

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law. Romans 13:10



Aug / Sept 2022

Happy Birthday

Pimmi Coaton celebrates her birthday in August

&

William Ward celebrates his birthday in September



Happy Birthday to You Both!!

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 KEVAN CHURCH ELDER.



Hello and welcome to this edition of Contact.

I'm sitting here trying to keep cool on the record breaking hottest day ever recorded in the UK, hoping that, by the time you are reading this, it will have cooled down a bit!

Who would have thought that we might see such high temperatures in our country when folk have said for years that the weather is predictably pretty cool and wet, hence the massive trade of holidays in the sun? All of this when global warming is reported to be around one degree Celsius, but predictions are that this will increase considerably over the coming decades. So, obviously, a matter for prayer.

I don't know about you, but I've been praying for those who are vulnerable, whether due to age or underlying illness etc etc. But it strikes me that this is one of those instances where prayer is not enough, yes it's essential and it's undoubtedly effective, but there's more. We are members of the human race and we share in the responsibility for the underlying root causes for global warming and therefore in the responsibility for fixing it! This same argument holds true for other issues effecting our world, like the massive overuse of plastics and the appalling pollution this causes as well as other things.

So the imperative for us is to pray AND to act.
If we're not sure how to act, at the very least ask the Lord during your prayer time.
(Gets down from hobby horse).

One of the other issues facing us at the moment, as a church, is the approaching Preach With A View weekend. I don't know about you, but I feel a real sense of excitement, hoping that the Lord will do something amazing here, and once again it's an issue that influences my prayers as I pray that our loving Lord will build His kingdom in this area!

So in conclusion, I pray that you may know the blessings and presence of our Lord Jesus in your life today and for evermore!

Kevan

Pause for Thought...
From Facebook 10/7/22



From Mary Pringle



We cannot force someone to hear a message they are not ready to receive, but we must never underestimate the power of planting a seed.



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

This year the United Reformed Church is celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

The Congregational Church of England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England joined together in 1972 in the tradition of the Reformation. Groby was inaugurated in October of that year. Today it is a union of three long established churches with the Churches of Christ joining the Union in 1981.

Apparently, the powers that be thought in 1972 that the URC would not reach its Silver Jubilee, let alone Golden! This anniversary offers a chance to focus on all the good in our own story and reflect on what really matters with the community we serve here in Groby. It is interesting to note that Groby church membership for this decade fluctuated between 46-25 and during this era planning permission was granted to erect the new buildings on the condition that the old church was demolished and replaced with a carpark. What faith!



Groby Congregational Chapel

Built 1853, Extended 1882 Demolished 1981

The new church was finally opened and dedicated in May 1982 (40th anniversary this year).

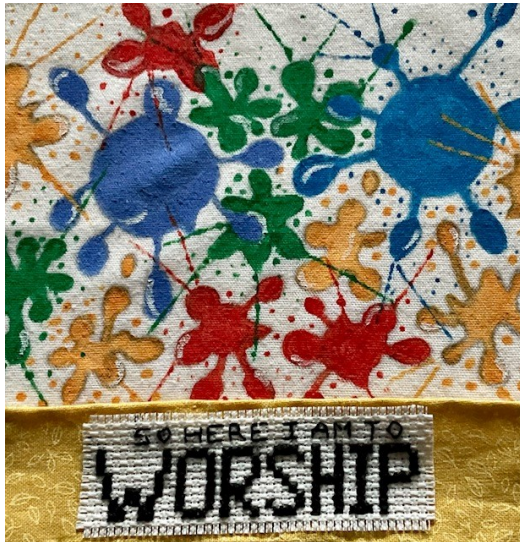
The story of struggle and prayer in the intervening years is to be found in a folder in the bookcase at the rear of the church. See "The Chapel Hill Folk".

East Midlands Synod Jubilee Banner

Every church in the Synod has been invited to commemorate its congregation by creating a square, which will be incorporated into the banner, due to be unveiled at the **Jubilee Celebration on Saturday 10th September at the De Vere Conference Centre, Nottingham.**

*Please see our notice boards for full details of this event or elsewhere in this edition.

Joy



Beware Elder approaching with large brown envelope!

This is how two church members were cajoled into designing a 12x12cm panel representing Groby URC for the anniversary banner. In that brown envelope were many instructions and a diversity of suggestions for crafting - embroidery, appliqué, patchwork, cross stitch & fabric paint. Elaine & Joy came up with a mixed media panel of paint and cross stitch, inspired by Groby's love of worship songs; the chorus "So Here I am to Worship" was the stimulus. One thing's for sure, Groby's contribution will not fade into the background!

Joy

A big thankyou to Elaine and Joy for their fantastic work . - from 'Elder wielding a big brown envelope'.

We hope to be able to display the banner in our church sometime!



Preach with a View Weekend - August 27th / 28th.

We are delighted that Paul, ministerial candidate for the Area Churches, has accepted the Call Group invitation to 'Preach with a View'. The weekend will provide opportunity for church members from the five churches, and Paul & his wife, Jill, to consider whether or not he is called into that role.

The timetable for the weekend is mainly confirmed and is as follows.

Saturday 27th - 3 - 6 pm at Christ Church URC: Paul will attend a social event with Jill to meet and talk with members of all the churches. This will include a buffet meal where churches are asked to share the responsibility of providing food.

(There will be a sign up list at the back of our church once we know what we need to contribute)

Sunday 28th, 10 am at Groby: Paul will be leading morning worship

Sunday 28th at 3 pm at St Stephens URC: Paul will lead a United Area Service at St. Stephens URC at 3.00pm on Sunday 28th August followed by light refreshments.

It is suggested that some of these events be broadcast via Zoom and for a 'Phone In' opportunity to be provided on the Saturday for those who cannot attend these events.

Tuesday 30th at 7 pm: A meeting of all church members from the 5 churches to take place to discuss and seek God's will as to whether Paul is called to be our minister. Venue to be agreed.



Tearfund At the Table of the Powerful

The ‘**Table of the Powerful**’ was the **Commonwealth Heads of Government** meeting that took place in **Kigali, Rwanda**. You may have caught up with it on the news as both our **Prime Minister** and **Prince Charles** were also there.

The event brought together leaders of the Commonwealth – a group of 56 countries – to agree on actions to improve the lives of their citizens. It was also an opportunity for local leaders to raise important issues that are affecting their communities – such as the climate crisis.

In 2009, leaders from wealthy countries promised to deliver \$100 billion of support a year from 2020 for countries who were vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather caused by the climate crisis.

However, much of the funding that was promised has yet to be delivered. And much of what has been offered so far has come through loans – adding to the debts of already poor countries. Tearfund supported young Africans to come to the meeting and speak up about this injustice.

Tearfund represented at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda



Leading the way

‘Wealthy countries must deliver on climate finance,’ shares Jessica, one of the activists from Zambia we worked with. ‘In Zambia we rely on agriculture and not everyone can afford to use irrigation to help crops grow in tougher weather conditions. This is where climate finance could help.’

‘It was great to see young people lead the way,’ shares Ben Niblett, from Tearfund’s Global Campaigns Team, who was at the meeting. ‘We really felt like God was opening doors for us and that our message was being heard by decision-makers. Thank you for your prayers on this.’

‘One of my favourite moments was when Martha, from Ecobrixx – a local partner in Uganda – stood up at the Commonwealth Women’s Forum and took the letter that our young activists had written to bring to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. She waved it at the panel, and then – something that no one else this whole week has done – she marched up to the front and gave them each a copy.’

‘And that’s the kind of confidence we need if we’re going to represent Jesus at the tables of the powerful.’

- Praise God for the boldness of the young people who came and spoke up for those living in poverty who are affected by the climate crisis. Pray that they will be inspired to continue to challenge the powerful on behalf of their communities.
- Pray that world leaders will honour their commitments and deliver climate finance – and not as a loan – to countries who are suffering from the effects of climate change.

From Tearfund’s ‘One Voice in Prayer’



SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR AUGUST

Three different services this month.

On the 14th, Jane Henderson will be speaking about her work with the Church Army. Sue will lead a 'Praise, Prayer & Fellowship' service on the 21st, and the service on the 28th will be led by Paul, the ministerial candidate for the Area Churches.

Sue will lead Communion as part of the August 7th service, when we welcome back Ben Wright from Avenue Church.

No Family service in August

Aug. 7th	Psalm 33	Ben Wright
	Communion.	
14th	Mission and Evangelism based on her work with the Church Army.	Jane Henderson
21st	Praise, Prayer & Fellowship service based on Psalm 34	
28th	Preach with a View Weekend see page 9 for details	

Sunday's Helping Hands in August

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
		(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
7th	Kathy	David	Tim	Linda	Hilary & Dave
14th	Mark	Trevor	Phil	Ruth	Mary & Trevor
21st	Sue	TBC	Dave	Hilary	Pat C & Linda
28th	Rachel	Sue	Dave	Joy & Peter	Ruth & Sue LB

Flowers

(Barbara Conlon)

7th: Joy & Peter

14th: Mary & Trevor

21st: Stacey Euden

28th: Kathy & Phil



“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

1st : Sue LB & Sue A

8th: Our Chores

15th: Ruth & Ann T

22nd : Our Chores

29th: Trevor & Mary





SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

We take a look at some chapters in John's Gospel in September.

For the first time, we are able to welcome Geoff Clarke, Moderator for the East Midlands. Richard Lindopp was last with us to talk about the work of Tearfund, and it will be good to have Tom Limb & Mike Furborough lead us once again.

Sept. 4th	John 9 The Blind see and the seeing are blind Communion.	Geoffrey Clark (East Mid. Moderator)
Sept. 4th at 3 pm	'Ready Set Go' A service for Children and their families	Wendy Hall
11th at 10 am	John 10 The Good Shepherd	Tom Limb
11th at 10.45 am	Area Churches service at Christchurch led by Rev.d Fiona Bennett, Moderator of URC General Assembly (see page 22 for details)	
18th	John 11 Lazarus, Mary and Martha	Richard Lindopp
25th	John 12 The Entry of the King	Mike Furborough

Sunday's Helping Hands in September

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
		(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
4th	Kevan	TBC	Mark	Sue & Mike	TBC
11th	Mark	TBC	Phil	Mary	Joy & Cheryl
18th	Rachel	Trevor	Mark	Barbs	Hilary & Dave
25th	Sue	Debbie	Dave	Margaret & Maurice	Mary & Trevor

Flowers

(Barbara Conlon)

4th: Margaret Chaplin

11th: Kay Blick

18th: Pete & Elsie
Randall

25th: Anne Brandon



“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

5th: Our Chores

12th: Joy & Pat

19th: Our Chores

26th: Kathy & Barry



Updates on Ukrainian Families in Leicestershire

In Hinckley

You will know that our friends Malcolm and Jane Clarke are heavily involved in supporting Ukrainian families in Hinckley. Their own daughter in law is Ukrainian and she, along with her husband (Jane & Malcolm's son) and mum, went to Poland earlier this year to assist in bringing them to the UK. There are now quite a few families being hosted by people in Hinckley, and Hinckley Baptist Church has been a focal point for community events and 'get togethers'.

One of these events is HUGS (Hinckley Ukrainian Group Support) which either uses Pathways or the Baptist church. Malcolm says, *'I'm glad that there is a group like ours where the newly arrived refugees can find others with whom they can build friendships, discovering together and with the help of The Borough Council and other agencies, things like: how to get children into school; how to apply for Universal credit; where the doctors and dentists are; where to plug in to English lessons: and so many other matters. Pray on please'*.

English speaking lessons have now begun at Hinckley Baptist, thanks to



Children playing as the Mum's learn English

Yana who used to provide English lessons in Ukraine before coming to the UK with her two boys.

Malcolm tells us *‘Some Ukrainians are having to return to Ukraine, for legal reasons, (eg the signing of legal documents, transferring property etc) or to visit family. They will only be away from here in the short term, and their visas allow for re-entry. But one can only imagine how hard all this might be; how emotionally stressful; how practically painful.’*

As Ukraine has now been pushed from the media headlines, Malcolm urges us *‘Pray for the hundred and one other issues occupying the headlines by all means. But not at cost of praying too, for the Peace and Welfare of Ukraine’.*

Malcolm & Jane’s son and daughter in law, Malcolm & Vita, with Max (Vita’s nephew) after a day at school



Prayers for Ukraine at Church from 7.30 pm

Thursday August 4th & 18th

Thursday September 1st, 15th & 29th

We’re praying for peace, as well as the Ukrainian people we know of.

In Groby

You may be aware that our friend and colleague, Tom Limb and his wife, Viv, are hosting a family from Ukraine for the foreseeable future.

There are 2 children, a boy aged 3, a girl aged 7 and their Mum. Tom describes them as a truly delightful family who speak excellent English and he says it's a joy to have them in their home.

When asked how best we can support them as a church, Tom immediately had some suggestions:

- i) our families, with children of their own, might be able to offer playdates.
- ii) others might consider taking the family to local places of interest e.g. Bradgate Park.
- iii) invite the family round to share a simple meal, conversation and fellowship which would also be a great help.

Additional requests are:

- i) bikes for all 3 of them
- ii) a blow up pool
- iii) bedroom storage furniture

Let's do what we can to give practical support and extend the hand of friendship to this family who have lost so much and for whom life will never be the same again.

Tom can be contacted on 07704 048845

Sue Lawrence-Brooks

CAN WE HELP THIS FAMILY ALSO? . .

The Zinthiya Trust, which is a charity based in Leicester City, has put us in touch with a young, single Mum who lives in Groby and who is struggling to put food on the table for herself and her children.

As a church fellowship, we were able to support 'Bob and Betty' for quite some time with regular donations of basic supplies.

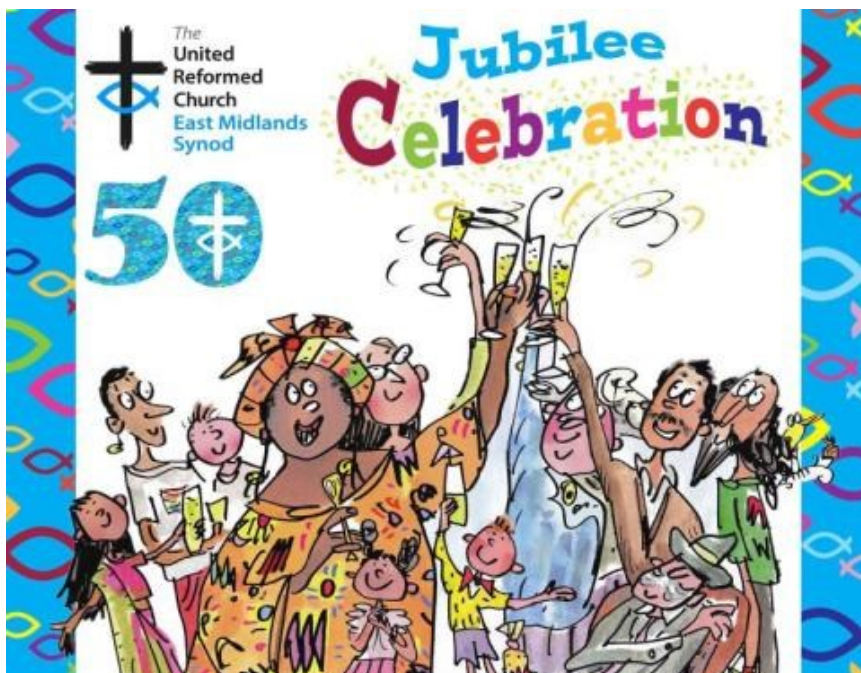
We would like to do the same for this family also and they would be grateful for any of the following items which can be left in the box in the foyer of the church.

- **Pasta.**
- **Cereals**
- **Tins of soup, beans and spaghetti**
- **Long life milk (cartons)**
- **Toilet rolls**
- **Size 4 nappies**
- **Baby wipes**
- **Tampons**
- **Washing capsules (preferably non-bio for the children's washing)**

Let's do what we can to share what we have and ease the burden for this family..

Thank you!

Sue Lawrence-Brooks



Commemorate - Celebrate - Create!
Saturday 10th September 2022

**10.00 am - 3.30 pm at the
De Vere Jubilee Conference Centre,
Nottingham**

Praise, Workshops and fun for all ages

**£5 per person including refreshments'
voucher**

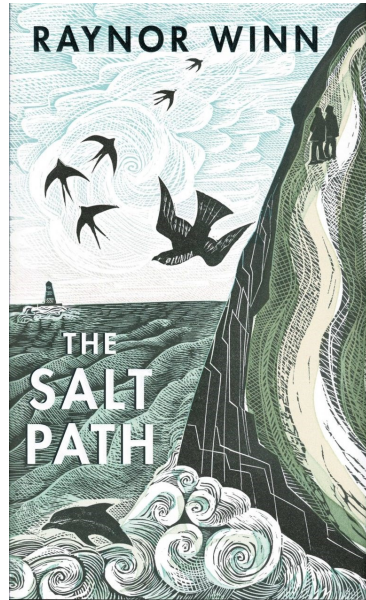
Under 18s free (must be accompanied)

**Book now : email jubilee@urc5.org.uk or ask
an elder for help!**

Recommended Reads.

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

This book is the astonishing true story of a couple, with grown-up children, who lost their livelihood and at the same time the husband was diagnosed with a terminal illness. With nothing left and with the stigma of homelessness they impulsively decided to walk the 630 mile long South West Coast Path from Somerset to Dorset via Devon and Cornwall. In the depths of despair they walked along the most dramatic landscapes and experienced a liberating existence. And where did they end up?



You can find out by borrowing the book from me.

Ruth Ivens

We have been including a 'recommended read' in Contact for a few months now. If you would like to share a title that you think others would enjoy please feel free to use this space. We hope to include a broad range of titles that encourage, inform and hopefully inspire us in our Christian lives.

Mary Pringle



DIARY DATES

Preach with a View Weekend

August 27th & 28th

Area Churches meeting - August 30th

(See page 8 & 9 for details)

There is an Area Churches service

**led by Rev.d Fiona Bennett, Moderator of URC
General Assembly**

Sunday 11th September: Christchurch URC at 10.45 am (time to be confirmed).

Groby will continue to hold a service at our usual time of 10 am (see page 12 for details). Some from Groby will represent us at the Area service at Christchurch but elders felt it important to continue with a local service.

Please speak to one of the elders if you would like to go to the Christchurch service.

Prayers:

Prayers for Ukraine during August and September

Thursdays - August 4th, 18th, - 7.30 pm in our church

September 1st, 15th and 29th. - 7.30 pm in our church

Children & Family Activities:

Service for families & children - September 4th - 3 pm at Groby URC.

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

October issue

The deadline for October's Contact is **Thursday 22nd September** but happy to accept articles sooner if prepared and ready to go!

Please note that deadline date is not the usual Saturday.

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 Kathy know at the magazine email address

magazine@grobyurc.com



**“My computer freezes up 3 times a day!
That’s why I don’t believe in global warming.”**

Groby United Reformed Church
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www.grobyurc.com, LE6 0FE



CONTACTS

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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'.