

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby
United Reformed Church



April 2019

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

7-13 APRIL

Please continue to pray and to trust God to send us a minister. Pray for us all to be united and supportive of each other. Pray for us to continue to prepare for the time when we will have a minister.

14-20 APRIL

Holy Week. Please take time for your own devotions but also pray for the CtG Mandy Thursday event on 18th, that God will clearly speak something new of the Easter message into the hearts of those who attend.

21-27 APRIL

Please pray that Tearfund will never lose the edge in their involvement and realise that suffering is solved by the transformative grace of God.

28 APRIL - 4 MAY

Please pray for our Elders this week. Name them individually as you pray and ask God to bless them with health and strength to undertake the heavy load they carry whilst we have no Minister.

- Lynda Hawkes & Ruth Ivens

WELCOME FROM TREVOR, CHURCH ELDER



Having just returned from holiday Mary and I were unfortunately unable to participate in recent Church Meeting discussions regarding our search for a new minister. Members have of course determined to continue this process. Despite being thousands of miles away at the time we learned of this outcome very quickly via email. Remarkable how quickly news travels when you are willing to share and receive communications and of course are motivated and equipped to do so!

Given the above it is clear that we must all continue to pray on this particular matter, be open to His will and trust in God's plans for us as individuals and as a church community. As Christians we must also take every opportunity this Easter and every month that follows to freely share the Easter story with those we meet - the story where frustrations, disappointment, despair, pain and death are transformed into resurrection, victory over sin, joy, good news, hope and the promise of new life for those who believe.

Towards the end of April we will begin a study programme looking at some of the characters in the New Testament who had direct contact with Jesus. Our aim is to see how this relationship impacted their lives and helped them grow individually as followers/disciples, and collectively as God's church through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As Christians how will we ourselves impact upon those we meet? Let's reflect on this and always remember;

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

- Trevor Pringle

FROM 'EVERYDAY WITH JESUS' BY SELWYN HUGHES

Why does the love of God seemingly come across in the New Testament with much greater force than in the Old Testament? I think it might be because God's love could not be understood in all its fullness until humanity looked into the face of Jesus. Here humanity is at the end of its search to discover what is behind all that God does. Jesus drew back the curtains and revealed what is in the heart of God the Father. He is unconditional, unquenchable, unsearchable, undying unutterable love.

- Kathy Du Boulay

TWEET

Nicky Gumbel (@nickygumbel)

14/03/2019, 20:01



'Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.'

– Corrie ten Boom

- Rachel Hiscocks

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FAIR TRADE

VOICE FOR



JUSTICE

The Following Dialogue was used in the Sunday Service 24th February...

With Fairtrade Fortnight almost upon us, we would like to share a few words about Justice matters...

About 3 years ago the then called Mission Group felt rather defeated; we felt inadequate and that our concerns weren't reaching the congregation. There was even talk that our actions were development aid and not necessarily the Gospel.

I'm not sure either that anyone was listening to what was being said. Don't you think people were a bit tuned off with a group banging on about where to shop and what to buy! Bit a bossy don't you think?!

That may well have been the case, but eventually, we invited Sue McKenzie to one of our meetings and we off-loaded our burden onto her. And she listened.

Well, Sue was a listening kind of Minister, but did she have any suggestions for the Group?

Yes, she had. There was no pat on our backs or the suggestion of drastic change in what we did. After pondering our dilemma, Sue simply said: "You might not live up to your own expectations, but you must continue be a voice for justice in this congregation."

Sounds like good advice to me, but what did you do with her wise words?

Well, Sue's advice prompted us to change the name of the team and now we are The Voice for Justice Group.

So, what changes have taken place besides tinkering about with a name change?

It is our renewed desire to be that voice, speaking out but also not wishing to appear like the Fair Trade police checking out how many Fair Trade labels are in your kitchen cupboards! Knowing that when people hear the justice message, whether comfortable or not with it, the responsibility has been passed on to them, with the Justice Group relieved of unrealistic expectations.

So what you are saying is: the Voice for Justice Team is only a mouth piece. Whether the message is a spoken word, written texts - especially the Bible, or displays and conversations; it is the listener that has to make a choice between, burying our head in the sand, dismiss the message because it's too difficult to think about or take notice and try and work out with God what it means in our everyday lives. Amen to that.

- Ruth Ivens & Joy Russell p.p. Voice for Justice Group



Looking Happy Ruth and Peter prepare for their Shift at the Fairtrade Fortnight Event, Laundon Way Co-op in March

LATEST EXTEND PROJECT WORK

Churches Together in Groby



Many of you will know, and will have seen the photographs in last month's magazine, that the Chattabox Holiday Club took place at Martinshaw School on the Monday and Tuesday of February half term. Around 40 children attended each day being "Guardians of Ancora". Ancora is a place where the stories of The Light have been lost for a long time, though they are slowly being discovered and re-told so that everyone can know about The Light and bring it back to the city.

This year the themes were Christmas and Easter; the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each day there were clues to the stories (and to the later craft activities) and once the clues had been found "Antiqua" would come out and tell us the latest story to be discovered. On the first day we had the angel visiting Mary and then Joseph, the journey to Bethlehem and the special visitors to the Baby Jesus. On the second day, the morning was spent looking at the death of Jesus on the cross and then in the afternoon there was the wonderful story of Jesus being alive again.

A great time was had by all. We sang songs, played games and had craft sessions making angels, sheep, stained glass crosses and pennants. Thanks to all the group leaders and junior leaders, Linda, Chris and Laurence for aiding the crafts. Thanks to Lynda Hawkes for being Antiqua; for help in the kitchen from Martin and Val; on the tech side from Dave Smith and to all those who helped set up beforehand and take down afterwards.

Those of you who attend or help out at Tasters on a Saturday morning at the URC will have noticed a slight change in the "play" area. We no longer have the Bouncy Castle nearly every week, but have been trialling having the Bouncy Castle on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays and craft sessions on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. The craft ideas usually have a theme related to a Bible Story or Christian theme (fair-trade was one theme recently) and at around

11:40, depending on how busy everyone is with their crafts, we tell the story and play a game. The trial will go on until Easter when it will be reviewed. If you have any particular views, I'd love to hear from you. If you have any other suggestions about how we can develop the "play" side of Tasters, I'd love to hear that too. We are there to be a Christian presence, to relate to the children who attend and their families and to compliment other, more Christian activities in the village that take place at the churches and in school assemblies.

Talking about developing our work, I am currently looking at the next steps in our young families work and have been talking to parents about what else we may be able to provide for young families in Groby. Some ideas have already come forward such as an after-school club, a place where parents can regularly weigh their young babies and a "Toddler Praise" session. If you have any thoughts, please come and talk to me when I am in church or email me – details below. I'd especially love to hear from you if you feel that you would be able to help at a session or two every now and again.

On a final note, we are really pleased that we have now re-started the Christian Union in Brookvale. It runs on a Friday lunchtime in classroom G29 and is led by 2 of our junior Rock Solid Leaders, Ruth and Becca. At the moment we have around 10 young people who attend most weeks, including some friends from Rock Solid.

Please don't hesitate to contact me about any of the items mentioned above.

- Colin Udall.

Tel: 07776 157511 Email: colin.udall@ntlworld.com

TEACHING & WORSHIP PROGRAMME



Encounters with Jesus

Our preaching calendar continues with a focus on discipleship. Towards the end of April we begin a study looking at some of the characters in the New Testament who had direct contact with Jesus. Our aim is to see how this relationship impacted their lives and helped them grow individually as followers/disciples, and collectively as God's church through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Kevan Hall

SUN 7TH APRIL

10am Jesus says 'Only the ones who obey my Father in heaven will get in' Elder: Kathy Du Boulay
Matt 7:15-23. Stephen Burrage

SUN 14TH APRIL

10am Palm Sunday Elder: David Harrup
Angela Berry

SUN 21ST APRIL

7am Communion at Old John, Bradgate Park
10am Easter Service' Elder: Kevan Hall
David Harrup

SUN 28 APRIL

10am 'John's Encounter with Jesus' Elder: Phil Holmes
Colin Udall

HELPING HANDS - APRIL 2019



CRECHE

Linda Symonds

7th Rachel E, Suzie and Rachel P
14th Jacquie, Hilary and Linda
21th Rachel E, Anna and Hily
28th Linda, Stacey and Ruth

COFFEE

Joy Russell

7th Dave & Hilary
14th Joy & Peter
21st Kay & helper
28th Sue LB & Hily

WORSHIP

Tim Symonds

LEADER	MEDIA	PIANO
7th	Mark Hiscocks	Helen
14th	Barry Bu Boulay	Helen
21st	Dave Smith	Sue
28th	Phil Homes	Debbie

WELCOME

Joy Russell

7th Kay & Hily
14th Sue LB & Jan
21st Elsie & Peter
28th Mark & Rachel

FLOWERS

Barbara Conlon

7th Mrs C. Ward
14th Mrs R Edwards
21st Mr. & Mrs. D. Collins
28th Mr. & Mrs. D. Brooks

CLEANING

Kathy Du Boulay

1st – 6th: Linda & Tim, Jan & Mark
8th – 13th: Pat, Joy & Peter, Kay
15th – 20th: Jeanette & Barrie, Anne, Hilary
22nd – 27th: Dave S, Sue & Mike, Barry dB

OPEN THE BOOK



After a few weeks break we are now preparing for our big Easter Open the Book production when we are presenting 'Peter's Saddest Day' followed by 'Peter's Happiest Day'.

The introduction includes – 'Jesus had some special friends and we've told you lots of stories about them but Jesus also had some enemies too. They didn't like the things he said of what he did, they wanted to get rid of him. This made Peter and Jesus's other friends sad.'

Our link between the stories includes – 'Poor Peter! He must have felt so unhappy to see what happened to Jesus and know that he did nothing to help him. Peter and his friends were sad because Jesus had died. Peter let Jesus down, didn't he?'

The conclusion at the end includes – '**Jesus knew just how to put things right with Peter and how to make his friend feel better.'**

The prayer at the end is – 'Dear God, Jesus always knew the right things to say to say to his friends. Help us to say things to our friends that are good and kind and not say things that are hurtful. Amen.'

Please pray for the children of Groby as we present these stories – may they understand what Easter is really about, and learn how to look after their friends.

- David H - Open the Book Co-ordinator



Happy Birthday

Happy April Birthdays to

Noah Parker
Ben Stokes

-Sue Lawrence-Brooks

Church Elders

Kathy Du Boulay	kathygrace127@gmail.com
Kevan Hall	grobycom@sky.com
Mark Hiscocks	hiscocksm@gmail.com
David Harrup	harrupdavid@gmail.com
Phil Holmes	maxmellhouse@hotmail.com
Trevor Pringle	dtrtrpringle@gmail.com

EASTER 2019



AT THE URC:

7pm Maundy Thursday

Evening with a simple meal, reflective reading and shared communion.

7am Easter Day

Short service with communion at Old John – please be sensible if you are coming to this.

OTHER EVENTS (NOT CTG)

Mon 15th - 7.30pm Healing Service in St P&J, Groby

Tues 16th - 7.30pm Café Communion in St P&J, Ratby

Weds 17th - 7.30pm Taize Service in St P&J, Ratby

Fri 19th - 3pm Good Friday Meditation at St P&J, Groby

7.30pm Good Friday Meditation at Ratby Methodist

- David Harrup – CTG Secretary

FILM & FOOD FOR FELLAS



The 2018/2019 season ends on

THURSDAY 4TH APRIL AT 7.00PM

In February we watched a film that had been highly recommended to us – ‘Without a Trace’ – but it is fair to say that our group would NOT recommend it. The Fellas were happier in March as they watched a film with quite a bit more action in it – ‘Behind Enemy Lines’.

The film from December ‘Bourne Identity’ remains one the favourite ones watched, so in April in the choice available are two more of the ‘Bourne’ films.

The evenings start at 7.00pm and finish when the film ends. A £2 donation is generally enough to cover the cost of food and a can of soft drink.

There is no need to book – just turn up.

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

In previous years the Fellas have Followed Footpaths during the summer months – sorry fellas there will be a break until the 2019/20 Film & Food for Fellas season starts in October.

TEST OF FAITH, TRUST AND CERTAINTY

This is something I shared with elders at our meeting the day after our preach with a view weekend – I include this in Contact as encouragement for all of us.

Whilst we were grappling with the uncertainty of the minister leading the two services on the Sunday a story was unfolding at a church in Leicester which I was told about afterwards.

PART ONE

In the church service there was some quiet time for people to let God talk to them and people were encouraged to close their eyes in case God was giving them a picture. A couple of people came forward and shared what God was saying to/showing them, but one of the elders went out of the church for a couple of minutes.

At the end of the service the elder stepped forward and spoke how God had given him a picture of a man wearing a green top, standing at a bus stop, he was about 60 years old and had a problem with his right ear. The elder went outside to see if there was such a man at any of the nearby bus stops.

COMMENT

On hearing this story what struck me was the faith the elder had, the trust that others had that this picture was from God and the absolute certainty that this was real, and that the man was there at a bus stop – somewhere.

This is the kind of trust, faith and certainty that we as Christians should experience when God is working in and through us. In our search for a minister we should have faith and trust in God, and when we are presented with God's choice for us we will have absolute certainty.

THE TEST

The test for the fellowship when the elder explained what he had

done was how they received what he had to say – whether they believed him and believed it was a picture from God.

The test for each of us as we hear about this is what we think of it – do we accept it, reject it or try to find a worldly explanation for what happened?

PART TWO

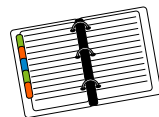
Later in the day, on that Sunday, the elder messaged those within his church, as follows –

So I just went to buy some milk, I passed a bus stop on the way. At the bus stop was a man in a green top, he turned 60 yesterday and had tinnitus in his right ear. He no longer has tinnitus and is planning to come to church on Sunday! Isn't Jesus awesome!

I look forward to hearing what happened next

– David H

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



7pm Thursday April, food and film for Fellas

7pm Thursday 18th April, Maundy Thursday Meal

- Mark Hiscocks



CONTACT

MAY 2019 ISSUE

DEADLINE SAT 20rd April 2018

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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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)
Thursday:	10.30-12.00am	Fair Cuppa* at Groby Village Hall.
Friday:	9.30-11.30am	CATCH* Coffee and chat (in term-time)
Saturday:	8.00-9.00am	Prayers, all welcome
	10.00-12.30pm	Groby Tasters - Coffee & Fun

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