

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



July 2022

Happy Birthday

Harley Euden; Emilia Parker; Luca Fracchia

Three birthdays this month!



Happy Birthday to You

May the Good Lord Bless You

Sue Lawrence-Brooks

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Our Church website can be found at <https://grobyurc.com/>

Our Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/grobyurc>

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WELCOME FROM KATHY CHURCH ELDER.



Welcome to July's edition of Contact. July means holiday time for many (though not so much for us retirees!). I hope many will benefit from a recharge, a change of pace, reflection and a reset. Whether at home or travelling, it brings a change to our daily lives and opportunity to take stock.

I enjoyed watching some of the events around the Queens Platinum Jubilee that were broadcast on TV, particularly the concert on the Saturday evening and People's Pageant on the Sunday. Not all the performers were that enjoyable (!) but the way the whole event was put together and presented, the creativity, quirkiness and inclusivity - highlighted much of what is good about 'Britishness'. It was almost as if many of the divisive aspects of the 'British brand' had been given the week-end off, and we had found ourselves again - or is that just my take on things! And at least we got to find out what the Queen keeps her handbag for!

I'm currently reading an Every Day with Jesus one year devotional by Selwyn Hughes - 'A Fresh Vision of God'. It begins with looking at the vision of God Isaiah describes in Chapter 6 then looks at how we can become confident of God - taking readings from the book of Habakkuk.

When we look around at all the calamitous events around the world, and in the UK, we find it difficult to reconcile it with the ultimate authority of God, and wonder why He allows such events to happen. As individuals we can look to God for answers to prayer, and wonder why we don't have the answers we desperately desire.

However, in Habakkuk we find the prophet focussing on God's character rather than the circumstances. Although still surrounded by unhappy and difficult circumstances that don't appear to have an answer, he lifts his eyes to God and considers God's eternal nature. God's faithfulness, justice and holiness never change and are like fixed points we should use to navigate life, just as seaman navigating the oceans used the stars as fixed points

In James 1:17 we read **'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows'**. We should keep our eyes fixed on God and look at our circumstances through the filter of God's character. We can look at things in a short-sighted way and we need to remind ourselves that God is in it for the long-term! Though we can only see a little time in front of us, God is eternal and sees far beyond what our human mind can imagine. Jeremiah 29:11 **For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

We are delighted with the news that we have a minister coming to visit the 5 churches and final details will be sent out in good time. Keep the dates in your diary when known, but in your prayers from now - that God will reveal His will to us at the right time. Malcolm encouraged us in prayer on his last visit to us - so pray on!

Safe travels for those going away and I'm praying that this Summer will provide blessings a plenty!

Kathy

Thoughts from Pete Greig (Instagram 18 Feb 2022)

This was the focus of our devotion time, at our March Elders meeting.

Since when was the measure of a church's success its size instead of its love?

It's budget instead of its sacrifice?

It's seating capacity instead of its sending capacity?

Maybe the questions we should be asking ourselves are ones like these:

- do I feel I have to pretend on Sunday morning or can I be real?

- are we truly a praying community and if not what does that say about our spiritual depth? Do we really believe our beliefs?

- how diverse is our community culturally, economically, socially and politically? (If we all look the same and vote the same, if there's no one in our midst who makes us feel uncomfortable, is it possible that we're more of a social club than an actual church?)

- are we truly led by a team or by a single charismatic personality?

- if we didn't have a building and we didn't have zoom, would our community still exist?

- how much of our budget do we invest beyond ourselves in the poor and the lost?

- would anyone else in our town notice, would our city grieve if we ceased to exist?

I'm not trying to beat anyone up here.

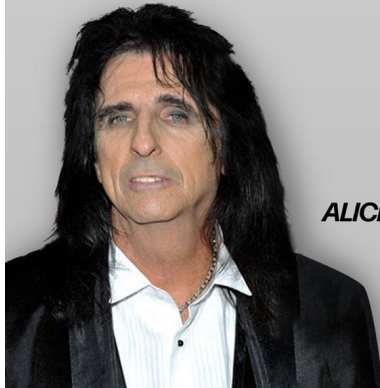
I truly love the family of God. I'm aware there are many many beautiful Christian communities out there - the vast majority - and none of us is perfect (just ask the members of Emmaus Rd!) But I love the church too much, and we actually need the church too much, to leave her the way she is. The world needs a church in every community that does the works of Jesus, looks and sounds like Jesus and models true family for those who feel lonely and lost.

In other words we owe the world a church much more beautiful than itself.

Pause for Thought...



***'DRINKING BEER IS EASY.
TRASHING YOUR HOTEL
ROOM IS EASY.
BUT BEING A CHRISTIAN,
THAT'S A TOUGH CALL.
THAT'S REAL REBELLION.'***



ALICE COOPER

From Mary
Pringle



SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR JULY

We continue with readings from John's Gospel at the beginning of July followed by another dip into some of the Psalms.

The text for the last Sunday is Jim's choice as the preacher, 'Who is my Neighbour'? There will be invites available for this service. Consider prayerfully who you may think of inviting.

July 3rd **The woman at the well & the saviour of the world** Kevan Hall

John 4: 1-42

July 3rd at 3 pm **'Ready Set Go'** Wendy Hall
A service for Children and their families

10th **Jesus is the bread of life** John Hall
John Ch. 6

Service includes Communion

17th **Psalm 27** Gary Wood

24th **Praise, Prayer & Fellowship**

31st **"Who is my neighbour?"** Jim Coaton
Luke 10: 25-36

Sunday's Helping Hands in July

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
		(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
3rd	Mark	TBC	Tim	Barbs	Hilary & Dave
10th	Kathy	TBC	Phil	Margaret & Maurice	Mary & Trevor
17th	Kathy	TBC	Barry	Alan	Kathy & Barry
24th	Rachel	TBC	Dave	Elsie & Pete	Ann T & Barbara
31st	Sue	TBC	Mark	Rachel H	Joy & Cheryl

Flowers



(Barbara Conlon)

- 3rd: Dave & Jaquie Lomas
- 10th: Barbs & Hedley Lomas
- 17th: Caroline & Alan Bloor
- 24th: Sue Lawrence-Brooks
- 31st: Sarah & Chris Down

“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

- 4th : Hilary & Dave
- 11th: ‘Our Chores’
- 18th: Linda & Tim
- 25th : ‘Our Chores’
- 1st Aug: Sue LB & Sue A.





HAPPY AND GLORIOUS

The Queens Big Platinum Jubilee Lunch day had arrived...

The skies were leaden and the rain poured down...


Our big Jubilee BBQ lunch moved inside - spread over a flag strewn hall and church...

The Grillers, braving the elements cooking continuously for over 5 hours.

Over 100 plates were laid out, and disappeared!

136 Sausages 




112 beef burgers 

124 pieces of chicken 

including vegetarian & gluten-free options...

30 litres of fruit juices for mocktails   

Fried onions, buns, salad accompaniments   

And cake, cake and more cake   



Happy chatting,
laughter,
quizzes,



singing and
2nd helpings

hats - some
homemade and
others artfully
decorated -
Prizes!



All around red,
white & blue;
how time flies
when we're
having fun



Thank you your Majesty for 70 years of a job
really well done. GB GB GB



Church Mouse

*A Big Thank You to All
the movers, shakers, cooks, cake bakers
pot washers, ideas people, organisers,
servers, announcers, music makers and
all*

Who went the extra mile!

For the Queens Jubilee BBQ

A Very Enjoyable Afternoon!



A New Curate for St Philip & St James churches (Groby & Ratby)

(a summary of Rev. Ed's welcome article)

Riffat Zamurad will be coming to train in Groby / Ratby following her ordination as Deacon on 3rd July at St Mary's in Melton Mowbray. Born in Pakistan, where her father was vicar in the Church of Pakistan, she is a trained nurse, is married to Javed and has three children Samar, Elijah and Joshua. Its worth remembering that an Anglican curate is not an extra pair of hands but someone who has come to learn “about being a deacon and priest and all that entails”, just from the vicar, “but from all as we share our experiences of church, of God, of community and of life in all its richness. But of course, in turn we will learn much from Riffat and her whole family and be enriched in our faith and journey with God in turn”.



She and her family will be living in the Groby manse on Pym Leys Lane.

“So a huge joy to have you join us Riffat, along with Javed, Samar, Elijah and Joshua – we welcome you!”
Revd Ed

And a big welcome from Groby URC also as we look forward to meeting Riffat and family, and sharing worship together at some point.



Christian Aid Week in Groby 2022

Thank you everyone for your generosity and support for Christian Aid Week 2022. Your help with prayer, delivering envelopes, putting up a poster, being a drop off point all added up to a great result. The final total for the village was £4,270.49 with a further £777.67 being raised through gift aid.

Money raised this Christian Aid Week will make a real difference to some of world's poorest people who are suffering from the effects of climate change.

Mary and Trevor



Anne's Tribute to Husband Ron

Ron was a quiet reserved man - not one for small talk but did enjoy a good discussion. He was the first in his family to have a good education despite his father wanting him to leave school at 15 to join him at Fords of Dagenham to bring money into the household. He went to Grammar school then 2 years National Service in the R.A.F. He then went on to the London School of Economics.



Throughout his life he worked hard not only in business but at home renovating / decorating every house we moved to i.e.. 6!!

He was not a church goer but I know I always had his blessing and sometimes help with my church work. Unfortunately the dreaded Alzheimer Dementia took hold and he was finally admitted to the LRI where he passed away at the age of 94.

My heartfelt thanks go out to each and everyone of you for your prayers and help during Ron's illness leading to his passing on May Day. The love and strength I and my family have felt and still feel during this sad time has uplifted us knowing it comes through the love of Jesus. God

Bless you all.

Anne



Having reached the end of this school year, we can report that at all four schools we have at last been able to present stories to full assemblies, and what a privilege that has been. Not only that, in June were able to use a year 6 boy to play the part Samuel in the story

Congratulations are due to the Ratby team who at the end of their session encountered a teacher with a small girl, who was very upset that she had missed the presentation. Without further ado the team did a repeat performance just for the two of them. Something the child....and probably the teacher, will remember for a long time.

We now take a break until the new school year begins in September. New cast members are always welcome. Please speak to Lynda Hawkes, Mary Pringle or Joan Hawkins if you would like to come and observe a session.

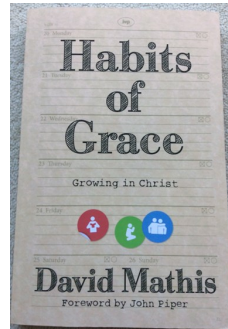
Chris Davies

We thank God for this exciting work between the Groby and Ratby churches. Thank Him for the opportunities offered by the four primary schools to take 'Open the Book' into the assemblies, and the obvious pleasure the children experience now that they can all watch. Thank Him for the connection the children have with the 'Open the Book' team and the stories. Pray that, over the summer, these young minds will be further nurtured by God's Spirit.

Recommended Reads.

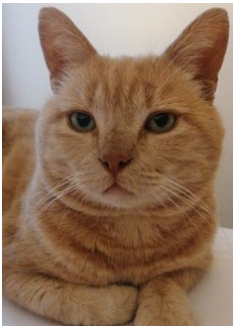
Habits of grace: growing in Christ by David Mathis

This book was recommended by Steve Baraniak, a minister at the Church plant in Beeston that our daughter, Connie attends. We heard Steve preach on our recent (cat sitting) visit and were interested to find that they have based a whole preaching series on the themes covered in this book.



The book focuses on reading the Bible, prayer and fellowship. It describes these as activities that God has given us so that He can pour out more of His grace upon us as we draw closer to Him and come to know Him better.

Divided into three easy to follow sections- Hear His Voice, Have His Ear and Belong to His Body, the book has lots of practical ideas on how we can draw closer to God and receive more of the blessings that He wants to give us. Topics covered include Christian meditation, Holy Communion, Bible reading and application to daily life, journaling, and listening.



An accessible, Bible based work.
We have a copy if anyone would like to borrow it.

Mary and Trevor



WORD SEARCH



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

BARBECUE

FLIPFLOPS

SUNGLASSES

SUNSCREEN

SEASIDE

SUNSHINE

PICNIC

SPRINKLER

AUGUST

POOL

OCEAN

SWIMSUIT

ICEPOP

HOT

JUNE

FAMILY

RELAX

BEACH

JULY

FUN

VACATION

SHORTS

SUMMER

ICE CREAM



DIARY DATES

Prayers:

Prayers for Ukraine - Thursdays , July 7th and 21st at 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 July 3rd - 3 pm at Groby URC.

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

‘Tasters’ every Saturday 10am - 12 noon includes
children’s activities

August / September issue

The next publication of Contact will be a double issue for August and September. The deadline for articles is **SAT 23rd July** 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

magazine@grobyurc.com .

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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Our Sunday morning services begin at 10 am and are recorded then broadcast afterwards on our Church Facebook page ([1\) Groby United Reformed Church | Facebook](#)). 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)

Fri: Urban Saints* Activities for Year 5 to Year 11. every other Friday 7.30pm-9pm (term time)

Sat: Tasters * Hot Cobs, Coffee, Cakes and Children's Activities - 10-12 am

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