

# CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



Faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love

1 Corinthians 13:13



February 2022

# Happy Birthday

Megan Edwards



*Happy Birthday to You*

*May the Good Lord Bless You*

Sue Lawrence-Brooks

## Church Elders

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## WELCOME FROM KATHY CHURCH ELDER.



The other day I had the pleasure of viewing what might have been the first daffodil in Groby to open this year. I'm a member of the Groby Walkers group that meet at the village hall every Thursday morning for about an hour's walk around different paths in Groby. The walk leader promised us a first look at said daffodil which indeed, had just begun to open from being a tight closed green bud, to show its early promise of vivid yellow flower. All its neighbours were still closed with no sign of what they might become.

As a church, having had to close nearly all our 'together' activities, we are beginning to feel more hopeful that we can open and stay open. As a Christian fellowship each one of us will have experienced the past two years in different ways and different challenges. God has been with us, supporting each of us in that mysterious way of His though sometimes hard to see. He has helped us face the challenges of church closures when we couldn't meet, and to be more creative in how we could meet. Sue Lawrence-Brooks and I recently agreed that we felt homegroups are stronger as we have become more reliant on meeting together in smaller groups. As individuals we have perhaps learnt more about Facebook and zoom, but also hopefully about God's care and protection, about His great love for us, about how He gives light and hope. He has given us a Saviour, and so much more. I believe for example, that He has provided the creative intellect that has enabled scientists to find a way out of the pandemic through vaccinations and testing.

As we 'open' up to be seen, what will be seen? Will it be enough for folk to want to take a second, closer look. Will it be loving enough to draw people in - to want to know more?

Closing everything as we had to do, back in March 2020, means that we don't have to open everything now that we can. We can also open in another way and that is a challenge for us, but daunting at the same time. There are many types of daffodils and perhaps not always clear which one you're looking at until more fully open.

So what has God got in store for us in 2022? Perhaps more to the point, what have we got in our store that will help us serve God through this fellowship in 2022?

We pray for new life, that even now, roots continue to grow unseen, but seen by our heavenly Father. We look forward together into 2022, praying that we will become the Christian Community God has in mind.

God Bless All.

Kathy

**PS. And since we're talking 'new life' - see overleaf**



## **Y-Church – Can you help?**

It's so exciting to be able to get Y-Church restarted & help our families get back into regular church life. However, we really do need more volunteers to make this happen & allow this provision to continue.

At the moment most of the sessions are being led by parents, with a few other regulars who have volunteered to help support the groups. I am very grateful to those who have already offered their help but we really need more people to step & get involved in leading sessions to ensure they can carry on.

The children have been split into two groups one for primary school age & one for secondary school age. Each group needs someone to lead the session & then we also need to have a third person out to assist with the younger group, this is to ensure that safeguarding requirements are met.

We really need people to help lead both groups, resources & even lesson plans can be provided for anyone who wants to help & I'm happy to talk through how the sessions work with you. The rota is on the notice board at the back of church if you are interested in putting your name.

I would encourage everyone to think & pray about whether they would be able to help with this provision. Even if you just give it a go for one session, that's one session our parents can take part in a full service & you never know, you just might like it enough to do another one! Without Y-Church it is very difficult for families to come to church &

whilst it is currently parents getting these groups up & running again, I feel that it is the responsibility of the whole church to ensure that our children are well looked after & set up with the tools they need to live a life for Christ.

Ultimately, we pride ourselves in being a family friendly church, however, if we cannot offer this resource then we have to ask ourselves if this is really the case.

If you have any questions about Y-Church then please do speak to me.

Rachel Edwards

Pause for Thought...



By Mother Teresa

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if the drop was not in the ocean, I think the ocean would be less because of the missing drop.



*From Mary Pringle*

## **tearfund** Putting a Lid on Poverty

Given the present Covid situation, we had a gratifying result to our 'Bin-Twinning' Christmas Appeal with a total to date of **£669**.

This is more than sufficient to twin both the church outside bins and the kitchen bin, with the extra donations going to Tearfund's partners in Uganda to help them raise community awareness about waste on health and the environment.



### **A Rubbish Campaign:**

Tearfund's Bin Twinning invites people in the UK to 'twin their bin' by donating to help fund a social enterprise in countries like Uganda.

In return for a one-off donation of £45, they receive a certificate to stick on their bin to show it is twinned.

Several church members are due to receive certificates for their individual donations for twinning their wheelie bins.

**Thank you** everyone for your splendid response to the appeal.

### **We Can Make a Difference:**

Currently there is no waste collection system in Uganda. More than 600 tonnes of plastic are dumped every day. 90% is burnt or sent to land-fill.

With our support, Tearfund's local partners will employ



hundreds of workers to collect plastic and turn it into paving blocks. Wages will be more than twice the local average.

### **Waste Affects us all:**

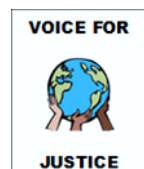
As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of God's creation; so reducing our waste footprint should be part of our response, especially as so much UK plastic ends up abroad.

We hope twinning bins and seeing the Bin Twinning sticker will help people become more mindful of how much waste they generate, as they support innovative start-ups tackling the waste crisis.



### **The Eco-brix project in Uganda**

“I caught my friend going through the neighbour’s bins...  
She’s not nosey; she’s just terrible at parking!!”  
*Sorry, couldn’t resist it!*



## Prayer

As we started worship in this new year on Sunday morning the 2nd January, our elders reminded us that “we are committed to worshiping God and sharing the gospel of the Lord Jesus under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and that we seek to achieve these aims through”:

### **Prayer, Teaching, Fellowship and Witness.**

Firstly we spent a short time looking at Prayer.....

When we look at prayer through the lens of the scriptures, we could be forgiven for thinking that it’s always an individual thing where an individual Christian speaks to God.

However as we see the young church developing in Acts, we see that prayer is not always an individual activity, but can be a very powerful tool for the church “en mass”!

Looking first at Acts ch 2 we see the church receiving the life giving gift of the Holy Spirit and towards the end of the chapter in v42 we read “and they continued steadfastly in the Apostles’ doctrine, and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.” So we see THEM, collectively continuing in teaching, fellowship, communion and prayer!

What an example for us!

Then towards the end of ch4 when Peter and John are released after the healing of the crippled man at the temple, v24 “and being let go they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them (v24) So when they heard that, “they raised there voice to God with one accord and said”

Once again we see the whole group praying!

There is much we could say here about prayer, for instance we could look at the Lord's Prayer as an example of how we should pray, but suffice to say at the start of this new year that we should not underestimate the importance and power of collective prayer.

God bless you

Kevan



## **Church Prayer Opportunities**

The prayer box is available for anyone to add prayer requests for the prayer box team

Zoom Prayers every fortnight on Thursdays at 7.30 pm.  
In February that's 3rd and 17th.

The monthly prayer sheet contains suggestions for Church Prayers. These can be used to pray on your own or with others - in homegroups for example

Please let one of the elders know if you would like us to facilitate other prayer opportunities or you have further suggestions we could use.



## SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Throughout February, we will continue to study Paul's letter to the church in Corinth.

|                            |  |               |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>Feb 6th</b>             | <b>1 Corinthians 12</b><br>'Unity & Diversity'   | Cate Coffey   |
| <b>Feb 6th at<br/>3 pm</b> | <b>'Ready, Set, Go!'</b><br>Service for Children | Wendy         |
| <b>13th</b>                | <b>Praise, Prayer &amp;<br/>Fellowship</b>       | Elders        |
| <b>20th</b>                | <b>1 Corinthians 13</b><br>'Love'                | Steve Burrage |
| <b>27th</b>                | <b>1 Corinthians 14</b><br>'Prophecy & Tongues'  | Gary Wood     |

**The 'Ready, Set, Go!' services will be held the 1st Sunday of the month, at the new time of 3 pm.**

**Sue will lead us in sharing Communion on Sunday 20th February.**

## Sunday's Helping Hands in February

|      | <b>Elder</b> | <b>Music</b> | <b>Media</b> | <b>Welcome</b>        | <b>Coffee</b>        |
|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
|      |              | (Tim)        | (Tim)        | (Joy)                 | (Joy)                |
| 6th  | Sue          | David        | Phil         | Margaret<br>& Maurice | Pat C &<br>Linda     |
| 13th | Kathy        | Sue          | Mark         | Alan                  | Kathy &<br>Barry     |
| 20th | Mark         | Trevor       | Tim          | Elsie &<br>Pete       | Ann T &<br>Barbara C |
| 27th | Rachel       | Debbie       | Dave         | Rachel H              | Joy & Peter          |

### Flowers



(Barbara Conlon)

6th: Rachel & Mark  
Hiscocks

13th: Joy & Peter Russell

20th: Linda & Tim Symonds

27th: Barry & Kathy

### “February’s Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

7th: ‘Our Chores’

14th: Trevor & Mary

21st: ‘Our Chores’

28th: Kathy & Barry



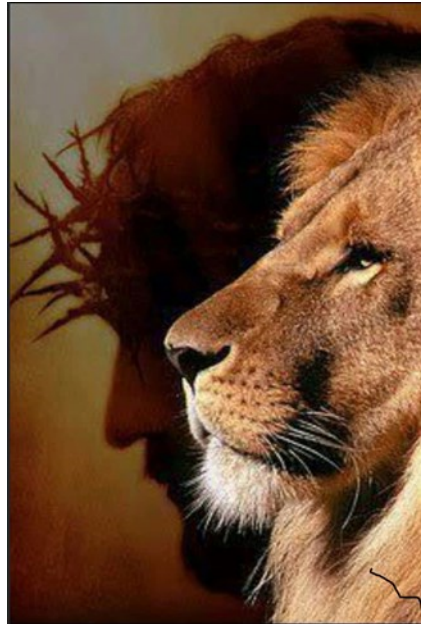
## Recommended Reads.

Hi everyone.

Mary asked me if I could recommend a Christian book I've read recently and I had to confess that I've not read anything new of late that I could recommend - not in an easy read style at any rate.

However, because I had nothing recommended to me during lockdown I decided to re-read some of my old books and I re-read the whole of the Narnia series - and thoroughly enjoyed doing so. C.S.Lewis was a fine lay-theologian as well as holding teaching posts in English Literature at both Oxford and Cambridge. If you are ever looking for a basic theological guide to Christianity you won't find better than his Mere Christianity.

However, that's not what I am recommending. He wrote seven fantasy stories about a mythical country called Narnia into which a series of children were transported and had adventures. Nearly everyone knows about The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and the film version is a pretty accurate account of it. It is also a wonderful fantasy retelling of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.



However, I wonder how many people have read all seven of the stories. All of them have a spiritual message (or messages) within them and most of all they are fun to read for all ages.

And if you do read the series (again) make sure you get to The Last Battle the last of the books. Remember it's a fantasy but it will make you think about the end times and what heaven is like. These are topics we don't often address and this book provides a real fun way of getting into the topic.

All 7 books have been bound together, by the way, and available from Amazon and other places at a very reasonable price.

I would also highly recommend two 'not-Christian' books that I have read recently. Bill Gates 'How to avoid a climate disaster' and Barack Obama's 'A Promised Land' - neither are what I would call light reading but extremely interesting for those with particular interests.

Happy reading.

God bless.

John

(Rev'd Dr. John Hall)



## **Fairtrade Fortnight**

### **21st February to 6th March**

### **Fairtrade Reaction to COP 26.**

Although we are not doing anything specific this year, we mark the event by a look at an open letter written by Mary Kinyua who is a Fairtrade flower farmer from Kenya. She is the Fairtrade International board representative to COP26, and represented Fairtrade International on the UK CSO & Youth Advisory Council. The letter is a response to the final communique of the COP 26 summit. .

“This COP’s outcome is in many ways a cop out, a frustrating conclusion to this summit filled with hope that we would see a start to the healing of our world.

“As farmers ourselves, representing 1.8 million Fairtrade farmers and workers across the world already living with the devastating realities of climate change, we came to Glasgow in good faith, hoping our world leaders would listen to our voices and keep their promises. Our message of ensuring the planet temperature rise remains within 1.5 degrees and that the costs of addressing a changing climate would not be unfairly placed on those of us who did the least to cause it – could not have been clearer.

“It is hard to understand why the prospect of a 2.4 degree temperature rise has not driven world governments to deliver on the promises made in Paris. It is hard to understand why the climate finance promise of \$100 billion per year is still outstanding. It is painful to see that no commitment at all has been made to pay for the unavoidable loss and damage faced by our communities.



“Of course we have seen some welcome moves. The speed at which our climate is changing makes it vital that governments will be asked to raise their commitments again in Cairo next year, rather than waiting for another five years. Promises on deforestation are critical for millions like me for whom farming is a way of life, and the announcement of a ‘Just Rural Transition Fund’ is an encouraging move. The key will be ensuring these new funds are delivered as promised, and that they actually reach farmers and our communities in low-income countries, and reaches them swiftly.

“Fairtrade farmers and citizens of the global Fairtrade movement will not let this stand. We are already working to tackle the climate crisis on the frontline in our communities, with the knowledge and love of the land that we have as farmers. And we know that there are Fairtrade buyers and businesses and supporters who will stand with us, working alongside us day to day to do what we can and calling for action until promises are finally kept. We are doing our part, it’s time for the leaders to do theirs.”



**Choose the World you want**

## A Fairtrade Quiz for Primary Schools



- 1) What is not a Fairtrade product?  
Oranges. Gold. Toothbrushes. Footballs Cotton Wool
  
- 2) Which of these colours is not in the Fairtrade Mark?  
Green. Blue. Yellow. Black
  
- 3) Standard footballs are made up of which two shapes?  
Hexagon and ?
  
- 4) Most of the world cocoa is grown in which of these places?  
West Africa. North America. China.
  
- 5) Brazil nuts can grow to the equivalent height of which of these?
  - a) 3 cars stacked on top of each other
  - b) 3 double decker buses stacked on top of each other
  - c) 3 tall people standing on each others shoulders
  
- 6) In which country are 70% of the world's handstitched footballs made?
  
- 7) What do the following countries have in common?  
Ecuador. Brazil, Kenya and Indonesia
  
- 8) On average a person in the UK eats how many bananas a year?
  
- 9) How much money do we spend on chocolate in the UK each year?
  
- 10) If you weighed all of the chocolate that we eat in the UK in a year it would weigh the same as
  - a) 400 hippos. b) 400 blue whales c) 40 elephants

Look out for all the answers in March Contact!

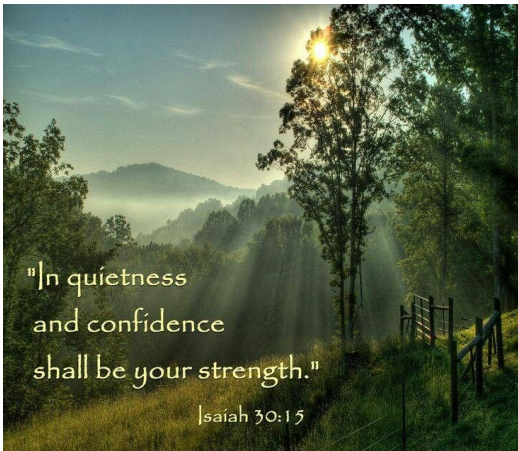
*First correct set of answers sent in to the editor before March contact comes out will earn a FT chocolate bar! Kathy*

## A Prayer for the New Year.

By Helen Steiner Rice

Give us through the coming year  
    Quietness of mind,  
    Teach us to be patient  
    And always to be kind.....  
    Give us reassurance  
    When everything goes wrong,  
    So our faith remains unfaltering  
And our hope and courage strong.....  
    And show us that in quietness  
We can feel your presence near,  
    Filling us with joy and peace  
    Throughout the coming year.

God Bless.  
    Barbs



## CatCh



Catch has restarted after our Christmas break and there are usually about 8 to 10 families who enjoy our mix of chat, activities and crafts. As is the way when dealing with little ones there is no predicting who will arrive due to naps and illness!

We are using the resources from Energize which now has mother and toddler sessions and they have wonderful interactive ideas for the children to engage in.



For instance we were washing all the animals when telling the story of Jesus Baptism.

Catch couldn't run without our band of helpers who turn out on a rota system. If you would like to pop in and see what is happening feel free

We meet at 9.30 during term time on Friday Mornings. Ruth Scott



## CHRISTMAS CARD CATCH UP

We had a few Christmas Greetings which were not in time for December / January contact. The cards have been up on the noticeboard, but just in case you missed them - here is a flavour.....

*'To all our dear friends in Groby. We continue to pray for you and wish you every joy and peace in Christ as you seek to serve him. With our love, Sue & Lewis.'*

*'To our friends at Groby URC. A peaceful Christmas and blessings in the new year. (and highlights from a letter they write) Like all of us we've had a very 'covid' year but we've got through. We're feeling our age but we've got 2 good knees between us and we are in good spirits. The family are all pretty well (our oldest grand daughter is now 25 and an army officer). We are very aware that it hasn't been so good for some of our friends but we hope you are all looking forward to sharing Christmas ... and celebrating together the greatest gift all - heaven come to earth in Jesus' Our love. John & Gwen.'*



Malcolm & Jane Clarke have sent a Family newsletter via email which is now printed off and added to the noticeboard in church for you to read. Full of family photos, I thought I would just include one here of Jane & Malcolm at Malcolm's old College in Oxford.

Malcolm's Christmas greetings *'May you and we know `God with us` amidst all the joys and sorrows of this year & of next. May we know the fulfilment of His promises in our lives. And may we know His salvation for now and forever.'*

# God's Valentine

For God so lo**V**ed the world  
that He g**A**ve  
His on**L**y  
begott**E**n  
So **N**  
tha**T** whoever  
believes **I**n Him  
should **N**ot perish  
but have **E**ternal life

*Encourage by Angie*

John 3:16



## FORTHCOMING DATES

### Prayers:

Zoom prayers - Thursdays every fortnight at the earlier time of 7.30 pm (Feb 3rd and 17th )

Elders will send out a link nearer the time for anyone wishing to join.

Please let one of us know if you would like us to facilitate other prayer opportunities

### Children & Family Activities:

“Ready, Set, Go” - Children’s Service - Sunday 6th Feb. also at an earlier time - 3 pm at Groby URC.

Sunday Chattabox - every 3rd Sunday of the month at Ratby St Phillip & St James church.

## March issue

The deadline for March issue of Contact is **SAT 19th February** but happy to accept articles sooner if prepared and ready to go!

Please submit to [magazine@grobyurc.com](mailto:magazine@grobyurc.com) or to Kathy (5 Hawthorn Rise, Groby) 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 at the magazine email address above.

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## CONTACTS

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

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

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Our Sunday morning services start at 10 am. We continue to encourage face covering and social distancing when meeting together indoors. Services are recorded and then broadcast afterwards on our Church Facebook page.

Our worship includes monthly Holy Communion.

READY, SET, GO services for children and families are held every 1st Sunday of the month, at 3 pm.

**The church building** has a loop hearing system, wheelchair access, a toilet for the disabled & baby nappy changing facilities.

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Some weekly activities are open with restricted numbers.

Mon: Noah's Ark parent & toddler group - 9.30-11.30 (term time)

Thurs: 'Fair Cuppa'\* at Grobby village Hall-10.30-12 am

Fri: CatCH\* parent & toddler group-9.30 - 11 am (term time)

Sat: Tasters Lite\* - Coffee & Cakes - 10-12 am

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