

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby
United Reformed Church



Churches
together
in
Groby

March 2020

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

1-7 MARCH

Lent leads up to Easter and is a time of reflection, remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus. Please pray for a time of growth in our faith; a time not so much to give up, but to give out to a hurting world.

8-14 MARCH

We are into the 3rd week of the Christianity Explored course. Please pray for all of those who are attending this course, looking at Mark's Gospel, that they might have a real life-changing experience of Jesus.

15-21 MARCH

Hope 20 20. Please praise God for this initiative, pray that it will lead us into a prayerful church. Pray for us to make it a priority in our lives.

22-28 MARCH

This week and next week the Open the Book team will be presenting the Easter story to the 3 schools in Groby. Please pray that both the children and the staff will be touched by the true meaning of Easter and remember what they have seen and heard through the Easter period and beyond.

28MARCH –4APRIL

Christians eating together is a privilege and a blessing. Please pray that many will be part of the Maundy Thursday meal to share in this fellowship of believers.

- Lynda Hawkes & Ruth Ivens

WELCOME FROM KEVAN, CHURCH ELDER



Welcome to this month's edition of Contact.

As I'm writing this we have recently heard that our second applicant for our pastoral vacancy has decided not to proceed.

This is clearly disappointing for us as church and has made me think about disappointment in its many guises.

Some of you will know that I have recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, which comes on the back of anxiety and depression, and for this the word 'disappointment' doesn't really cut it!

So how do we deal with these things? Well for me, of course, Wendy is a tower of strength, but there is more! We have Jesus and we are part of His Church, the body of Christ.

Does this mean that we (I mean 'we' as in all of us as church) have God and people to moan at? Well, in a sense of course, we do. BUT what it means mostly is that we have support.

I am learning more of what it means to trust my Lord and I am overwhelmed by the love, care and compassion shown to me by many of you.

So I praise God for His church here in Groby and for His boundless grace, totally undeserved, with which He showers Wendy and I.

Wherever you find yourself to be at this time, may you know the love of God as it comes to us through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and may you be blessed by the grace and mercy of our Abba Father.

Love to you all in Jesus' name,

- Kevan Hall

TWEET



Nicky Gumbel (@nickygumbel)

14/02/2020, 18:01

Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength – carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time.

– Corrie Ten Boom

- Rachel Hiscocks

Church Elders

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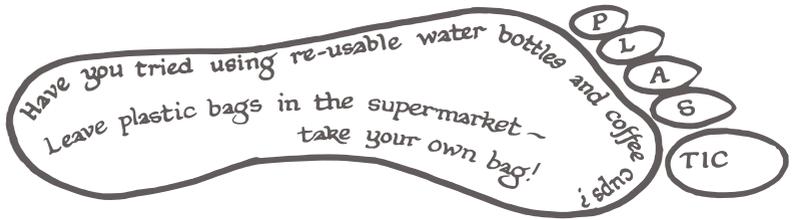
Happy March Birthday to

Roberto Fracchia

-Sue Lawrence-Brooks



GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP



These footprints are a copy of the ones on the board in the Church Hall. What is written on them is the result of the 'Voice for justice service' in November. Do you remember when the different groups expressed their concern on footprints? We invite you to have a look at the board. Let us walk together step by step through the year and honour God's creation with our actions. How can we worship God, praise His name for all his blessings and then neglect the beautiful world he has given us?

Each month new ideas will appear on another set of foot prints. As we journey together the dominant black backgrounds on the board will give way to a greener world. Maybe you have some suggestions on how we can achieve this, or you might have questions. Please let us know, because we can learn from each other. Let us draw near to God and seek his face. I really believe doing that will give us a heart to care for His creation. That can only be a blessing to mankind.

Kathy Duboulay Catherine Ward, Joy Russell, Kay Blick, Ruth Ivens

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

On Sunday 8th March we will have our second extra time of worship at our church – all are welcome.

A visiting group will lead us with some contemporary worship songs – some will be new to us.

There will be space & time for us to listen to God speaking to us, and for us to share/respond to God.

For more information please speak to an elder.



- David Harrup

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE 2020

(Previously Women's World Day of Prayer)

There will be a service at Ratby Methodist Chapel on Friday 6th March at 2.00pm using material prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

The theme is "Take up your mat and walk" – all are invited.



- Chris Davies – St P&J

FILM AND FOOD FOR FELLAS



In February we watched the film 'Another Mother's Son' and shared chicken curry, rice and naan bread – all 17 of us! Don't worry – still room for more.

There were going to be just two more evenings left on Thursdays 5th Mar & 2nd Apr – starting at 7.00pm.

But – we are going to have an extra evening – just a bit different!

On Thursday 7th May the extra evening will start as usual at 7.00pm. There will be 30 minute episode of an old sit-com, then some food and afterwards a fella a met who is in the Salvation Army will share his amazing & inspiring story.

As with all the Film & Food for Fella evenings all fellas are welcome and it is a good opportunity for church fellas to bring along a friend.

A donation of £2 generally covers the cost of the food and a drink can.

For more information please see me

- David H



OPEN THE BOOK

We begin our next presentation at the end of March and we are presenting our epic 3 in 1 Easter story.

The presentation starts with 'An Important Meal, which runs into 'A Dreadful Day' before finishing with 'A Happy Day'. This takes the children on a journey through Easter from the last supper to Jesus' resurrection – with His death and a very realistic crown of thorns in between.

The prayer at the end is –

'Dear God, thank you for the story of good news that Jesus is alive. Thank you that you loved us all so much that you planned a way that Jesus could be our friend forever. Amen.'

Amen indeed!!

Please pray for the children – that many will grow up to know the truth that Jesus is alive!!

- David H - Open the Book Co-ordinator



TEACHING & WORSHIP PROGRAMME



Going into 2020 we return to Mark's telling of the gospel story, looking particularly at what Jesus did and said as he began that final journey to Jerusalem. The question for us remains – 'What is Our Response?'.
- Kathy Du Boulay

SUN 1 MAR 2020

10am 'The Greatest Commandment' Elder: Trevor Pringle
Mark 12: 28-44 Les Gill

SUN 8 MAR 2020

10am 'Keep Watch' Elder: Phil Holmes
Mark 13 Malcolm Clarke

SUN 15 MAR 2020

10am 'Devotion and The Last Supper'. Elder: Kevan Hall
Mark 14:1-26 Dave Lomas (C) Phil
Communion

SUN 22 MAR 2020

10am 'Jesus' love for Peter' Elder: Trevor Pringle
Mark 14:27 – 31; 66-72 and John 21:15-17
Hugh Potter

SUN 22 MAR 2020

10am 'Jesus Betrayed' Elder: Mark Hiscocks
Mark 14:32 – 66. John Hall

HELPING HANDS - MAR 2020



CRECHE

Linda Symonds

- 1st Rachel E, Suzie and Rachel P
- 8th Jacquie, Hilary and Linda
- 15th Rachel E, Anna and Hily
- 22nd Linda, Stacey and Ruth
- 29th Jan, Sue L-B and Ruth

COFFEE

Joy Russell

- 1st Jan & Kathy DB
- 8th Ann T & Barbara C
- 15th Dave & Hilary
- 22nd Joy & Peter
- 29th Sue LB & Hily

WORSHIP

Tim Symonds

	LEADER	MEDIA	PIANO
1st		Mark Hiscocks	Sue
8th		Barry Du Boulay	Sue
15th		Dave Smith	
22nd		Phil Holmes	Helen
29th		Mark Hiscocks	Debbie

WELCOME

Joy Russell

- 1st Kay & Hily
- 8th Sue LB & Jan
- 15th Mark & Rachel
- 22nd Moira & Jim
- 29th Anne & Barbs

FLOWERS

Barbara Conlon

- 1st Mr & Mrs J. Mee
- 8th Mr & Mrs P Randall
- 15th
- 22nd Mr & Mrs R. Brandon
- 29th Mrs. K. Blick

CLEANING

Kathy Du Boulay

TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

A friend emailed me recently and shared this quote from Gus Spath, a US government advisor:

“I used to think that the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that.”

A cultural and spiritual transformation is at the heart of our faith. God's work IS transformation. He comes into our lives to transform us as individuals, to transform communities, to redeem the structures in our society that oppress and cause suffering.

Romans 2:12a says: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. The world which we live in teaches us selfishness, greed and apathy. Paul encourages us not to conform to this but to be transformed!

Each month at 'Heads out of the Sand' (HootS) we reflect on a skill that we need to adopt in order to transform our thinking and change our values. These are taken from the book 'There is no Planet B' which recognises that the values of the world have got us into our current situation. The thinking skills include: global empathy; appreciation of the simple, small and local; big picture perspective; self- reflection. I can't help noticing the links these skills have with the teachings of the Christian faith. God calls us to love our neighbours, wherever they are. He calls us to live simply, not to accumulate things that we do not need. We live in his big perspective – in his creation. He encourages us to be self-reflective and find his kingdom within us.

I believe that God wants to transform us and work through us, and I

believe that God is at work in people of all faiths and none, transforming the way they think as they get to grips with what is happening in our world. We need to 'tune in' to what God is doing. I was reminded recently of the 'still, calm voice' through which Elijah heard God. God was not in the wind, the earthquake and the fire: Elijah heard God's voice in the stillness. I think this is a starting point. In our manic world we need to find those moments of stillness to: tune into God; hear his still, calm voice; AND to be transformed – be open to the changes he wants to make in us.

And that transformation will lead to action, which along with education and values, make up the three elements of HootS. HootS is open to everyone – please feel free to join us at one of our meetings on the first Sunday of each month at 2:30 in the Village Hall. If you want to know more please: contact me; talk to Kathy, Mark C, Lucy, Dani or Chris D; pick up a programme from the back of church; or simply come and see for yourself!

- Ruth Mwenya



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN GROBY



LOOKING BACK –

Carols Round the Tree in December proved to be our biggest single event of last year with an estimated 400-500 people attending on an evening with near perfect weather for carols.

A couple of days later at Fair Cuppa Carols at the Village Hall about 60 people turned up to hear the Christmas story told in a unique way by Chris & Lynda – who are fast building a reputation as an entertaining double act.

Sadly very few, if any, people responded to our invitation to our special services in January on the theme 'the Greatest Gift', but let's hope and trust that many were challenged by the gifts given at our Christmas events.

LOOKING AHEAD – TO EASTER

On Maundy Thursday (9th April) we will share a simple meal and communion together at Groby URC – starting 7.00pm.

Then on Easter morning, for those that are able, we will meet at Old John at 7.00am to share communion as we celebrate our Risen Lord.

In the meantime the invite is there for us to pray together at the URC on the 20th of each month, at 2020hrs for 20 minutes, focussed on the opportunities for us to share Christ with people we know and meet.

Tasters continues to be such a valuable part of the work we do together in Groby. The Tasters team would welcome anyone who is not already involved – to get involved.

- David Harrup – CTG Secretary

Join us in prayer on
Friday 20th at 20:20 hours.

Either
in church
at home
with others
or wherever you are
for just 20 minutes.

*Pray ... that God
will give many
opportunities to
speak about Christ.*

Colossians 4:3



Prayer



2020 is such a significant year and Prayer 2020 is a key part of the year. Churches and ministries are working together for an intentional, strategic and Spirit-filled year of mission across the UK called Advance 2020. HOPE Together is one of the major partners alongside many others.

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2020

Abba Father, thank you for gift of the Bible, your living word to us today. Give us the confidence to give your word to those who don't yet know you so they can hear you speaking to them. Help us to read it with them and help them to know you for themselves (John 6:35). (John 5:24).

- David Harrup

EXTEND UPDATE



As I write I am preparing for a very busy few days at the end of a busy week just before the half term. By the time you read this, the half-term holiday club “Monsters Stink” will have taken place at Martinshaw School. The bookings stand at 62 children with a few days to go. This stands as a testament to all the contact we have with children and families we have in our work through Extend in Groby.

Our Rock Solid and Chattabox Mondays groups have just had a great few weeks looking at the miracles of Jesus, particularly the raising of Lazarus. As we pointed out in our teaching, this so mirrors the story of Jesus’ own death on the cross and his raising to life that we celebrate at Easter.

I have just led a service at Groby URC, where we looked at Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem as a king on a donkey. Such a dramatic week was unfolding for Jesus and his disciples. A week that would change the world for ever.

At the Monsters Stink Holiday Club we will be looking at another part of the Easter story, that of Jesus’ prayers in the Garden of Gesthemane. Having already looked at the story of Adam and Eve, a story of disobedience of God, leading to the pair being thrown out of the garden, the story of Gesthemane is one of ultimate obedience, even to death on the cross. Where Adam and Eve caused a rift between humanity and God, Jesus healed that rift once again, symbolised by the Temple curtain renting in two as Jesus takes his last breath.

Before I get to Holiday Club, we have Tasters on Saturday morning. One of the activities we have planned is to make pictures of Jesus in the wilderness using sandpaper as part of the collage. Like Adam and Eve, Jesus was faced with the devil as he contemplated his future ministry. Tempted to use his position and power as God’s Son to rule the world in a very different way, Jesus rejects Satan and stays firmly focussed on God. One of my messages at the URC was that to reject Satan, we just need to invite Jesus into our hearts and remain focussed on God and the work he calls us to do in His name.

By doing God's work, we will show our communities that we want to share God's love. My focus is on young people and their families, which is beginning to bear fruit in the response that we are getting to events and activities such as the holiday club. It was also shown in the good response that we had to the first of our Chattabox Sunday services at church in Groby. We will have had our second just before Holiday Club. At that service our message will be from Psalm 103 verse 11:

"How great is God's love for all who worship him? Greater than the distance between heaven and earth!"

Obedience to God, Jesus in our hearts and love for our neighbours. Messages for all of us, not just our young people.

Colin Udall, Extend Worker

FORTHCOMING DATES

THURSDAY 5TH MAR 7.30PM

Film and Food for Fellas

FRIDAY 20TH MAR 8:20PM

20:20 prayers

- Mark Hiscocks

CONTACT

APRIL 2020 ISSUE

Deadline **SAT 21st March 2020**

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.

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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 facilit

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.
	3.00-4.15pm	After-School Club (children + carers, years 1-6)
Friday:	9.30-11.30am	CATCH* Coffee and chat (in term-time)
Saturday:	9.40am	Prayers
	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'.