you are like me you will be feeling a little apprehensive as to what the future holds for our church, but there are many exciting things happening and will continue. Love Groby Tasters, the work with children and families and John Fryer starting a full time contract as our Children and Families Worker. The Fresh Expression events that are being planned and other CTG events to mention a few. We just need to hold on to that trust and faith that Owen had. I am reminded of the verse in Proverbs 3:5 "Trust the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; acknowledge Him and he will make your paths straight."

Dave Smith

TWEET

Gerard Kelly (@twitturgies)

11/05/2017, 12:20



God's projects outstretch mine. His perspectives wider, his purpose deeper. I don't pray 'God cover my plans'. I pray 'may I uncover yours'

- Rachel Hiscocks

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Some people have asked what we discuss at elders meetings. As an answer, we have the same agenda headings each month as below and the elders would value prayer when we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies & Devotions
2. Minutes of previous meeting approval
3. Matters arising
4. Worship
5. Prayer & Pastoral
6. Secretarial
7. Mission
8. Church life
 - Extend update
 - CTG update
9. AOB

- Phil Holmes



Happy June Birthday

Ario Platts

SYRIAN CRISIS

Across the Middle East, millions of people are suffering. In Syria millions have fled their homes to escape the terrifying brutality of Islamic State (IS) militants.



Syrian refugees in Lebanon (Photo: Eleanor Bentall/Tearfund)

DO YOU FEEL DISTRAUGHT AND HOPELESS WHEN YOU WATCH THE PLIGHT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES ON TELEVISION?

There is hope, because TEARFUND is out there in the field.

WHAT CAN TEARFUND DO IN SUCH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS?

TEARFUND is operating in Lebanon by distributing food parcels.

SURELY, IF TEARFUND CAN HELP, SO CAN WE - BUT HOW?

Ever thought of eating more simply, enabling these people to simply live by donating the savings to TEARFUND!

Please read the article in TEARTIMES or speak to me

- Ruth Ivens

You are warmly invited to my Open House



Saturday

**August 26th 2017,
2pm-5pm**

27 Larchwood Avenue,
Groby, Leics. LE6 0ER
where there will be
drinks, cake & maybe
a few items to
purchase if you wish

Deb's Escape to the Country

My life has taken me from...
growing up in Leicester to going to university in Hull,
Hull to Australia, Australia back to Hull,
Hull to Leicester,
Leicester to Tanzania, Tanzania to Leicester
and now Leicester to KENT!

...which is where I will be moving to at the end of August to start work for St. Mary's Church, Kemsing as their Youth and Children's worker and Oak Hall as part of the Office Team.

Until now, Leicester has always been my 'home', but God is calling me to Kent, so I will be leaving Groby. I would love to celebrate this move, as well as my time in Groby & say 'Goodbye' to my friends, family & Church family.

I hope to see you at some point before I go ◀◀

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Lewis has now stood down from being a URC representative on the CTG forum. We therefore require someone to represent the URC on the CTG forum group. (The planning and management group for CTG events).



Kay Peel has now stood down from the position of Bookings Secretary. We therefore require someone to take on the role of Church Bookings Secretary.

Please consider and pray if you could take on either of these essential roles. For more information or to volunteer please speak to any elder.

We thank Kay and Lewis for their dedicated service in these roles over many years.

You are invited to a celebration of **25** years of  Primary Concern

and a farewell to John and Ruth Fryer, on Sunday 18th June 2017 at
The Church of the Martyrs, Westcotes Drive, Leicester. LE3 0QT from
10.30am followed by an informal lunch.

Please do invite anyone who may want to join us, as John would love to see
anyone who has been a part of his ministry during the years.

Could you please email j.fryer1@ntlworld.com or text 07540951926 to
confirm if you are coming to help us with catering.

Many thanks



Encounter is an opportunity to share in a different style of worship –
a reflective time to allow God to speak to you through the songs and
prayer.

Each month someone different shares a 5 minute encounter they have
had with God at work in their lives. If you have an encounter you
want to share with others please speak to one of us.

Encounter starts at 7.15pm and usually finishes about 8pm.

The next Encounter is on Sunday 25th June at 7.15pm. .

All are welcome – Karen & David

TEACHING & WORSHIP PROGRAMME



The letter to the Hebrews focusses on the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. It contrasts the old covenant with the new. To quote from the opening verses:-

"In times past God spoke through the prophets in..... various ways, but in these last days He has spoken by His Son... (who is) heir of all things... (who) made the universe... (who) sustains all things by the power of His word" The author shows the wonder of salvation and the hope that we have through faith in Christ.

- Kevan Hall

4TH JUNE 17

10am	Pentecost (CTG). Derek Taylorl	Elder: Rachel Hiscocks
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11TH JUNE 17

10am	Jesus, greater than Moses Hebrews 3 - Mike Playdon	Elder: Kevan Hall
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18TH JUNE 17

7am	Sabbath rest Hebrews Ch. 2, Rev Gordon Gresswell	Elder: Dave Lomas
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25TH JUNE 17

10am	TBA All Age Communion - David Lomas	Elder: Dave Smith/ (C) Trevor Pringle
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7.15pm	Encounter	
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HELPING HANDS - JUNE 2017



CRECHE

Sue Lawrence Brooks
4th Rachel H, Susie, Rachel or Dan P
11th Jacquie, Hilary, Ruth
18th Rachel E, Hily, Linda
25th Linda, Catherine, Ric

COFFEE

Joy Russell
4th Joy & Peter
11th Kay B & Helper
18th Sue LB & Hily
25th Judith & Anne B

WORSHIP

Tim Symonds

LEADER	MEDIA	PIANO
4th	Mark Hiscocks	Luke Pattison
11th	Chris Down	Sue Annable
18th	Barrie Du Boulay	Helen Fracchia
25th	Barrie Du Boulay	Debbie George

WELCOME

Joy Russell
4th Jean & Sheila
11th Mark & Rachel
18th Moira & Jim
25th Ray & Helper

FLOWERS

Barbara Conlon
4th Mrs P. Judd
11th Mrs K. Peel
18th Mr & Mrs R. Fraccia
25th Mr & Mrs N. Whittaker

CLEANING

Kathy Du Boulay
29th – 3rd : Sue LB, Ruth, Judith & Ray
5th – 10th: Linda & Tim, Jan & Mark
12th – 17th: Pat C, Joy & Peter, Kay B
19th – 24th: Jeanette & Barrie, Anne, Hilary
26th – 1st July: Dave S, Sue & Mike, Barry dB

A TIME TO MOVE

Our granddaughter, aged four, told us a familiar joke the other day:

‘What time is it when an elephant sits on your fence?’

‘Time to get a new fence!’

Timing for jokes, the experts tell us, is everything, and timing has been much on my heart these last months. Retirement was not uppermost in my mind a year ago, and my overwhelming feeling continues to be one of deep disappointment that my ministry here has had to come to an end rather earlier than I anticipated. I guess Ecclesiastes 3 is the classic Bible text for reminding us that there is a time for everything under heaven, and I am beginning to accept now that God knows what he is doing – I just don’t understand what it is yet, but I know I will in due course.

Groby URC, you will always remain in my heart, and I am full of gratitude for all that we have shared together. I mean it very sincerely when I say that it has been a privilege to serve as your minister. I think God led us on quite a journey in the last few years, and the image of the ‘Fruitfulness on the Frontline’ tree bearing bright and beautiful fruit, with all that represents, will stay with me, as I hope it will with you. As a parting gift, Lewis and I (with help from a few of the GURC expert gardeners) are choosing you a tree. We intend that it will already be fairly mature, that it will be beautiful and fruitful. I don’t quite know when it will arrive, but it comes with our love and prayers for you as a congregation that deep roots, sturdy and strong growth, and fruit to share will continue to be a defining mark of Christ among you.

There is so much here we will miss, but it feels right now that we find somewhere to live closer to my parents and Lewis’ Mum, and also to our daughter and family. Thank you for all the messages and good wishes we have received, and for the two gorgeous photo prints of Bradgate Park which particularly remind me of memorable Communion services early on Easter morning. Please keep in touch with us – we will be keen to hear all the news from Groby. Our e-mail addresses and mobile phone numbers

will remain the same, and we will of course let you know our new address when we have it. Visitors from Groby will always be welcome to call by for a cup of tea.

-Sue McKenzie

NEWS FROM GROBY SINGS



So far this year it has been a royal season for Leicestershire with visits from Prince Harry in March followed by Her Majesty The Queen in April. It must have been wonderful to have been present at the Royal Maundy service in Leicester Cathedral but for those of you who weren't lucky enough to be there, why not come and be royally entertained by your community choir, Groby Sings, on Saturday 1st July at 7.30pm or Sunday 2nd July at 3.00pm at Groby Community College. Groby Sings Rock & Royal is the very apt theme for our latest performances where we will be Getting to Know You as well as making sure you are All Shook Up with plenty of exercise for the hands and arms in We Will Rock You! You might now have guessed that our songs this summer are taken from The King and I, Elvis and Queen.

Tickets will be on sale shortly and yet again we have managed to keep the cost down to only £5 per ticket, fantastic value for such first class entertainment. Tickets will go on sale to choir members from 22nd May so if you know someone in the choir, get your order into them as soon as possible. Remaining tickets will be available from 6th June from Chaplin's Butchers which has yet again kindly agreed to help with sales. We hope to have another outlet for when Chaplin's is closed so please keep checking our posters around the area for further information or look at the website www.grobysings.org.

Finally, it is not too late to come along and join the singing and laughter at our rehearsals, even if you aren't able to perform in July. We get together at The Groby Club on Mondays - 1.15-3.00pm or 8.00-9.30pm for the adult choir and 3.40-4.40pm for the children's choir (age 7 and above). Our choir leader, Helen Hayes (0786 796 3328) will be very happy to give you more information.

- June Wand

OPEN THE BOOK

In May we presented 'Goodbye at Last' which covered three of the times Jesus appears and ends in His ascension – as Jesus disappeared enveloped by a cloud (behind a white sheet).



One of Jesus' lines was – 'I want you to tell my story to the world. Start in Jerusalem, and don't stop until everyone has the chance to follow me.' At one of the school the teacher introducing us commented to children afterwards that Open the Book was part of doing this.

In June we are presenting 'Daniel and the Lions' – no prizes for guessing what that is about.

The prayer at the end is – 'Dear God, sometimes other people try to make us do the wrong thing. Please help us to be brave and stand up for what we know is right. Amen'

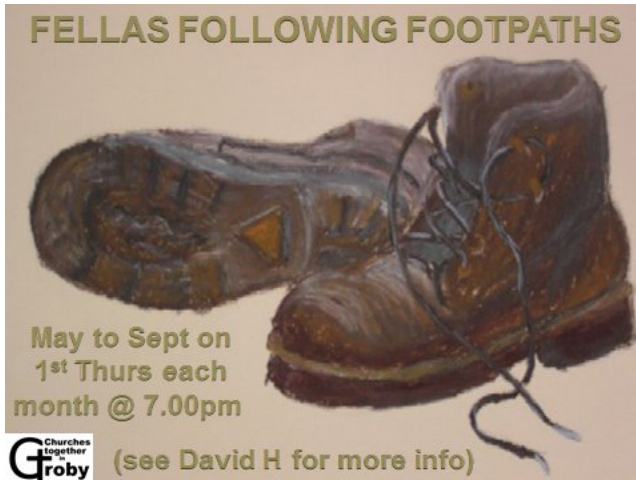
We pray that this is something that the children cannot just take into their summer break but into their lives, as particularly they go into their teenage years.

To find out more about the work of the Open the Book team please speak to Lynda Hawkes, Kevan Hall or David Harrup from the team.

– David Harrup

FELLAS FOLLOWING FOOTPATHS

In May we did our first walk of the season which took us out towards Ratby and then across to Glenfield before looping back into Groby. For the next one we are possibly walking out towards Anstey, and back of course.



Thursday 1st June leaving URC carpark at 7.00pm prompt

We will be walking for about 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.

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





FLOODING IN CAJAMARCA

'We thank God that we're all fine though many families have lost everything'

says Miriam Moreno from Warmis.



During our Easter service, you may remember praying for the safety of those affected by the devastating floods in most of Peru, and particularly Cajamarca.

A sustained period of heavy rain had caused widespread flooding across Peru. Rivers burst their banks, bridges collapsed and there have been numerous mudslides. Almost all the country's regions were affected, and approximately 100,000 people had lost their homes, possessions and livelihoods.

In Cajamarca itself, ten villages and nearly 25,000 people have been affected by the flooding. Warmis has been working with the local authorities to assess the damage and see what aid needs to be provided. The photo on the right was taken in Cajamarca and shows what the locals were faced with.



Locals affected by the flood in the Cajamarca district

Miriam has now sent us an update. "In six villages around Cajamarca City we are looking to provide aid to 300 families. They include La Tulpana, Aylambo, Valle Verde, Sulluscocha, Pajjan and Chetilla. Each village is a place that we have been working, or is a place we are aware has not received



support from any other agency. The regular support of people like you has helped us to respond to this crisis and provide for the people of Aylambo. Warmis is providing mattresses, blankets, cooking implements and clothes to affected families. We will also be supplying food and clean water to all those who need it. As well as meeting material needs, we'll be making provision for emotional and spiritual support as people come to terms with what has happened. Even during the toughest times, our faith can keep us at peace. The people of Aylambo have been showing great faith”.

Pray for those who have lost everything in these floods, pray that God will comfort them and they will know his presence in this tragic time.

Please pray for all the rescue staff across Peru working to reach and help those who need it. Pray that God will give them strength to keep going and keep them safe. Pray for Miriam, Miguel and their family as they cope with this crisis.

Please pray that the climate will settle down, and people will be able to begin rebuilding their lives.

- Kathy Du Boulay



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN GROBY

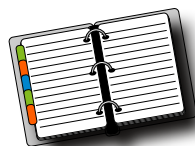
Christian Aid week is just finishing, as I type this article, and we will all be waiting to hear how much we have collected from Groby. It is always a challenge to deliver/collect envelopes but the good conversations on the doorstep is always rewarding.

Thank you to all those that have supported Christian Aid this year, both the direct or prayer support. Thanks to the Christian Aid co-ordinators and the group that led the joint service to kick off Christian Aid week.

Coming up we have Pentecost Sunday – 4th June – which is a joint service to celebrate the birth of the Church – this will be at the URC with Derek Taylor as our speaker.

This is an important service and celebration for us as Christians – all are encouraged to attend and celebrate as part of God's church in Groby together.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



7pm Thurs 1 June Fellas following Footpaths

10.30am Sun 18th June John Fryer Celebration at
Church of the Martyrs1

7.30pm Church AGM

- Mark Hiscocks

A NOTE TO ALL ON THE CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

The cleaning supplies have been separated between Toilet facilities and the kitchen / remainder of the Church. This was a suggestion from Love Groby Tasters to improve food hygiene in the kitchen. All cleaning materials for the toilets are now in a cupboard in the Disabled Persons / Baby change area. Also cleaning cloths are colour coded, so all cloths for cleaning toilet accommodation are red. You will also find toilet rolls, a replacement paper towel roll and bags for the toilet bins in the cupboard. If you need to know how to change the towel machine or toilet rolls please or any problems, speak to me.

- Dave Smith

JULY & AUGUST 2017 ISSUE CONTACT

NEXT DEADLINE SAT 17th June 2017

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

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Phil Holmes

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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* (young people in 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
	10.00-12.30pm	Love Groby Tasters - Coffee & Fun

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