

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



*He is not
here but has
risen.*

Luke 24:6



April 2022

Happy Birthday

Noah Parker

Happy Birthday to You

May the Good Lord Bless You

Sue Lawrence-Brooks



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WELCOME FROM MARK CHURCH ELDER.



Hello and welcome to April's edition of Contact.

Spring has sprung, we are at last enjoying more hours of daylight and seeing new growth all around. On Sunday 13th March, we sang 'The Spirit Lives To Set Us Free', which includes 'walk in the light' in the chorus, reminding us about the importance of God's light, showing us the way.

Psalm 119v105 states

'Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.'

We look forward with hope and anticipation to celebrate Easter this month remembering that Jesus rose from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3 states

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.'

As I write this the conflict in Ukraine continues, it is hard to know how or what to say and how to pray. Hear is a prayer that I find helpful.

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine,

for all those who are suffering or afraid.

We are sad when we see our brothers and sisters in need.

We ask that you will be close to them and protect them.

*We pray for world leaders,
that compassion and wisdom will guide their choices.
We are sorry for times when we fight or say cruel words,
And we ask that you would bring peace in our lives and
across the world.*

Amen.

I hope that you enjoy reading Contact, please pray for the events taking place, those leading and helping, and take the opportunity to join us.

Happy Easter. He is risen!

Mark



A Prayer for Lent from Tearfund

Loving God,
This Lent, remind me of the beauty of unity:
show me how I can draw nearer to you,
and to who you have made me to be.
I surrender my time this Lent to you,
my maker, my redeemer and my saviour.
Amen.

Yours in Christ, **Gideon Heugh**

Churches Call for an Immediate End to War in Ukraine

In this season of Lent, the Revd Dr John Bradbury, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church (URC), the Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, along with 18 other URC representatives join 300 delegates at the Churches Together in England (CTE) Forum in calling for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine.

CTE Forum is the broadest gathering of churches and Christian organisations in England, gathering 52 national member churches, Christian organisations and intermediate ecumenical bodies.

Meeting at The Hayes in Swanwick from 14–16 March, the Ukrainian crisis was an urgent priority alongside its planned programme considering 'Reconciling Hope — A Broken Church for a Broken World'.

The Presidents of CTE and the Fourth Presidency Group made this statement on behalf of the whole of Forum:

“As 300 delegates from 52 national Member Churches, numerous Christian organisations and ecumenical bodies from across England, we call for the immediate cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of invading forces and the observance of the Geneva Conventions.

In this holy season of Lent, we call upon churches everywhere to campaign for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine, and to proclaim the dignity of every human life, whatever its nationality.

We welcome and commend the extraordinary efforts of countries neighbouring Ukraine in receiving refugees from the war and call on the UK and the whole of Europe to

follow their example. We support every measure to protect the most vulnerable.

We commit ourselves to pray for the nations of Russia and Ukraine, our own Government and people, and for all who find themselves refugees, or bereaved, wounded or destitute. May Christ have mercy upon our world.”



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their
decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk
and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen

Archbishop Justin Welby. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Prayers in Church for Ukraine

Thursday 14th April, 7.30 pm.

We plan to hold prayers in church for the situation in Ukraine every two weeks -Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm. The dates are 31st March and 14th & 21st April.

Everyone is welcome - whether you normally come to these things or not. Its an open time of prayer where we can all participate. An invite has been sent to St Philips and S James church.

Please do come if you can.



A Statement from **tearfund**

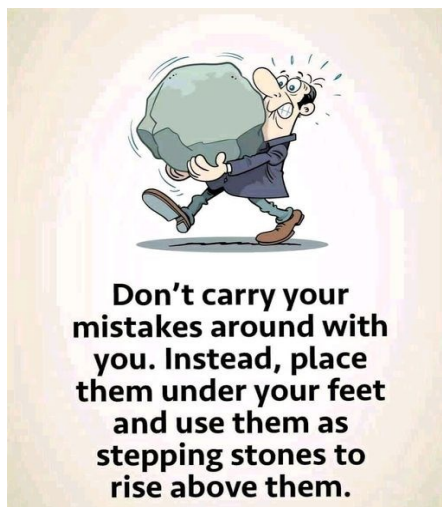
“Tearfund does not usually operate in Europe. Our call is to go where the need is greatest around the world – following Jesus into conflicts that aren’t always in the spotlight. However, as the scale of the crisis in Ukraine unfolds, as Christians we cannot stand by in silence.

As a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee and Integral Alliance, we’re supporting partners on the ground to provide food, bedding and temporary accommodation to refugees from Ukraine.”

Therefore, any cash donations on Sunday morning for the next few weeks will be sent to Tearfund for their work along the borders of Ukraine, along with a gift from church funds.

Pause for
Thought...

From Mary Pringle

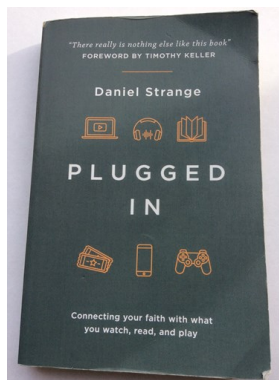


Don't carry your mistakes around with you. Instead, place them under your feet and use them as stepping stones to rise above them.

Recommended Reads. Plugged in - by Daniel Strange

Ever wondered how or (even if) the books you read, the films you watch and the stories you hear relate to your faith, and sharing it with others?

Dan shows how Christians can be asking good questions through these normal things of life to better understand the different 'stories' being told in our culture and to identify how all of the stories can point us back to the story of Jesus.



Using the word 'culture' might sound a bit highbrow but the writer spends more time on things like football chants, zombie movies and birdwatching! And if you are into art, philosophy or politics you can apply what Dan writes to these things too! It might sound a bit unusual but really if we are living in Jesus's world then it makes sense that everything points back to him.

I finished reading this book whilst on an aeroplane (remember going on those!?) and it made me think about my in-flight entertainment in a new way. Every Christian with a TV in their house should read this book and even if you don't watch TV I still recommend it!

Connie Pringle

(Mary has a copy if you would like to borrow it.)

Bring & Share Lunch

Sunday April 3rd. 12.30 pm approx.
(after coffee)

Bring a plate to share. All invited.
An invite has been sent to the four churches in
our Pastoral Area as we hope it will give
opportunity to get to know each other a little.

Maundy Thursday - April 14th, 7 pm

*Shared simple meal and communion with
our friends at St Philip & St James, at the
URC.*

Put the date in your diary - more info. to follow

Farewell to Rev.d Noel

We hear from Rev. Ed that Noel retires at the end of May. It is in part because his wife, Wilma, has been appointed as Vicar of Chipping St Bartholomew, in the Diocese of Blackburn. I'm sure we join with St Philip & St James in wishing them both every joy in their new adventure.



Noel has preached for us at least once on a Sunday morning, been involved in some CTG events and was involved in 'Open the Book'. We will certainly miss him in Groby.



SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR APRIL

As we look together at the format/content of our Sunday mornings, it seemed appropriate to try a more thematic approach to a preaching series. Hence we are broadly following Stuart Townend's suggestions for Lent. Any feedback most welcome. Kevan.

April 3rd 6th in Lent	Matt 26:36-56. Gethsemane, suffering and pain	Gary Wood
3rd at 3pm	'Ready, Set, Go!' Service for Children	Wendy
10th 7th in Lent	Isaiah 53:1-12. Christ's crucifixion, forgiveness Service includes Communion.	Malcolm Clarke
17th Easter Sunday	Colossians 1:13-14. Resurrection and salvation	Ruth Scott
24th	Mission & Evangelism based on work with Church Army	Jane Henderson

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

Sunday's Helping Hands in April

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
		(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
3rd	Kathy	David	Dave	Sue & Mike	Ann & Barbara
10th	Mark	Trevor	Phil	Mary	Joy & Peter
17th	Sue	Debbie	Barry	Barbs	Hilary & Dave
24th	Rachel	Sue	Mark	Margaret & Maurice	Mary & Trevor

Flowers



(Barbara Conlon)

3rd: Cheryl Read

10th: Rachel Edwards

17th: Ruth Ivens

24th: Jane Hind

“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

4th: ‘Our Chores’

11th: Linda & Tim

18th: ‘Our Chores’

25h : Sue LB & Sue A



What is Fellowship?

At the beginning of the year we considered the ways which help us achieve our aim of Being Disciples, Making Disciples. Rachel had put together some thoughts to help us understand 'fellowship' a little more and how we can achieve greater fellowship.

The word fellowship can be defined as "holding something in common" (this is especially true when looking at the original Greek used in the New Testament)

We can look at Christian fellowship in two ways:

- Firstly, the fellowship we have with God. This relationship is what we were made for & is modelled in God & Adam's relationship in Eden. Furthermore, the perfect model of this is shown through the trinity itself & the relationship that the Father, Son & Spirit have with each other & with us. In this model the power of the Spirit, through the sacrifice of the Son gives us access to fellowship with the Father.
- Secondly, there is the fellowship we have with each other as fellow believers. The model for this is the early church in Acts where they share everything & work together for the common good.

In both models it is by us accepting the Spirit in our lives that we are joined together & it is through the blood of Jesus that we are made clean & free of sin as the Father intended. It is because of this that communion is such a central part of any Christian fellowship & why we take this sacrament regularly to unite us with each other & with our Father.



'Fellowship' enjoyed at our last 'Praise & Prayer' service.

Thanks for the photo Trevor.

Homegroups

We have regular homegroups, that meet fortnightly at different times throughout the week, providing opportunity for bible study, prayer and conversation (fellowship?)

Mondays - 6.30 - 8 pm in Groby

Contact Mark Hiscocks, 0116 2876419

hiscocksm@gmail.com

Mondays - (evenings) in Anstey or via Zoom.

Contact Rachel Edwards on 07533228435

rachyrach17@hotmail.com

Wednesdays - 2.30-4.30 pm in Groby

Contact Jim Coaton, 0116 287 6909

j.coaton@sky.com

Wednesdays - 7.30 - 9.30 pm in Groby

Contact Kathy DuBoulay on 0116 224 5095

kathygrace127@gmail.com

Thursdays - 7.30 pm in Groby

Contact Elaine Mee on 0116 287 7608

Elaine Mee <elaineamee@gmail.com>



Climate Justice

Ahead of next month's Christian Aid Week we can all take action and support Christian Aid's climate justice campaign by signing the petition calling for an **international loss and damage fund** to be set up.

As we know the climate crisis is destroying homes and habitats. It's hitting the poorest people in the world the hardest – those who have done the least to contribute to the problem are suffering the most. **The loss and damage** caused by climate change has already left millions with no home, livelihood or income.

It's time that governments across the world set up a central fund to pay for the **loss and damage** caused by climate change:

- ◆ a fund which those who are hit hardest can easily access.
- ◆ a fund which would pay for the rebuilding of homes flattened by hurricanes.
- ◆ a fund which can support those who can no longer farm their land, because of rising sea levels or persistent drought.
- ◆ Without this, millions of people in the world's poorest countries will continue to be left with nothing.

Those who should contribute the most to this fund are those most responsible for the climate crisis: rich countries and the fossil fuel companies.

Christian Aid is calling on the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, to fully back the creation of an **international loss and damage** fund as a matter of urgency, and to push for other governments to back this too.

Be a voice for justice and add your name to Christian Aid's petition now.

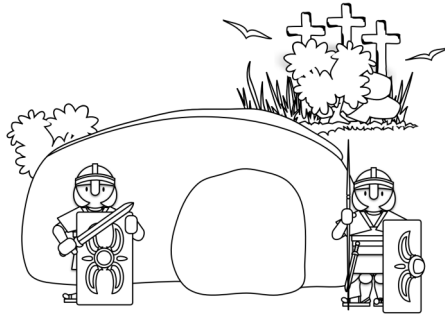
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-justice-every-moment-matters>

Mary Pringle



**Christian Aid Week
15th - 21st May**

Easter Wordsearch Page



L A M B S R Y P R A
M L G U E F T H I P
A I L O D C R O S S
E V O S L R B A E S
J E S U S O S E N E
A Y A J U B S U S J
C I L D N I O I N T
S F R I D A Y O S O
D U O V A Y A T R M
N R S E Y D B M E B

Words to find

(They go across or down)

JESUS
ALIVE
TOMB

LAMB
CROSS
RISEN

SUNDAY
FRIDAY

More Words to find.

(Words on this one go across, down, backwards and diagonal)

R I S E N Z E L C A R I M
E S A L V A T I O N T L O
D S A V I O U R L B T O Z
E M J J Y U F L A M B C R
M R S E X T H G B O F R T
P R E S U R R E C T I O N
T D S U C V W E R R L S K
I H S S V C A R J E S S G
O Y T E Y T P M E O C Z L
N M B N G E V I L A I C D
N O I T X I F I C U R C B
I O P T S A C R I F I C E

REDEMPTION

RISEN

ALIVE

EMPTY

TOMB

SAVIOUR

MIRACLE

RESURRECTION

CROSS

JESUS

CRUCIFIXION

SALVATION

SACRIFICE

LAMB

REJOICE



ON THE ROAD

again!

We're back!! Our much-missed Groby Sings resumed on Wednesday 23rd February. Some changes have had to be made, including a change of day from Monday to Wednesday and it was always going to be a bit of a leap into the unknown but we're now 4 weeks on and it almost feels like we've never been away. The Management Team and Trustees have had the unenviable job of trying to balance the obvious desire of singers to get together again with the awareness of us all to stay as safe as possible. So, things have been a little different from how they were 2 years ago, but Groby Singers have been keen to maintain a respect for one another's views on keeping safe. We are still laughing, chatting to friends, and finding time to sing. Most importantly, after Easter we will be enjoying cake breaks again.

Numbers are slowly creeping up with over 100 singers having joined us across the afternoon and evening sessions so far including some new faces. We have been delighted to welcome our new Musical Director, Simon Lubkowski, who has a wealth of musical experience to bring to Groby Sings. As well as 16 years as a Head of Music and Music Teacher in Secondary Schools across Leicestershire, Simon works as a freelance Musical Director, Singing Teacher, Vocal Coach, Arranger, Performer and Composer and has been directing Choirs for the past 12 years. Groby Sings' founding conductor, Helen Hayes, sent a Good Luck message to Simon and the choir, and is looking forward to visiting us again when we resume public performances. For the moment, no

concert is planned and the choir is just singing for pleasure, revisiting the songs for *Grobby Sings On The Road* that were originally planned for our summer 2020 concert.

Grobby Sings is an inclusive choir and everyone is welcome, however good or not so good their singing voice! There are disabled facilities at the Club, including ramps. Unfortunately, at the moment there are no crèche facilities for the afternoon sessions but parents and carers are still welcome to bring their little ones along. For the moment, no children's choir is running but it is hoped that both of these will be catered for before too long.

Finally, many thanks should go to the Trustees and Management Team who have continued to work hard to keep Grobby Sings alive, if in partial hibernation for 2 years, and especially to Jane Cox who has kept Grobby Singers informed and entertained with her emails about Grobby Sings and other topics! Thank you to everyone in the community of Grobby, surrounding villages and beyond for keeping the faith.

By June L Ward

**Grobby Club on Wednesdays,
1.30-3.00pm and/or 7.30-9.00pm**
(no choir in school holidays).

For enquiries, please contact us via www.grobysings.org.
Grobby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490.





FORTHCOMING DATES

Bring & Share Lunch: Sunday April 3rd. 12.30 pm approx. (after coffee). Invite sent to other churches in our Pastoral area.

Maundy Thursday, April 14th: Simple meal and Communion with St Philip & St James at 7 pm at the URC

Good Friday Reflections at St Philip & St James - 3 pm

Easter Sunday: No communion at Old John this year, but an invite to join with St Philip & St James at their 8 am communion

Prayers:

Prayers for Ukraine - Thursdays March 31st, April 14th and 21st - 7.30 pm in our church

Zoom prayers is suspended whilst we prioritise prayers in person for Ukraine.

Children & Family Activities:

“Ready, Set, Go” - Children’s Service - Sunday 3rd April - 3 pm at Groby URC.

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

Good Friday Club for children - 10 am at Ratby Church

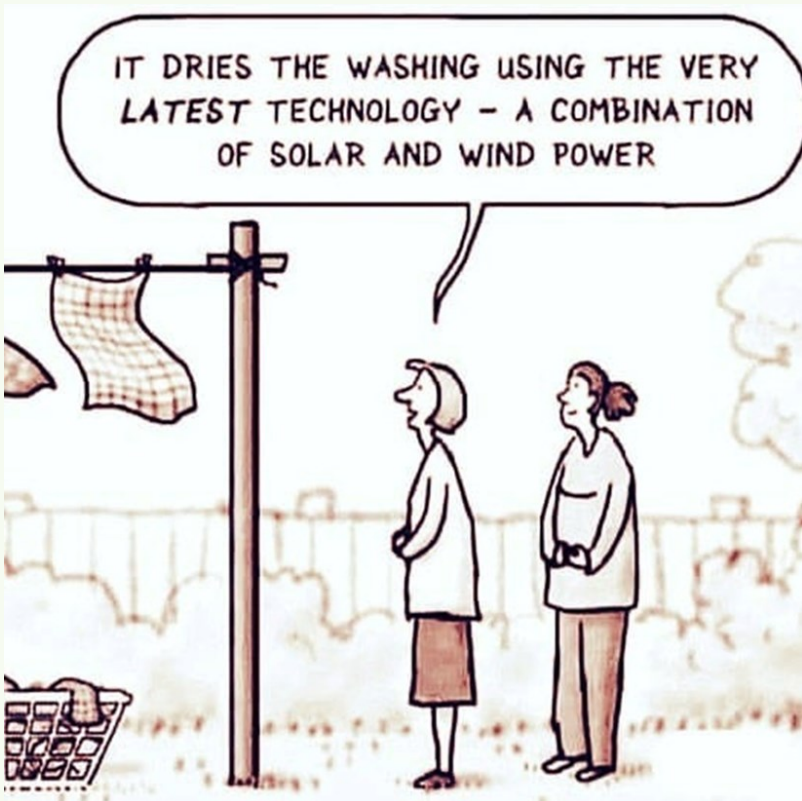
Church Meeting: Tuesday April 26th at 7.30 pm in church. Please let Kathy know of any items you would like to see on the agenda.

May issue

The deadline for May issue of Contact is **SAT 16th April** but happy to accept articles sooner if prepared and ready to go!

Please submit to 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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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 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

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

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

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

Sat: Tasters * - Hot Cobs, Coffee & Cakes - 10-12 am

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