

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby United Reformed Church



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

2-8 FEBRUARY

Please thank God for our Elders. Please pray for their physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Pray for God's protection over them, and ask God to equip them daily in their role as an Elder.

9-15 FEBRUARY

Everything folks do for God in this church is equal in the sight of God. Today please remember with gratitude to God those who work in the background and often they feel not recognised, because we hardly know such work needs doing. Please pray for them and be an encourager.

16-22 FEBRUARY

Please pray for Chattabox, for the young people who regularly attend, but also for their leaders and helpers. Please pray for the Holiday Club, for many young people to come along and for good relationships to form.

23-29 FEBRUARY

Fair Trade fortnight is once more here to remind us of our responsibility to seek the kingdom of God first. Thank God for the people who work and develop Fair Trade locally, and beyond.

- Lynda Hawkes & Ruth Ivens

WELCOME FROM PHIL, CHURCH ELDER



I cannot say I enjoy this time of the year! As I write it is cold, wet and windy but I'm looking forward to spring coming with warmer and longer days. When I look in the garden there are already signs of 'new life' with buds forming and growth developing.

Many of you reading this magazine I am sure consider yourselves to be Christians, and attend our church regularly. However, you may not be one, or perhaps know others who wonder what Christianity is all about. Well, we are running a course starting in late February called 'Christianity Explored', for anyone who wants to know about a 'new life' and to give time and space to think through who Jesus is and why He matters. In each of seven sessions we will start by sharing some food together, then watch a short film followed by a discussion in small groups. Each session would last around two hours. We intend it to be informal and relaxed. You can ask lots of questions or just sit and listen, and it won't cost you any money to come along. (There is a separate section in this newsletter to give you more information if you are interested.) We would love to meet you, please sign up!

- Phil Holmes

Church Secretary.

TWEET



Joyce Meyer (@JoyceMeyer)

19/01/2020, 15:45

A Prayer for Security: "God, I do not have to feel insecure about [share what's on your heart]. I have absolutely nothing to fear. I know that You are with me and that You will give me the strength to get through everything that comes my way. In Jesus' name, Amen."

- Rachel Hiscocks

Church Elders

Kathy Du Boulay	kathygrace127@gmail.com
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Happy February Birthday to

Megan Edwards

-Sue Lawrence-Brooks

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB



We are looking forward to our Monsters Stink Holiday Club taking place during half term at Martinshaw School on 17th and 18th February. Last year a total of over 70 children came to our 2 holiday clubs in February and in the summer holidays. This next holiday club is based on the ever-popular Pixar movie, "Monsters Inc" and features monsters appearing out of a bedroom wardrobe whilst looking at what scares us and why. We're not to be afraid, though as we will be having all the usual fun, songs, crafts and games. And I am sure that "Pie or No Pie will make a welcome return to stage! For further details, email chattaboxgroby@gmail.com

Last month saw the launch of our new monthly Chattabox Sunday Club, a new family activity taking place on the 3rd Sunday of every month at St. Philip and St. James Church, Groby. Featuring more songs, activities and exploration of the world and people around us, it is the perfect Sunday afternoon for primary school-aged children and their families. Hot chocolate featured last month, what will it be next time? Our next Club meeting is Sunday 16th February at 4pm. We hope to see you and your family there.

For further details on this, email me.

Colin Udall
colin.udall@ntlworld.com
Extend Project

Who Makes the Coffee??

A married couple were arguing who is making the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in HEBREWS!"



HOLIDAY CLUB

**Martinshaw
Primary
School**

Forest View, Groby
From 10am – 3pm
(Registration starts at
9:30am)

**Monday 17th
and
Tuesday 18th
February 2020**

For Primary-aged children from Year 1
to Year 6
£2 contribution per day

Places are limited and allocated
on a first-come, first-served basis.

To book your child's place, go to:
www.grobychurch.org.uk
and click on the Chatabox link on the
home page
any queries, please email
chataboxgroby@gmail.com



Our new MONTHLY

Chatabox Sunday Club

Songs and fun for all the family

From Sunday January 19th at 4pm we will be running our new monthly Chatabox Sunday Club at St. Philip and St. James Church, Groby. A mixture of songs, games, craft, Bible Stories and food! This is a perfect Sunday afternoon activity for primary school-aged children and their families.

Future dates: **16th February, 15th March and 19th April** all starting at 4pm.

See you there!



What a wonderfully generous people you are! Your giving to the Christmas Toilet Twinning fund-raiser has provided enough cash for us to buy seven toilet blocks for schools in some of the poorest communities via Tearfund. The grand total of £1770.40, included a large donation from the toddler groups and other very generous individual donations. As well as the seven school toilet blocks, there is enough to buy a further single toilet and provide the project with a donation.



A BIG Thanks to all for kindly 'spending that penny' in our potty, and helping flush away poverty, one loo at a time, with your notes and loo-se change!

Alongside this – Jane Hinds has been busy at her hairdressing salon, 'Snips' with herself and customers raising funds in a pink potty (what else?!) for two new toilet's – in Kabindi (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Kagoro (Eastern Province of Zambia). At least 3 church families have also decided to twin their toilet this Christmas.

This is fantastic and will have a huge impact on the lives of children and young people in some of the poorest parts of the world. By providing safe, private and clean loos, more children and young people will be able to continue going to school without falling sick or feeling vulnerable to attack. Education is such an important factor in helping combat poverty.

All three primary schools have agreed to accept a gift of Toilet Twinning certificates from us, which we hope will be presented to the schools fairly soon along with information about the Tearfund run project, possibly within a school assembly. We're also looking to invite the library and the Stamford Arms to accept a certificate and will provide updates as this develops.

- Kathy Du Boulay



OPEN THE BOOK



I am just taking a few moments to write this article before going to present 'the Good Shepherd' at the first of the Groby schools we go to, after presenting it twice at the Ratby Primary School yesterday.

We have only been going to Ratby since September and already they look forward to our presentations each month. One of the teachers told me it is good for her to see what her daughter, who goes to a Groby school, has told her about so many times. The children just love it, and most importantly soak up the stories, God's Word presented as it is to them.

They are learning in January that – 'Isn't it exciting to know that each one of us matters to God in our own special way?'

In February the presentation is 'the Storm on the Lake' where in the prayer at the end is –

Dear God, when we are worried or afraid and there's no-one to talk to, help us to remember that you are with us and that we are never alone. Amen.'

Please pray for the Groby, and Ratby, children – that many will want to know much more about how special they are to God and how God is always there for them.



- 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 2 FEB 2020

10am "Blindness & Sight"

Elder: Kevan Hall

Mark 9: 2-32 Tony Avery

SUN 9 FEB 2020

10am "Triumphal Entry"

Elder: Trevor Pringle

Mark 10:1-11 Colin Udall

(C) Mark

All age Communion - Kevan Hall

SUN 16 FEB 2020

10am "Opposing the religious leaders"

Elder: Mark Hiscocks

Mark 11:12-26 Stephen Burrage

SUN 23 FEB 2020

10am "Tempting Questions"

Elder: Kathy Du Boulay

Mark 11:27-12:27 David Harrup

HELPING HANDS - FEB 2020



CRECHE

Linda Symonds

2nd Rachel E, Suzie and Rachel P

9th Jacquie, Hilary and Linda

16th Rachel E, Anna and Hily

23th Linda, Stacey an Ruth

COFFEE

Joy Russell

2nd Joy & Peter

9th Sue LB & Hily

16th Judith & Anne B

23rd Pat C & Mary

WORSHIP

Tim Symonds

LEADER

2nd

9th

16th

23th

MEDIA

Mark Hiscocks

Barry Du Boulay

Dave Smith

Phil Holmes

PIANO

Sue Annabel

Helen Fracchia

WELCOME

Joy Russell

2nd Elsie & Peter

9th Joy & Peter

16th John & Elaine

23rd Trevor & Mary

FLOWERS

Barbara Conlon

2nd Mrs B Conlon

9th Mr & Mrs A Bloor

16th Mr & Mrs T. Symonds

23th Mrs R Cooper-Kennedy

CLEANING

Kathy Du Boulay

10th February: Barrie McNeil & Kathy

24th February: Ruth & Sue LB

Tearfund's partners in Zimbabwe 'Orphans Through Extended Hands' (ZOE) have been recognised for bravery by their government and have had the Humanitarian Award of Bravery medal awarded by the country's president Emmerson Mnangagwa. As with all the Tearfund staff and partners in Eastern Africa, when Cyclone Idai hit, they responded immediately to the devastation.

ZOE mobilised church members who were not affected, to give clothes and food to those that were left with nothing. They became a first point of call for other NGOs. And they are continuing to support people, through the initiation of things like livelihoods projects to help people rebuild some of what they lost.



Receiving the award, Pastor Femai from ZOE said 'Being compassionate calls for you to take practical action with the few resources you have, even if it means sacrificing your life for others, to prove how Jesus would respond in the situation'.

One church leader characterised the church as a tree called 'Musambangwena'. It is a type of tree grows by the river. Even if a heavy flood comes it will always stand, even in difficult times. It is a sign of hope and is resilient.

Please pray for ZOE as they continue their work in an extremely difficult situation, where there are acute food shortages.

Pray for more opportunities with training centres, who ZOE are linking young people with so they can learn new skills that equip them for the future.

Pray that ZOE will be able to access solar energy to alleviate the current power challenges they face - enabling them to move forward in their daily activities.

- Kathy Du Boulay

Join us in prayer on
Thursday 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.*

Prayer

2020

Colossians 4:3

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.

THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2020

Lord Jesus, thank you for your amazing love. We pray for every evangelist sharing your good news of eternal life. May they be given humility, grace and boldness to clearly invite all they meet to believe in and follow you (John 5:24).

- David Harrup



CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Christianity Explored (CE) is an informal and relaxed seven-week course starting on Wednesday 26th February 2020.



It's for anyone who wants to think about the meaning of life. Those attending don't need to know anything about the Bible, and won't be asked to pray or sing. They will be encouraged to ask any question they like, or they can just sit and listen.

CE is a place for anyone, whoever they are and whatever they are thinking, to explore what life's all about.

It might just be the best news they have ever heard.

It's going to be run by Christian's from our church, at our church and is completely free. The format for each session will include a short DVD clip, discussion using course questions and Mark's Gospel, and of course some food.

If you know someone, neighbour, friend or family member, who could be invited please see any elder for an invitation for them.

- Mark Hiscocks

FOOD & FILM FOR FELLAS



In December we watched a film called 'Surviving Christmas' just to give the fellas some help ahead of the festive season and in January we watched 'Open Range' which is a modern western film – both good.

The fellas were treated to an early Christmas style pork & turkey bap with seasonal bits added – including sprouts. In January we had beef (slow-cooked) baguettes – very good.

Available to the fellas were some copies of the 'Sorted' magazine. If you see any lying around please take to read, then either bring back or pass on – thanks.

There are just three more left this season on Thursdays 6th Feb, 5th Mar & 2nd Apr – all evenings starting at 7.00pm.

There is still room for other fellas to join us.

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

For more information please see me

- David Harrup

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS...

CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD

The following people sent greetings via the Church Family Christmas Card:-

Mike & Helen Playdon, Dave & Hilary, Tim & Linda, Phil & Kathy, Sue LB, Kev & Wendy, Chris & Jim, Joy & Peter, Trevor & Mary



CARDS WERE RECEIVED FROM...

Les & Diane Gill, Chris & Jane Baker, and a homemade card from Anne & Ron. Also, UCCF Oxford, Tearfund Team Teddington, Urban Saints Luton, Braunstone URC

GREETINGS TO TASTERS FROM...

Alan & Pip, Dawn, Neda & Milly, Craig

THANK YOU

The Christmas period was such a busy time for our church and our grateful thanks go to all those who performed countless behind the scene tasks, too numerous to mention - but you know who you are.



- Joy Russell

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF...

There are loads of articles lying around in various areas of the church. From toys, clothing, a set of light (been in the vestry for 18 months) etc., etc. If you have parked something, please be aware the recyclers are about!!



GROBY SINGS

After the success of Groby Sings Under The Stars, the choir is looking forward to travelling towards Summer 2020 with Groby Sings On The Road which will feature songs from Calamity Jane (remember Doris Day and 'The Deadwood Stage'?) and Simon and Garfunkel whose chart-topping hit 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' is, amazingly, 50 years old this year. It promises to be an interesting mix of sounds which, as usual, will be fun for the choir to master and entertaining for the audience to enjoy at performances on Saturday 27th June and Sunday 28th June.



Singing will resume after the Groby schools' half-term on Monday 24th February at the Groby Club. Afternoon choir: 1.15-3.00pm. Evening choir: 7.30-9.00pm. After-school children's choir (age 7 upwards): 3.40-4.40pm. Everyone welcome, come along and enjoy singing, socialising and eating cake!

ON THE ROAD

For enquiries, please contact us via our website www.grobysings.org.

- June Ward

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490.

FORTHCOMING DATES

THURSDAY 6TH FEB 7.30PM

Film and Food for Fellas

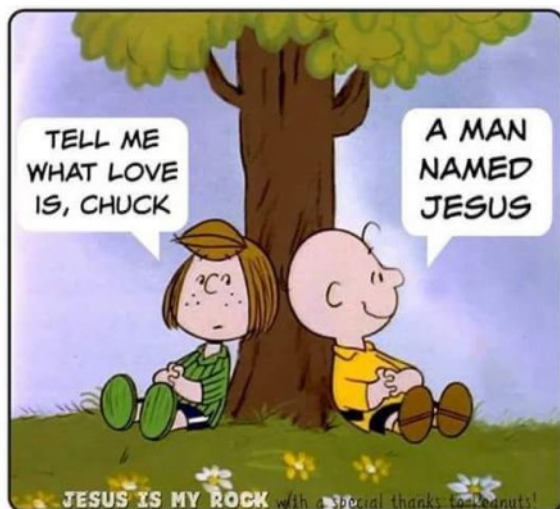
THURSDAY 20TH FEB 8:20PM

20:20 prayers

WEDNESDAY 26TH FEB 7PM

Christianity Explored

- Mark Hiscocks



CONTACT

MARCH 2020 ISSUE

Deadline **SAT 16th February 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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CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Jane Hinds 07530 957022 janesnips@hotmail.com

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'.