

# CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby  
United Reformed Church



SHINE



May 2019



# PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

## 5-11 MAY

Please pray for the CTG Christian Aid service next Sunday. Pray for the preparations and the fellowship during lunch. Above all that, please pray for us to be compassionate and to be empowered by God to make a difference in this world of injustice.

## 12-18 MAY

Thank God for Groby Tasters, for those who visit every week and those who volunteer. Pray for new friendships and relationships to be made and, most especially for new disciples for Jesus.

## 19-26 MAY

Praise God for our faithful Y Church leaders. Pray for a special blessing in their dedicated service. Please pray for others to be willing to share this ministry with them.

## 27 MAY - 2 JUN

Pray this week for our Church Secretary, Phil Holmes. What a huge workload Phil has, especially over the last few months. Thank God for his willingness to give so many hours to this valuable role doing work that is vital but so often unseen and ask God to bless him with health and strength to continue.

- Lynda Hawkes & Ruth Ivens

## WELCOME FROM KATHY, CHURCH ELDER



Is it just me or is this year flying by? This month's Contact brings us to May, when our preaching theme continues to focus on discipleship. I'm really looking forward to hearing the preaching on this; the way a relationship with Jesus impacted on the lives of people we read about in the Gospels and in the book of Acts. Ordinary people, some unschooled, some outcasts and 'sinners', some like you and I with hang-ups and anxieties, men and women. They were all very different from each other but, through faith in Christ became the founding 'fathers' of this church, the global Christian Church of which Groby URC is a part.

One of the stories we will be covering in this series is the 'Martha & Mary' story (Luke 10:38-42) as it explores the busyness of Martha whilst her sister Mary sits at the feet of Jesus listening to Him. In answer to Martha's complaints about this Jesus says '**..... only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her**'. This challenges me every time I consider it!

Groby URC is a very busy church – which is as it should be in some ways – but we also need to be a church who 'sits at Jesus feet and listens, whether we do that on our own or together. When Peter and John are before the Jewish Sanhedrin (Acts 4) they realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, but took note that '**these men had been with Jesus**'. Lets 'be with Jesus' more and more, through prayer, reading and meditating on His word, talking with other Christians.

Discipleship is a continuing process which should be something evolving throughout our lives. What matters is not so much what we are 'doing', though important, but what we are 'becoming' (paraphrased – Steve Uppal – Spring Harvest 2018).

We are all a 'work in progress' through Christ's saving grace and being open to the leading of the Spirit. It is in response to the love of Christ and stirring of the Spirit that we 'do'.

We have a CTG service for Christian Aid and World Fair Trade day on May 12th – an opportunity to 'do', give and be more conscious of the world around us when making our consumer choices. Following the service, an opportunity to lunch together as Churches Together. Please do try to take this opportunity if you can.

Lucy Peppiatt in her book 'The Disciple' quotes David Parker who teaches that a 'disciple is more than a student, more than a member of an entourage. A disciple is an apprentice of the family business'. It reminds me of that phrase we used to hear a lot, 'What Would Jesus Do?' He prayed a lot, talked to people a lot, and helped people a lot.

- Kathy Du Boulay

## TWEET

Nicky Gumbel (@nickygumbel)

17/03/2019, 20:00

**'I'm not a Christian because I'm strong and have it all together. I'm a Christian because I'm weak and admit I need a saviour.'**

– Lecrae, rapper and actor

- Rachel Hiscocks



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On a beautiful warm, calm and sunny Easter morning, 25 Christians, mostly from Groby, gathered at 7am at Old John for an Easter Communion. The attendance was augmented by two ladies from Revd Noel's previous flock in Nanpanton. Unusually for Old John at that time in the morning, there was hardly any breeze, so most people were overdressed!

- John Newnham

## JOINT SERVICE FOLLOWED BY BRING AND SHARE LUNCH



**SUNDAY 12 MAY 2019**

This year the joint Christian Aid Week service will take place at 10 am on Sunday 12th May at the URC. As well as commissioning the volunteers from both churches the service will also focus on our role in bringing God's justice to our world following World Fair Trade Day (11 May 2019). Children at the service will be included and involved in a craft activity related to the theme of justice and Fair Trade.

After the service there will be a "bring and share" lunch and a chance to catch up with our friends from St Philip and St James. As usual if attending please sign up at the back of the church and bring something along to share. As we are focusing on the theme of justice it would be great if you could use Fair Trade ingredients as much as possible, but please don't let this put you off joining in, as we eat and share together as God's family in Groby.

- Mary & Trevor Pringle

# 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 5TH MAY

10am The Samaritan Woman's Encounter      Elder: Trevor Pringle  
with Jesus - Wendy Hall

### SUN 12TH MAY

10am CTG Service for Christian Aid      Elder: Kathy Du Boulay  
and World Fairtrade Day

### SUN 19TH MAY

10am Mary Magdalene's Encounter      Elder: Mark Hiscocks  
with Jesus - Rev. Gordon Cresswell

### SUN 26TH MAY

10am Encountering Jesus on the      Elder: David Harrup /  
road to Emmaus - Colin Udall      (C) Kathy  
Communion



# HELPING HANDS - MAYMAY 2019



## CRECHE

Linda Symonds

5th Rachel E, Suzie and Rachel P  
12th Jacquie, Hilary and Linda  
19th Rachel E, Anna and Hily  
26th Linda, Stacey and Ruth

## COFFEE

Joy Russell

5th Judith & Anne B  
12th Pat C & Mary  
19th Jan & Kathy  
26th Ann T & Barbara C

## WORSHIP

Tim Symonds

LEADER	MEDIA	PIANO
5th	Mark Hiscocks	Sue
12th	Mark Hiscocks	Debbie
19th	Phil Homes	Helen
26th	Dave Smith	STA

## WELCOME

Joy Russell

5th Moira & Jim  
12th Anne & Barbs  
19th Joy & Peter  
26th John & Elaine

## FLOWERS

Barbara Conlon

5th Mr & Mrs P. Russell  
12th Mr & Mrs H Lomas  
19th Mr & Mrs C. Downes  
26th Mr & Mrs T. Pringle

## CLEANING

Kathy Du Boulay

April 29th – May 4th Kathy dB & Lynda H  
6th – 11th Sue LB, Ruth, Judith & Barbara  
13th – 18th Linda & Tim, Jan & Mark  
May 20th – 25th Pat, Joy & Peter, Kay  
May 27th – 1st June Jeanette & Barrie, Anne, Hilary

For over 60 years ago Christian volunteers from churches across the country have undertaken house-to-house collections. Every envelope delivered and donation received has sent a clear message about Jesus' love and justice and our own compassion as Christians for others today. Every envelope delivered also provides a fresh opportunity to start a conversation, to introduce our own church and increase His Kingdom.

This year Christian Aid Week is focusing on improving health and maternity care for mothers living in poverty in Sierra Leone. Read on to find out how you can help.

## **ALL MUMS SHOULD LIVE**

Sierra Leone is one of the world's most dangerous places to become a mum. 10 women die every day from giving birth.



In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safer for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give

the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

## **STAND WITH MUMS**

This Christian Aid Week we will once again do a house to house collection. Figures show that this remains the main source of income across Leicestershire during this week. In 2017 this accounted for 57% of income.

Last year, working alongside our friends from St Philip and St James, we raised £2,700 during Christian Aid week. Many thanks to everyone who took part - we hope that you will once again be willing to step out in faith this year. You can do this by:

- Delivering and collecting envelopes – more volunteers urgently required!
- Delivering envelopes
- Displaying a poster in your window
- Displaying a poster in your window and acting as an envelope drop off point
- Praying – a seven-day devotional booklet will be available



Please consider if you can help this year in any capacity so that we can raise as much as we can to help poor mums like Jebbah.

Even relatively small amounts of money make a big difference as it all adds up locally and nationally E.g. A gift of £300 can provide a delivery bed for a new health centre giving mums a safe place to deliver their babies.

## **PLEASE ACT, GIVE AND PRAY THIS CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

There is a signup sheet at the back of the Church or speak to us if you would like to know more.

- Mary and Trevor Pringle 0116 299 1783<sup>9</sup>

## WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Whilst visiting friends in Florida on All Fools Day we booked a hike through a Big Cypress Swamp. Three hours to experience a guided eco-swamp tour with the promise of a serene and sacred experience. It didn't disappoint.

As we walked towards the diverse sub-tropical wilderness, we came to a fence at the end of the gravel road, on which there were two metal signs.

One sign had a picture of an alligator and the words:



DEAD END.

The other sign said:

PRAYER – the best way to meet the Lord.

TRESPASSING is much faster.

Instantly, I thought of our Home Group back in Groby who were due to meet to complete session six of 'Journey through the Lord's Prayer'. The Group have covered many aspects of prayer through this excellent series, but, stumbling across alligators' was not one of them!

We didn't have any encounters in the swamp, but there was a large black specimen sunning itself on the car park as we changed into our dry clothing.

- Joy Russell

## PREPARING FOR BAPTISM



We have sourced some material to have hold an initial session 'Preparing for Baptism' including considering membership.

We would also encourage anyone within the fellowship who has not been baptised to explore whether being baptised would help their spiritual journey.

The session will look at what baptism is, and isn't, and consider the question 'why should we bother anyway?'

This would be good for anyone who is either thinking about being baptised, becoming a member or both. The first session would be a pointer as to whether people continue with the other session/s looking deeper into baptism, or focus on something tailored to suit their individual needs.

We are committed to working with each individual to support their needs.

So, if you are interested please speak to one of us – unless we speak to your first.

- Mark Hiscocks & David Harrup – church elders

# OPEN THE BOOK



We had some good feedback over the last month from children who have spoken to parents about our Open the Book presentations, just shows God us not just reaching the children but is reaching out throughout the village.

We always start our presentations at Elizabeth Woodville School and the following week at the other two schools in Groby.

In the middle of our last presentations of 'Peter's Saddest & Happiest Days' there was a discussion at the Monday evening Urban Saints between children from different schools about what some had experienced and what the others could look forward to – amazing – praise God!

We pick up the Easter theme in May with the presentation 'On the Road to Emmaus' where two men travelling from Jerusalem encounter a stranger, but when the stranger sits down with them for a meal and breaks the bread they then recognise him as their risen Lord.

Jesus is a stranger to the vast majority of people, who live in Groby, but I hope and prayer that many of the children who experience the Open the Book will encounter Jesus on their life journeys, and He becomes their Lord and Saviour.

- David H - Open the Book Co-ordinator

*CONTACT*

**JUNE 2019 ISSUE**

**DEADLINE SAT 18th May 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](http://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.



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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'.