

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



*He has made
everything
beautiful in its
time.*

*Ecclesiastes
3:11*



May 2022

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Christian Aid Week - May 15th to 21st

Our service on Sunday May 15th will be a

Churches Together Service

At St Philip & St James, Groby

9.30 am

We are all invited and everyone warmly welcomed!

Please note: its not been possible to offer any
junior church sessions for children during the
service

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WELCOME FROM SUE CHURCH ELDER.



Dear All

Welcome to the May edition of Contact - and what a beautiful time of year this is!

Most weeks I make the lovely drive to Quorn to visit my brother, passing through Newtown Linford, Swithland and Woodhouse and, not only do I enjoy the beautiful scenery, but I'm always struck by the fine examples of dry stone walls which can be seen enroute - some quite recent ones but others probably 200 years old.

My thoughts invariably turn to what I know about my Great Grandfather.

In 1896, he became Head Groom and Coachman to the Everard family at Bradgate House and in addition to managing the team of horses and keeping the coaches in good repair, he was also tasked with supervising and assisting with the maintenance of the dry stone walls on the Bradgate estate.

I never knew my Great Grandfather, but, as a young man, David also acquired the skill of dry stone walling.

He would explain in some detail how each stone was unique in shape and size but also how each one was totally dependent on the stones around it to hold its position and ensure the strength and stability of the wall.

Even the very small stones which filled the cavity were essential to the structure of the wall - if just one stone was not in place, the entire wall was weakened.

The Apostle Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 2 that we are living stones to be built into a spiritual house with Christ as our Cornerstone.

The strength and unity of our church depends on each one of us being interconnected with those around us in our fellowship and each and every one of us has a vital role to play in our church to build God's Kingdom and to share His great love as Jesus commands us to do.

A further thought - as well as being supporting stones to those around us, are we also prepared to be supported by them during the difficult times that will surely come our way? I will always remember the depth and breadth of support that I was given by you, my church family, when my need was so great and I pray that God will use me to support others in their times of need also.

The month of May is almost upon us and May means Christian Aid. There is to be a joint CTG Service on May 15th at 9.30am during which there will be a rare opportunity to hear the Christian Aid speaker, Martin Gage - it would be great if as many of us as possible could be there. For all the details, please read Mary's article further on in Contact.

Christian Aid week is another opportunity to be 'living stones' in this needy world.

I pray that God will bless us all and keep us safe and that we will know His power and His peace in our lives.

Sue





Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May 2022 Hungry to provide.

The focus of this year's Christian Aid Week appeal is Zimbabwe, where the climate crisis is causing severe hunger for families like Jessica Mwedzi's. The combined effects of Covid, conflict and drought have robbed her of the power to feed her children. 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry'.



Meanwhile 7,000 miles away the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe and around the globe. Without the fertiliser and foods – like wheat and cooking oil – that Ukraine and Russia produce; vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.

Our gifts could help Jessica set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought – giving her all she needs to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

Once again we will be supporting Christian Aid Week by delivering envelopes to every home in the village. We will not however, be calling back to collect donations. Instead there will be a number of drop off points where donations can be left. Drop off points this year include Groby Library, Laundon Way Co-Op, Classic Cuts Hairdressers and Chaplin's butchers as well as many individual homes. The Stamford Arms will also have collecting tins on the bar.

For those who prefer to give online, donations can also be made via our Churches Together in Groby Justgiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Churches-Together-In-Groby-Christian-Aid-Week-2022>

Or use the following QR code for quick access to the page which is up and running now.



Our friends at St Philip and St James Church are hosting our joint **Christian Aid Week service at 9.30am on Sunday 15th May** and warmly welcome us to join them for our first CTG service in over two years. We have been

fortunate to book Martin Gage from Christian Aid to speak at the service. Martin was previously Christian Aid regional coordinator for Leicestershire and it will be good to hear from someone with his experience and passion.

What can you do to help?

- ◆ Pray for the success of the week.
- ◆ Attend the joint service on Sunday 15th May, 9.30am. (P&J).
- ◆ Deliver envelopes.
- ◆ Be a drop off point and display a Christian Aid poster
- ◆ Give if you are able to do so.

Thank you to everyone for your support for Christian Aid Week over many years. Last year, including gift aid we raised over £5,000. Please speak to one of us if you can help in any way.

With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

Mary and Trevor Pringle
emarypringle@gmail.com
07735061422

Prayers in Church for Ukraine

Thursday 5th & 19th May 7.30 pm.

Everyone is welcome - whether you normally come to these things or not. Its an open time of prayer where we can all participate.

Please do come if you can.

Holy and Gracious God.

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine. And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Amen

“The way I saw it”
It’s Beginning to feel like normality has returned...

What a good idea to hold a **Bring & share Lunch** on April 3rd and better still to invite our pastoral area churches along. Possibly a bit rash as there is always a chance of sharing 75 packets of crisps & 100 mini pork pies, but as usually happens on these occasions the food was plentiful and appetising. We don’t always make life easy for ourselves and by holding a children’s “Ready, Set, Go” service on the same afternoon, it felt a bit pressured, especially for the small band of willing helpers.

Our visitors however, did us proud, they just kept on arriving laden with goodies, in fact we were rather outnumbered and when it came to having meaningful conversations, some of us talked ourselves hoarse!

On reflection, it was a very pleasant afternoon made even more enjoyable by our amiable guests and to a large extent a good start for new beginnings and dare we hope, rebirth?

Our thanks to all who provided the lovely food, gave of their time and pot washer-uppers extraordinaire.

Maundy Thursday gave us another opportunity of sharing a simple meal together this time connecting GURC with friends in P&J by holding a joint service of Holy Communion in our church hall, presided over by Rev Noel.

The printed invitation stated:

The table of bread is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate,

*So come to this table, You who have faith, You who would like to have more, You who have been here often, And you who have not been for a while. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed
Come. It is Christ who invited us to meet him here.*

After offering our thanks and praise to the Lord and being reminded of the night of Jesus's arrest, we paused the service and ate together - a choice of delicious homemade soups & different types of bread followed by fresh fruit. As we chatted and ate, the meal felt both intimate and special, probably much the same as when Jesus met with his apostles for their last supper. Afterwards we drank the communion wine affirming God's great goodness at the heart of humanity.

As the evening came to a close folk seemed reluctant to go home; the service had been so concise, so meaningful.

Our thanks to Rev Noel for his leading and to all those involved in the preparation, food shopping, soup making & clearing away.

Joy



The Queens Platinum Jubilee - 2nd to 5th June 2022

“I hope this Jubilee will bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities”.

Her Majesty The Queen



*Our church is planning to invite people to join us
in a simple BBQ to celebrate the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
Sunday June 5th*

*If you would like to offer help, ideas and cakes,
this would be much appreciated.*

*Please speak to Linda Symonds.
linda.symonds@talktalk.net*





During March and April we had the immense privilege of presenting the Easter story to all four schools in our two villages. Over 2,000 children heard the message of what Jesus did for us on the cross. You could have heard a pin drop at all presentations and we understand that some interesting questions were raised in classrooms afterwards.

The scene began with Jesus sharing bread and wine at the last supper, telling his disciples that this is how they are to remember him; just before Judas crept away to appear in the next scene accompanied by a Roman soldier for the arrest and crucifixion. From the cross Jesus tells John to look after Mary saying “she’s your mother now” The final scene is the joyous moment at the tomb when the women encounter an angel and meet Jesus alive, risen from the dead.

As our rehearsal and presentations are spread over three weeks it was inevitable that some members of the cast were either laid low with covid or taking holiday. This meant some team members having to play more than one role with swift costume changes between scenes. At one point, due to sudden illness, there was a strong possibility that Jesus would be celebrating the last supper alone!! This was avoided by cast members stepping in to sessions they were not scheduled for. Thanks are due to the whole team which now has members from all four churches in our two villages.

Chris Davies



SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR MAY

This month, In response to requests for more thematic preaching we'll be looking at "What the Bible says about.....". Please feed back to elders if this is helpful or indeed, if not!

What does the Bible say

May 1st	<p>.....about itself</p> <p>2Tim 3:14-17 & 2Pet 3:14-16</p> <p>(This will be a Praise, Prayer and Fellowship Service).</p>	Kevan Hall
1st at 3pm	<p>'Ready, Set, Go!'</p> <p>Service for Children</p>	Wendy Hall
8th	<p>..... about the world</p> <p>Romans 3:10-18</p>	Cate Coffey
15th At 9.30 am	<p>A CTG service at St Philip & St James, Groby, for the start of Christian Aid Week</p>	Martin Gage a Christian Aid speaker
22nd	<p>.....Grace & Faith</p> <p>Service to include Communion.</p>	Linda Rayner
29th	<p>.....Discipleship</p> <p>Matthew 28:16-20</p>	Stephen Burrage

Sunday's Helping Hands in May

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
		(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
1st	Kathy	Sue	Barry	Alan	Kathy & Linda
8th	Mark	Trevor (TBC)	Dave	Elsie & Pete	Ann T & Barbara C
15th	Sue	Service at P&J	Tim	Service at P&J	Service at P&J
22nd	Rachel	David	Mark	Linda	Hilary & Dave
29th	Kathy	Debbie	Tim	Ruth & Roger	Mary & Trevor

Flowers



(Barbara Conlon)

1st: Joy & Peter

8th: Barbs & Hedley

15th: Sarah & Chris

22nd: Mary & Trevor

29th: Linda & Tim

"The Clean Team!"

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

2nd : 'Our Chores'

9th: Ruth & Barbara

16th: 'Our Chores'

23rd : Trevor & Mary

30th: Our Chores



Recommended Reads.

Unveiling Paul's Women by Lucy Peppiatt

I think most Christian women have, at some time, been confused, annoyed, or frustrated (and sometimes all three) by what appears to be St Paul's views on women in the church. The letter he writes to the Corinthian church and particularly the verses in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, have had a huge impact on the role of Christian women over the years.

Peppiatt successfully looks at the context of the Corinthian church, and turns on its head the traditional view that women were the problem at that time, and asks instead "if men were the problem?" (Scot McKnight).

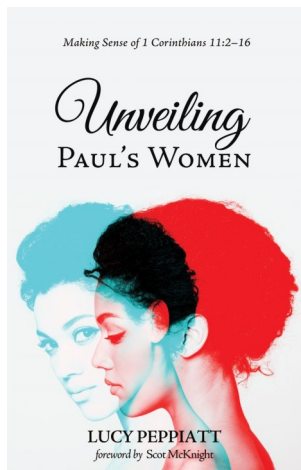
Lucy Peppiatt highlights the problems associated with using these verses to justify the subordination of women, and offers instead, a plausible re-reading of these verses, portraying Paul as a radical, visionary church planter who promoted all forms of women in leadership.

This is a book of less than a 100 pages, written in a clear and well researched style that lifts the lid on some of the misunderstandings that have built up over the centuries.

Published in 2018 by Cascade Books.

Peppiatt is a licensed lay minister and has been Principal of Westminster Theological College since 2013.

I have a copy if you would like to borrow it. Kathy



‘Christ is Crucified’

The Crucifixion told through words, music and images.

Five of us went to this event at Christchurch on Good Friday for a very moving service. It was thoughtfully produced with pictures, music, readings and hymns. I was impressed with the way it was conducted and found myself very touched by the whole event.

At the end all lights were switched off and one lit candle was brought in and put on the communion table.

A very touching finish.

Barbs



This was one of the closing images.

I particularly liked the way the service began with Genesis Ch.1:1 and ended with this reading from John 1.

‘In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out’. John 1:1-5

Kathy



The first service this year had a focus on Prayer, Teaching, Fellowship and Witness. We've had a closer look over the past 3 months in Contact, and we now come to

Witness

Witnessing simply means telling others what we've personally experienced of the Lord Jesus.

Why?

- **The commission:** *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19*

Mark 16:15 says: *He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'*

- **We are branches in the vine to bear fruit**

The Lord Jesus said in John 15:5: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing."*

Then in verse 16, He said: *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should **go forth and bear fruit.**"*

The picture of branches in the vine shows us our relationship with the Lord. By staying attached to the vine, the branches enjoy the life of the vine and flourish. But the goal of this enjoyment is that the branches would bear fruit.

Fruit in John 15 refers to people who are saved through us. So we all must "go forth" to tell others about the Lord Jesus that many more can be saved.

- **The unbelievers need to hear the Gospel**

Where would we be today if someone hadn't told us about Jesus? Romans 10:14 says: *"How then shall they call upon Him into whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe into Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without one who proclaims Him?"*

If people never have the opportunity to hear the gospel, how can they believe? This is why we must proclaim the Lord and His salvation to others.

• **Spiritual Battle**

Satan wants to keep people under his evil authority. But when people believe in the Lord Jesus, they're delivered from Satan's tyranny over them. In Acts 26:18, Paul described the Lord's commission to him in this way: *"To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."*

When we speak to people about Jesus and they receive Him as their Saviour, they're turned from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God. They receive forgiveness of their sins and obtain a rich spiritual inheritance. More captives of Satan are released and Satan's kingdom suffers loss!

How do we witness for Christ?

1. Prayer for Ourselves

"Lord, I give myself to You in this matter. Help me witness for You to the people You've put into my life."

2. Pray for People

It's very important for us to pray for people. Our Lord wants people to be saved, and He surely hears our prayers for them. We can pray something like:

"Lord, I pray for my cousin. He's still not saved. Show me what to say to him. Lord, please give him an open heart to hear what I say about You. Lord Jesus, save him!"

It's helpful to make a list of our unsaved family members, friends, neighbours, classmates, and co-workers so we can pray regularly for them.

We can ask the Lord specifically who to speak to, what

we should say, and when. We can even ask the Lord to give us opportunities to speak to people.

3. No special qualifications needed.

Attending seminary or receiving special training isn't a requirement to witness for the Lord. Believing in and receiving Jesus as our Saviour is the only qualification we need.

This is proven by accounts in the New Testament of newly saved people immediately speaking about Christ and what He had done for them. For instance, in John 4 the Samaritan woman met Jesus at the well, and then right away told everyone in her city about Him.

4. Speak about what you've experience of Jesus Christ.

We also don't need to have all the answers to questions about God they might ask us. The apostle John said in 1 John 1:3: *"That which we have seen and heard we report also to you."*

John simply wrote about what he had seen and heard. In the same way, we can speak about what we've seen and heard of Jesus Christ, meaning, what we've experienced and enjoyed of the Lord.

We can speak of what Jesus did for us. We can speak of His love for us, and of His care for us.

5. Practice speaking to people.

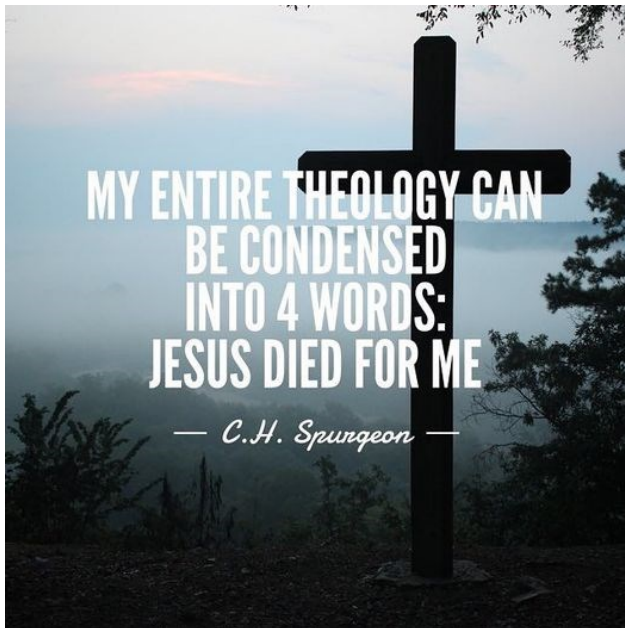
We can't expect to play the piano well if we never practice. Speaking to people about the Lord also requires practice. It may be helpful to set a goal of speaking to one person every week or every two weeks, for example. Otherwise, it would be easy to put off practising and never start.

The more we practice, the more we'll learn how to reach different kinds of people and be effective in leading them to salvation.

6. Other creative ways to tell people about Jesus

There are many ways and many opportunities to witness to those around us. The book of Acts is full of accounts of people being saved through different believers.

Summary of what Mark Hiscocks shared during our service on January 2nd.





ON THE ROAD

again!

After the Easter school holiday singing resumes at the **Groby Club** for adult singers on **Wednesdays, 1.30-3.00pm** and/or **7.30-9.00pm**. Since we restarted in February, numbers have gradually been creeping up with over 100 singers having joined us again including some new faces, which is good to see. When we resume, the much-loved cake will be part of our breaks again. Do join us, it's a great way to make new friends.

The good news continues as we will be starting our **Children's/Youth Choir** again on **Wednesday 27th April** from **3.40-4.40pm** at the **Groby Club**. Children and young singers aged 7 and over will be made very welcome whether they've attended in the past or not. Most children enjoy singing and, like the adults, there will be a place for everyone who wants to have a go. Please encourage all the young people you know, including teenagers, to come along on 27th April or on any other Wednesday during term time. Our conductor, Simon, is looking forward to teaching songs that will appeal to our young singers (and expand the adults' repertoire too!) There will be a short refreshment break when squash, water and a snack will be provided.

Parents/carers will need to complete a registration form for safeguarding purposes and are welcome to either leave their child for the hour or to stay and enjoy listening to the singing sessions. Please note that siblings who are not singing must remain in the care of their parents or carers.

It will cost the choir about £1.50 per child to run each session. As Groby Sings is a registered charity, we would ask for your support in making a donation, if you are able, when your child attends.

For enquiries, please contact us via our [website](http://www.grobysings.org)
www.grobysings.org.

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490.



Groby Sings

ON THE ROAD

again!
including songs from
SIMON & GARFUNKEL
and other
travelling
hits

Rehearsals at Groby Club

Wednesday afternoon
choir: 1.30pm - 3pm

Children's choir 3.40pm - 4.40pm

Wednesday evening
choir: 7.30pm - 9.00pm

www.grobysings.org for more information
Registered Charity no. 1180490

Encouragement

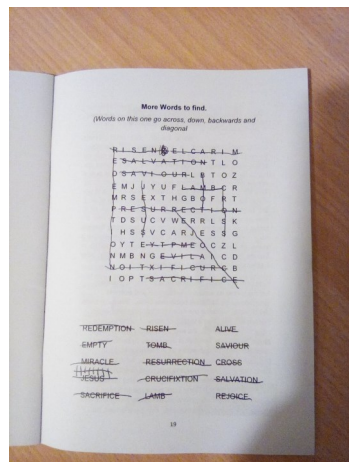
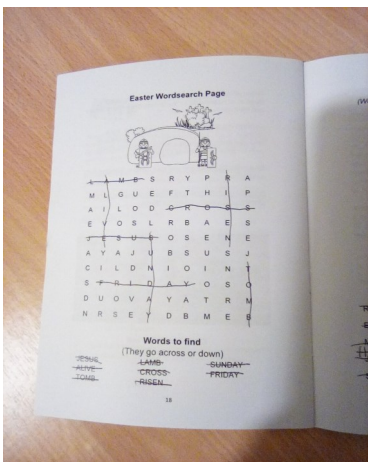
As someone who regularly either makes up rotas or includes other people's rotas into this magazine, its always encouraging to see new names included.

Please do consider whether your name could be added to a rota.

A particular plea from Joy. Its lovely to be able to chat over tea or coffee following our Sunday morning service, and we are very blessed with the facilities that enable us to do this in a comfortable way. However, with only 6 teams currently on the rota, your turn comes up quite regularly, and often alongside some other Sunday morning duty. Please let Joy know if you feel you can help by serving our tea / coffee on Sunday mornings.

I was delighted and encouraged to receive the following from Sue Lawrence-Brooks recently, Esther's very correct completion of last month's Easter Wordsearch. Thank you Esther and Sue!

With this encouragement - May's wordsearch is on the next page



Wordsearch - Books in the Bible.

Since our next preaching theme is looking at 'what the bible says, here is a wordsearch on some of the books in the bible.

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

DEUTERONOMY	HOSEA	REVELATIONS
LUKE	EXODUS	JUDGES
NUMBERS	ROMANS	KINGS
JOSHUA	ACTS	SAMUEL
RUTH	JUDE	JAMES



Pause for Thought...

From Mary Pringle

I once heard a then-famous round-the-world-sailor on the radio expressing that he thought `at the last` he'd turn up at the pearly gates and give a convincing dissertation on why he should be let in. Such self confidence! And you? What will be your grounds for asking for access to the Kingdom of Heaven?

Seems that what The Lord God Almighty is most concerned about is whether or not He detects a new creation standing before Him. A work of God Himself stood there, not a DIY effort. A work of God, with all the attendant evidences of being a new creation of course. Whatever external gubbins you present alongside that is up to you so long as you realise that none of that will cut any ice with The Lord. Your boast, if that's your thing, is that you belong to the Son of Man crucified on Good Friday, nothing else. Not what you've done; not who you are (as if we might appear at the pearly gates asking `Do you know who I am`?); not that you've followed this or that religious sat nav; not that you're `with him`. Only that you're `with Him`! And thereby you belong!

Malcolm Clarke
Facebook 15/4/2022





DIARY DATES

Praise, Prayer & Fellowship Service - May 1st.

'What the Bible says about itself'.

CTG Christian Aid Service - May 15th at St Philip & St James church, Groby at the earlier time of 9.30 am.

Please note: There is no service at our church that day.

Prayers:

Prayers for Ukraine - Thursdays , May 5th & 19th - 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 1st May - 3 pm at Groby URC.

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

June issue

The deadline for June issue of Contact is **SAT 22nd May 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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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'.