

# CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church

Be



*Joyful* in Hope

*Patient* in Affliction

*Faithful* in Prayer

Romans 12:12



November 2020

# PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

We live in different and fast changing circumstances. Therefore I decided to send each Sunday a Prayer for the Week which will hopefully touch that need for the week.

Ruth Ivens

**Join us in prayer on  
Friday 20th at 20:20  
hours at home with family  
or via telephone/facetime  
with friends / family for  
just 20 minutes**

Pray .... That God will give  
many opportunities to  
speak about Christ

**Colossians 4:3**



# CONTENTS


Prayer for the Week.....	2
yChurch birthdays Sue Lawrence.....	4
Elder’s Welcome from Trevor.....	5
Tweet from Rachel Hiscocks.....	6
Global Justice Footprints from Ruth.....	7
Open the Book by David Harrup.....	8
Prayer Hub by Ruth & Joy .....	10
Sunday morning Teaching and Readings.....	12
PRAY.....	13
Sunday’s Helping Hands.....	13
Members & Attenders Survey .....	14
Lockdown and Beyond by Jane Hinds .....	16
My Reflections on the Prayer Hub by Kay Blick.....	18
Groby Sings by June Ward.....	20
Advent Windows 2020 “Light, Hope, Peace and Joy” by Jane Cox .....	22
Forthcoming Dates .....	23
Church Contacts .....	24

# Church Elders

Kathy Du Boulay	kathygrace127@gmail.com
Kevan Hall	grobycom@sky.com
Mark Hiscocks	hiscocksm@gmail.com
Phil Holmes	grobyurcchurchsec@gmail.com
Trevor Pringle	drtrpringle@gmail.com



Evie Coombes

 *Happy Birthday to You*  
*May the Good Lord Bless You*

Sue Lawrence

## WELCOME FROM TREVOR, CHURCH ELDER



Hi everyone

Here we are in November with continuing restrictions on what we can do, where we can go and who we can meet. Leaves are turning colour and falling from the trees, the clocks have gone back and we are once again moving forward into colder months where darkness and gloom can seem ever present. Before we know it will be Advent (29 November) and another year will begin to draw rapidly to a close. And what a year it has been!

Last month Mark reminded us of the importance of making connections and remembering that despite the considerable changes around us, Jesus Christ remains ever constant, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8) For many around us however relationships may be increasingly strained and this basic truth unspoken.

How can we share this message and bring light in these coming months of physical and spiritual darkness?

As Christians, we can be light in this darkness by being ready to respond to non-believers with truth and testifying to what God has done in our lives and the lives of those around us (**John 1:6-9**). To do this we need to be willing to reach out however and engage with the people around us and be willing to share when the physical or digital opportunities present.

***"Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk***

***in darkness, but have the light of life. " (John 8:12)***

Stick to the way. When you choose to follow the commands of the Lord and reject the ways of this world, others do notice.

Dare to be different this Autumn and set an example in how you live and relate with your neighbours. Use this month to get ready to take a different approach to the coming Advent and Christmas period!

**Let your light shine.** Jesus proclaimed in Matthew 5:14-16 that His disciples were the light of the world and were not to remain hidden. They were called to shine their light as a city set on a hill.

**How can we do this?**

At this difficult time perhaps the key thing we can do is simply look out for others and serve them with a glad and willing heart. Consider what gifts you have been given and how you might use them. What can you bring to our community and how can you selflessly help others? **If you are not sure how then speak to God in prayer and be guided by Him!**

God bless, Trevor

**TWEET**

Nicky Gumbel @nickygumbel



Faith is a muscle that grows by stretching.

13/10/2020, 18:02

Rachel Hiscocks

VOICE FOR

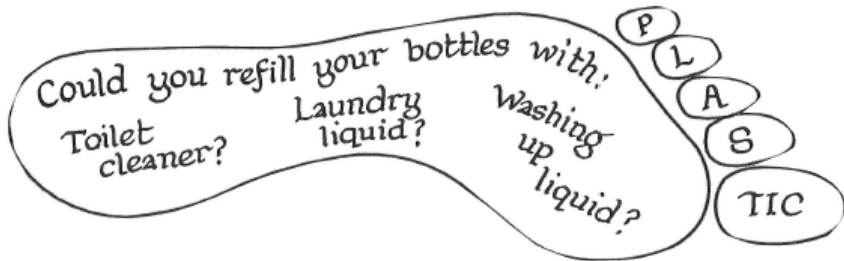


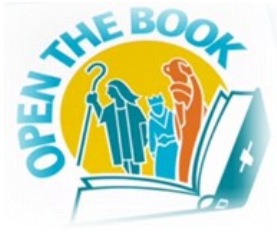
JUSTICE

## Global Justice

Here is another step we can make in our concern for our world. How do you reduce your plastic consumption? Please share your ideas with the 'Voice for Justice' team. Is not God one day asking us what we did to His world?

Ruth





Another month gone and we are about to record two more Open the book stories for our primary schools. It was good to see St P&J Groby use our 'Everyone Gets the Same' story in October as part of their on-line all-age service – a strong message for all.

For November we are recording 'Waiting for a Friend' which tells the story of the woman, Leah, meeting Jesus at the well. The narration ends with the line 'Leah had found a friend at last. She had found Jesus!'

Have you? Is Jesus your friend? In this continued difficult time as we face more lockdown it is easy to feel isolated and lonely, but Jesus is always there – our ever-present friend. There is a song with a repeated line '..for this we have Jesus'. For these lonely months we do have Jesus!

The second story is 'Tea at Auntie's House' which follows a young girl as she goes for tea with Aunts Mary and Martha.

The presentation finishes with a prayer that all children can relate to –

'Dear God, in our families help us to make time for each other – time to think, and time to talk about the things that are really important. Amen'



Please continue to pray for the school children of our villages, pray that they will know Jesus as their friend – always there for them.

Pray for the teachers and all at the schools who are battling to educate the children during these challenging times – pray that they will know God's peace and strength in their work.

Continue to pray that God will give wisdom to those from the churches considering how the work with families and children can be taken forward.

We still need someone to look after the sets & props which are stored in the loft at the URC and be responsible for getting these down and to/from the schools for the presentations.

Please contact me to find out more about this.

David - local Open the Book co-ordinator  
(harrup.david@gmail.com)



Psalm 145:4

One generation shall praise Your works to another,  
And shall declare Your mighty acts.

# HAVE YOU VISITED THE PRAYER HUB YET?



We opened in the church, without fanfare or ceremony on October 1st - all very much in keeping with a Sanctuary for prayer. If you haven't heard about the **Prayer Hub** or do not know how it works - no problem! The Hub is intended to be ongoing, to run until our church doors are once again open wide.

There will be heating & lighting on weekdays between 10.00am-4.00pm, 12.00-4.00pm on Sundays. Just bring your church key, follow Covid-19 instructions and use the sanctuary to spend some time with God in prayer. See Ruth or Joy for a front door key. There are four prayer stations, and something new '**Your Space to Be**' The printed prayer topics are in the main suggestions from church members, to help us focus our thinking for guidance on the future direction of our church during and after the pandemic.

***A Church That Prays Together, Stays Together***





## What's the idea behind the Prayer Hub?

Like many other churches, Groby URC is in desperate need of God's leading & guidance, particularly during the pandemic. After deep cleaning, we had a virus-free, but empty church on our hands. We came up with the idea of a Prayer Hub - a nerve centre where the congregation provides the prayer pointers. Not a display area but a sanctuary to meet with God and God with us, in the hope that He will meet our spiritual needs.

## How was the Prayer Hub set up?



With a belief that to pray for the life of the church means to involve the congregation. Many people do different jobs in the fellowship and when setting up, the outcome was four different prayer stations.

## What can we find when we visit?



1. Ministry, Leadership & Worship
2. Outreach
3. Church Life
4. Special prayers to reflect and respond to

God's prompting – an opportunity to pray and trust in the Lord to lead.

5. 'Your Space to Be' is new and includes prayers left in the prayer boxes by church members.



## What do we need to do to make our visit safe?

Not a lot! All Covid-19 guidelines are being strictly adhered to, and sanitization carried out on a daily basis. You are unlikely to meet up with others. Do please come.



## SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS IN NOVEMBER

We continue our study of the Book of Acts as we go through November, taking a break as we enter the Advent Season in the capable hands of Jane Henderson—some of whom will remember as the Children’s worker for URC Synod.

Inspired by God’s Spirit, how did they spread the good news of Jesus’s saving grace? How did they walk with Christ in a world that didn’t understand? How can we use the teaching from this book to broaden our outlook and open our eyes to a new post Covid reality?

1st: Kev/ Wendy. Acts 12: 25—14:28. Spreading the Word

8th: Malcolm Clarke. Acts 15:1—16:5. Resolving Conflict

15th: Les Gill. Acts 16: 6—17:15. Following the Spirit

22nd: Kev/Wendy Acts 17: 16—34. City of Idols

29th: Jane Henderson. 1st Sunday in Advent.

(Holy communion as announced)

God’s word for us to have in mind as we read and reflect:

**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

- P** The Zoom prayer meetings are happening every two weeks following the Pause, Reflect, Ask, Yield model for praying.
- R** November dates are 4th and 18th November at 7.15pm
- A** Phil will send an email nearer to each date which will contain a link so you can access these meetings via zoom.
- Y** Please contact an elder if you would like to give zoom a go and haven't tried it before, or you have but have struggled.

## Sunday's Helping Hands

	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Media</b>
1st	Mary	Phil	Phil
8th	Dave / Hilary	Mark	Mark
15th	Margaret	Trevor	Tim
22nd	Linda S	Kathy	Barry
29th	Kathy du B	Phil	Dave

## **Church Members and Attenders Survey**

Another flavour of responses to the survey elders sent out

**What do you believe God wants Groby URC to focus on at the present time and in the weeks or months ahead?**

Faith, trust and hope. To remain strong & united and to continue to reach out to each other and those in wider community – God’s love in action. I truly believe that God wants his people to draw close to Him and to trust in Him. Perhaps and if possible to share that thought with as many people who will listen.

To still get the good news to as many people as possible by trying to get some of the activities going again albeit in a different way. It would be great if Tasters could start again somehow with limited numbers and may be only offering drinks. If less volunteers were needed each time it would be good if this could be done on more than one day so that no one was excluded. Decide which outreach activities are important to retain, those that are not fruitful and which we may need to leave behind.

FB ‘outreach’ to continue. Getting back to normal as Covid allow. We should review our on-line presence.

Prayer – for future direction of outreach. Leadership!!!  
Praying for spiritual leadership and future vision. Prayer, prayer and more prayer – for guidance and understanding of God’s will for our fellowship. Prayer groups throughout the week. Prayer that we will become a church of the Spirit and the word.

Discipleship in growing spiritually, growing members in the gifts required for leadership roles.

We are poor at identifying gifts in our congregation and also at encouraging the use and growth of such gifts.

We have a mission statement but we don't have a vision for attaining it. We should have church values too. We must not return to the ageing dying church model that seems so typical of URC. Focus on something different and new to the rules we have in place at present. Look for gifting and five fold ministry. Apostles , prophets. Evangelists, teachers and pastors. Explore the early church model. Read together as church," Unleased." by Anne and Gavin Calver.

Reaching out, especially to young families. Finding a way to allow the children to reconnect and learn about God in a family friendly environment would matter to God.

Two different services one for older members who wish to attend and one at a different time for our young families. It is after all younger people who are not so affected by the present virus. We need to build a base of lively bible based teaching, fun and eventually hospitality which other young families from around us can join. Encourage our young families and explore, strengthen, develop their vision with them and support them. It is vitally important we encourage our young families and explore, strengthen, develop their vision with them and support them.

**Our Mission Statement**  
**Being Disciples, Making Disciples.**  
(Matthew 28:18-19)

## **Lockdown and Beyond, Jane Hinds**

In mid-March the first rumbles of change that lockdown was about to bring began with the disappointment that my train visit to Carlisle to see my daughter Katie and her husband Nathan was cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions . They wanted to tell me in person but had to do it over the phone that I am to become a Nana! I still cried of course but just so wanted to give them a hug! I truly felt so blessed and delighted for them both. On the day of her first scan, the song on the daily Facebook update was The UK Blessing! I truly felt God's presence and knew the scan would be fine. The song has been my 'go to' many a moment throughout the past few months! It would be another 4 months before I finally saw my girl and still then, for safety, no hugs....

As some of you may know I work within Glenfield Hospital and for the last 23 years have happily run the hair salon and I have to say that I love my job! Accommodating patients, staff, visitors and the outside community, my work is varied and no day is ever the same. I always described it as my baby that never changed, I work hard to keep every client happy, am passionate about what I do, what could touch us?? Covid 19 arrived and with its presence, my doors had to close. Whatever am I going to do for 12 weeks I thought?

To be honest I struggled in early lockdown with a lack of structure and routine, enthusiasm and guilt at so many things! After a couple of weeks, I sat down and had a chat with myself and then made 'To Do ' lists! I got busy doing things I'd never do, little projects even and as the glorious weather began, my garden was no longer the scary place



I didn't have time for and I began to see the beauty that it holds.

I found peace with lockdown but I also had a business to think about and the initial 12 weeks went on and on and because the hospital fell into Leicester lockdown too, I still had to remain closed. I spent the time making the salon Covid safe and created a safe environment at home to do a few clients just to keep the business afloat. Finally, after five and a half months I was allowed to re-open the salon, raring to go, covid safe, PPE fancy dress to work every day, back to normal! It's quickly dawned on me that however much we are trying to get back to what we were, it's not happening. Week to week, I'm working with the changes, trying to hold on to the business I'm determined not to lose to Covid! God has kept me safe for 23 years doing what I do and has always provided, why would he forsake me now. I just have to trust that the seeds are going to flourish again as in The Parable of the Sower Matthew 13: 1-23. I look at the quiet days as a gift to do something positive.

There have been so many blessings through church, the daily Facebook sheets, the music, the services online, home group in the garden, the prayer group praying all the way through for Katie and Nathan and the closeness to God through taking the time to see nature more.

My son wrote a book through lockdown which was released in early September and when he proudly showed me his first hardback copy, I opened the front cover to see their first baby scan picture !!

Of course, I cried again being truly overwhelmed at the richness of our blessings. There is a lot of love waiting for

these 2 babies that are on their way, the first due early November, the second next March. I wonder what the world holds for them but I also trust that it'll be ok and am safe in the knowledge that God will answer prayer and he is always with us.

God Bless you all. Jane

*Jane with Katie*



### My Reflections on the Prayer Hub by Kay Blick



I discovered there a place of peace and tranquillity, a place of calm and light, a sanctuary just to rest in God's presence. I found a space where my thoughts start ascending heavenwards to our God, the Father. This is God's house, our Church, a powerhouse of prayer – The Hub.

Praying needn't be difficult; just sitting in God's presence, listening and telling Him how we feel. He always answers our prayers, not always by direct line, but very often through friends, neighbours and even strangers passing on a word of encouragement. Through prayer our spirit becomes re-generated.

Firstly, I give thanks for all the goodness and blessings He has bestowed on us, and then our personal concerns.

Then, walking around the tables, I can choose from the many aspects of church life, praying about them, and for the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our church alive.

I remove a slip with a name on it to take home and pray for that person and their work; especially, for our Elders and the attention to detail given to the work carried out on the church buildings. Thank you to those who initiated the idea of a Prayer Hub.

Is it possible that all who are able could visit the Hub during the coming weeks? Then, including those praying at home, we would all be together in spirit, full of the Spirit, praying for the way forward.

### What Did Jesus Do?

Jesus prayed continually usually early in the morning in a solitary place. Always he asked his Father, who gave him the spiritual power to perform his miracles and his preaching.

Some prayer examples: Psalm 5:1-3, Lam 3:22-26, Mark 1:35, Luke 18:1-8, 1 Thess: 5:16-17, Psalm 65:1-4, 1 John 5:13-15, John 14:12-14, Luke 11:1-5

The logo for 'Groby Sings' features the word 'Groby' in a red, rounded font with a white outline, positioned above the word 'Sings' in a larger, bold red font with a white outline. Four colorful musical notes (blue, orange, green, and purple) are scattered around the text.

As the disruption to our lives continues and as so many other social groups have experienced, we Groby Singers have had to come to terms again with not being able to gather together on Mondays. Earlier in the year we were optimistic that the country would have got to grips with the virus sufficiently well to enable us to resume singing this Autumn but sadly not. It is particularly hard on those choir members who might not have the company of others on a regular basis and who rely on groups like Groby Sings to help lift their spirits when life is proving difficult. After all, tea, cake and singing are a universal panacea for most worries, aren't they?

Although we haven't got any singing news, members of Groby Sings are still communicating in the usual ways and we've had a lovely email from Helen Hayes updating us on her life in Derbyshire. She is still having voice therapy and has been advised to cultivate a more relaxing lifestyle, so she is enjoying art therapy and has a good friend who supplies regular massages. It sounds lovely and we've all sent our best wishes for her continuing recovery. As a gesture of appreciation for the tremendous effort that Helen put in for Groby Sings over the last 7 years, singers sent her cards and donations towards a leaving gift. The amount raised enabled her to buy a firepit to make a corner of her garden more cosy and there was enough left over for her to donate to SoundCafe and One Roof Leicester, the

homeless charities she worked with and still supports.

Another of our Groby Sings leading figures, Paul Cox, has certainly not rested on his laurels while Groby Sings has been off-road. As well as holding down his very valuable key worker job, he has continued to spend many hours playing, composing and arranging music. He has recorded backing tracks for youngsters who are having their music lessons online; recorded hymns and songs for Groby Parish Church's online service; arranged a young person's composition for an online orchestra; and, most exciting of all, he has composed a symphony. So much talent and dedication, which is why he is a much-valued member of our Groby Sings family. We miss his input into rehearsals and his leadership of the band at our concerts but we're not surprised to hear that he can't put his creative side on hold just because of a pandemic! We're all having to adapt to new ways of doing things which will stand us in good stead for the future and Paul is an excellent role model. We look forward to exciting new things from him when we resume singing.

Finally, as we are being urged to think about Christmas and it seems highly unlikely that we will have Carols Round The Tree at the Stamford Arms this year, Groby Singers and audience members might like to dust off their copies of *Groby Sings Christmas* from December 2013 and keep Groby Sings alive by singing along at home.

June Ward

For updates, please see our [website](http://www.grobysings.org)  
[www.grobysings.org](http://www.grobysings.org).

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490.

# Advent Windows 2020 “Light, Hope, Peace and Joy”

Sunday November 29th to Thursday  
December 24th

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Please can I invite you all to help in brightening up the dark evenings of Advent in Groby (and beyond) this year? Paul and I will be popping our rainbow lights into our porch as usual in our village and hope to add some Christian messages and decorations at different times too. We have asked our church family at St Philip and St James to join in. Hopefully, the whole village will hear about taking part through an article I am sending to *Spotlight*.

What could you do?

Can you join us in spreading a message of ‘Light, Hope, Peace and Joy’ by brightening up your home in some way so that passers-by and delivery people notice your window for a moment or two?

It could be a Nativity set on your window sill.

It could be a Bible verse written on a single piece of paper stuck in the window of your porch. You could change it as the weeks pass.

It could be a homemade stained-glass window.

It could be a battery candle shining every evening.

It could be some old Christmas cards cut up and collaged to tell part of the Christmas story.

I hope you feel able to join in

It could be a single word from “Light, Hope, Peace and Joy” changed each Sunday crafted in some way.

No need to buy anything special; it can be anything you already own or can create that you feel will fit the theme. And it need not be on show for the entirety of Advent; one or two days is ok too.

Jane Cox



## FORTHCOMING DATES

**Church Prayer meetings via zoom are at 7.15 pm, on November 4th and 18th. A link to access these events will be sent out via email near to the date**

**2020 prayer: Friday 20th November at 20 past 8. (20.20h). For prayer at home.**

**Praise Juke box: Wednesday 11th November at 7 pm.**

## December / January will be a double issue

Deadline **SAT 22nd NOVEMBER 2020**

Please submit articles to [magazine@grobyurc.com](mailto:magazine@grobyurc.com) 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 Mark or Kathy know.

Groby United Reformed Church  
member: Evangelical Alliance UK  
www.grobyurc.com, LE6 0FE



## CONTACTS

**MINISTER:** Vacancy

**SECRETARY:** Phil Holmes 0116 2253335 /  
grobyurcchurchsec@gmail.com

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORKER:** Vacancy.

**CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:** Jane Hinds 07530  
957022 /  
janesnips@hotmail.com

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Our regular Sunday morning worship in the building is at 10am and follows Government guidelines on social distancing. It is streamed live or recorded via Facebook and can be found on the Groby United Reformed Church page each Sunday at 10 am. Our worship normally includes monthly Holy Communion. The church building has a loop hearing system, wheelchair access, a toilet for the disabled & baby nappy changing facilities.

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Our weekly activities are currently suspended at the present time, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and normally include parent and toddler groups, children and youth activities, Fair Cuppa at the Groby Village Hall and Groby Tasters. Some of these activities run as part of 'Churches Together in Groby'.

Home groups offer support during the week—see an elder for details. All elder contact details are on page 4.