

# CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



God commanded, “Let lights appear in the sky .....to give light to the earth”—and it was done. Gen. 1:14



November 2022

# Church Elders

Kathy Du Boulay	kathygrace127@gmail.com
Kevan Hall	grobycom@sky.com
Mark Hiscocks	hiscocksm@gmail.com
Rachel Edwards	rachyrach17@hotmail.com
Sue Lawrence-Brooks	susanbeverley46@yahoo.co.uk

## **TRUTHS . . .**

From CH Spurgeon, the Baptist preacher:-

"Prayer is the rope that rings the bell in the belfry of God"

. . . and from an old farmer:-

"I shovel into God's storehouse and He shovels into mine - but God has a bigger shovel!"

Sue

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 SUE CHURCH ELDER.



Hello everyone and welcome to November's Contact – how the months fly!

Last May, I talked about stones and their place in dry stone walls - and this month I'm talking about rocks.

One of my Granddaughter's favorite activities is rock climbing in Bradgate Park and on one of our recent expeditions, she managed to climb up to and perch on a rock which was several feet higher than the one that I had managed to reach. I called out " Are you okay up there? " ( she knows I'm scared of heights!) and she replied " I'm quite safe, don't worry! "

Throughout the Bible, God is often referred to as a 'rock' - one who offers strong and sure protection when all else is in upheaval.

For example, Isaiah says in Chapter 26, " Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord is the Rock eternal." and in Psalm 40, David declares, " He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. "

A solid rock will not give way or crumble - God is **our** rock and He will never fail us.

Standing on a rock can also be a good vantage point from which to survey the scene around us and Esther's next comment, whilst firmly seated on the rock in Bradgate Park, was, "I can see everything!"

When we are standing in the rock of Jesus, it's much easier to put into perspective all that is going on in our lives and in our world - reminding us that He is with us constantly as our strength and our guide.

Our late Queen Elizabeth was described as " the rock on which modern Britain was built. " She was someone who openly declared her own faith and made it quite clear that it was Jesus who was **her** rock and it was God from whom **she** drew strength every day.

Are **we** standing firmly on the rock of Jesus?

Do we feel safe in the storms and uncertainties of life? I pray that we do and that we can sing with conviction the chorus of hymn 473:

" On Christ, the solid rock, I stand -  
all other ground is sinking sand. "

The end of November heralds the beginning of Advent – a time of hope and expectation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

It is also the time when Rev Paul and his wife, Jill, hope to move into the Manse and for Paul to begin his Ministry with Groby and the Area Churches. We pray that God will have His hand firmly on this process, that all obstacles will be removed and that His richest blessing will be on every one of us as we trust Him for all that is to come.

God bless you all today and always,

Sue



## is for Lifestyle

Ruth Valerio is a much-respected Christian Environmentalist, theologian, social activist and author.

Her book 'L is for Lifestyle' challenges us to look again at the routine humdrum of how we live, what we buy and what we do. We are well aware that weekly loud parties, hedges too high in our gardens and letting our dogs out to bark incessantly, might cause our immediate neighbours to complain about the way we live. But do we consider our 'neighbours' in other countries and how the way we live impacts them?

Being inspired by the book, the Voice 4 Justice team will be highlighting different aspects of our lifestyle choices over the coming months, to challenge and encourage us to think again about our day to day habits. We will be asked to consider how our choices affect our neighbours around the world, whether they are Fairtrade Farmers, Tea-pickers, garment makers in Bangladesh or those struggling with floods and droughts as the impact of climate change becomes increasingly obvious.

The question is, if the people mentioned above lived next door or in the same street as us, would that challenge us enough to change what we do? Why do we feel it's different because they don't live next door?

**VOICE FOR**



**JUSTICE**

OH CHRISTMAS TREE  
OH CHRISTMAS TREE  
HOW LOVELY ARE YOUR  
BRANCHES  
OUR LOVELY CHRISTMAS  
TREE NEEDS A HELPING  
HAND TO BECOME  
BEAUTIFUL AGAIN!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DRESSING OUR  
CHRISTMAS TREE IN TIME FOR ADVENT!  
RICHES AWAIT THOSE WHO CAN HELP.

FORM A TEAM! BRING SOME MINCE PIES!  
PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT & COFFEE AND PIES MAY  
BE PROVIDED!

TREE AND TRIMMINGS ALL FULLY RECYCLED!!

SPEAK TO KATHY OR SUE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
GET STUCK IN - AND WHY WOULDN'T YOU!

## C IS FOR CREATION

***This world is amazing! Created by God as a gift to us and he loves it.*** So therefore don't we also want to love it



and look after it? How does God feel when we wipe our unsustainable footprints all over it and leave it damaged and wrecked?

Scripture says: 'God saw all that he had made and it was very good'. Genesis 1.31.

### ***So what does that mean for us?***

We are all aware that humanity has misused and exploited God's creation to the point of crisis. One Biblical principal is the right of all of us to use the earth resources, before the right to ownership.

It is a sobering fact, but we are all interlinked in our daily lives with the ungodly practices of large companies which harm our planet and the people who live on it.

***We have to remember we can't do everything. But that is no reason to do nothing!***

Ruth Valerio's Lifestyle book points out many aspects of our daily living and her focus is on how we can try and treat the world the way God intended it to be looked after. Is that to be so? If we are to take this 'Lifestyle Alphabet' seriously, then we will experience personal inconvenience and sacrifice.

**In all this is God asking: How much do you love me and my creation?**



## D IS FOR DRIVING

***It's astounding to think how, over the course of a few decades, our lifestyles have become so dependent on the car.***

There is no doubt that it has brought us many benefits - convenience to nip to the shops, in winter it is more comfortable, saving time, increases our employment options, keeping us in touch with family and friends.....

In the UK the car is used for more and more shorter journeys. 40% of trips are under two miles, and 60% are under five miles. The emissions from a car consist of seven different particulates. None of these is good for our health! Indeed benzene is known to cause cancer. No coincidence that the UK has one of the highest rates of asthma in Europe. The problem is worse in other parts of the world.



*Toad was heard to murmur,  
"Poop-poop!"*

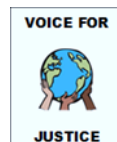
*Wind in the Willows*

Petrol tankers leak! Permanent damage is caused to salt marshes, coastal areas, coral reefs, turtles, fish, dolphins, birds....

### ***Does it have to be like this?***

Of course, the answer is no, but we have to be willing to do things differently? *Car-free days, electric cars, more biking, more walking, car sharing, driving more slowly.*

The way we treat our world is a fundamental part of what it means to be a Christian, so let's drive in a way that does the least damage possible. Every time a car is started up, the world God made is damaged in some way.





## SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

All of our morning services start at 10 am unless otherwise stated.

The 'Ready Set Go' service for children and families is at 3 pm

**November 13th** is Remembrance Sunday. Our service will be shorter than usual to allow time for us to join with others at the Groby Club for an act of Remembrance, which will begin at 10.45 am. Coffee served at our church for those not wishing or are unable to go to the Club.

<b>November 6th</b>	<b>“Life and Death”</b> <b>Service includes sharing Holy communion.</b>	Dave Lomas
<b>Nov 6th at 3 pm</b>	<b>‘Ready Set Go’</b> A service for Children and their families	Wendy Hall
<b>Nov 13th 10-10.30 am</b>	<b>Proverbs 3:5</b> ‘Trust in the Lord’	Kathy & Sue
<b>Nov 20th</b>	<b>Preaching from:</b> <b>Nehemiah 6:1-14</b>	Gary Wood
<b>Nov 27th</b>	<b>Genesis 3: 2-7</b>	Kevan Hall
<b>1st Sunday in Advent</b>	‘It all started with the fall’	

## Sunday's Helping Hands in November

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
	(Kathy)	(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
6th	Mark	Debbie	Barry	Joy & Peter	Kathy & Barry
13th	Kathy	Sue	Mark	Sue & Mike	Peter & Margaret
20th	Kathy	TBC	Phil	Mary	Joy & Cheryl
27th	Sue	Helen	Barry	Barbs	Hilary & Dave

### Flowers

(Barbara Conlon)

6th: Trevor & Mary

13th: Barbara Conlon

20th: Barry & Kathy

27th: Judith Robinson



### “The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

7th: Sue LB & Sue A

14th: Our Chores

21st: Ruth & Ann T

28th: Our Chores





## Journey to Bethlehem 2022

After the bitter disappointment of not being able to go ahead with this wonderful presentation in 2020 due to Covid, we are absolutely delighted that it will return in 2022, following the standard format and venue.

The majority of the cast remain unchanged but we do have a couple of new members and would appreciate your prayers especially for them.

This year the presentations will be held at the URC on the mornings and afternoons of November 29th and 30th with a set up in the church on Monday 28th.

Years 3 and 4 of the 3 Groby schools and also Ratby school will be attending.

Please pray for all of the children and their teachers who will also hear the message of the first Christmas, as well as those taking part: Chris Davies, Dave Smith, Cliff Ashby, Matthew Smith, Lynda Hawkes, Jane Cox, Riffat Zamurad, Yvonne Randle, Mary Pringle, Ruth Scott and Val and Martin Doig.

Pray especially for Matthew, Riffat and Mary Pringle who are new to the team and give thanks for their willingness to take part in this valuable outreach.

Lynda Hawkes.



**Do you remember .....  
Tearfund's  
Toilet Twinning,  
Tippy Tappy,  
Bin Twinning?**

These were the focus of previous Christmas appeals.

Because our fellowship enjoyed the involvement and gave generously, this year we hope to try something a bit different which focuses on a **Memory Garden!**

Tearfund will use our **Christmas Appeal** as a life-saving gift to support people in desperate need brought about by 'Climate Change'. **Full details of how to get involved will appear in the December Contact.**

*Voice for Justice Team*

### **Post Early for Christmas...**

Due to popular demand we are resurrecting a past tradition and posting a large communal Christmas card on the notice board in the passageway between hall & church, where we shall be able to share greetings with members of the congregation. *Thanks Jim for reminding us.*



### **Can you Help?**

Has anyone a small white or silver Christmas tree the church can borrow for Advent? Please make Joy happy!

## Do you know where Burundi is?

VOICE FOR



JUSTICE

**Tear Times** tells us that this small African country (*landlocked between Rwanda and Tanzania*) has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in children.

Lack of diversity in diet, ignorance and lack of food are the major causes of malnutrition. Early intervention is essential to enable children to go on and lead a healthy life.

**An oh-so-simple Solution to Malnutrition Jean Bosco** is a food programme Officer based at the Anglican diocese. Jean treated malnourished children with a peanut paste with great effect. Unfortunately, this paste has to be imported. Once the children are discharged from the programme, many relapse because distribution of the paste is difficult and often the parents can't afford the expense.

### Porridge - A Life Saver



Jean began to develop a kind of porridge from local sources of maize, soybean, groundnuts and palm oil. This porridge has all the necessary ingredients to strengthen a child's body. It is

literally a life saver and can be used before a child develops signs of malnutrition, because it is readily available and affordable. How fantastic is that!

Jean and the team stay to support the families in the long term. They encourage them to develop kitchen gardens where they grow a range of edible produce, raise livestock and start small businesses as a further source of income.

“TEARFUND gave us the skills to change our lives for the better”.

*You can read the full report in Tear Times, ask Joy or Ruth for a copy*

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank you for Jean, for his dedication, for his innovative porridge which saves children's lives. We pray for the feeding programme, for those who work in the Solange province, for families who attend and for them to find Jesus.

### *Pause for Thought...*

Going home is a lifelong journey... As we walk home we often realise how long the way is. But let us not be discouraged. Jesus walks with us and speaks to us on the road. And when we listen carefully we discover that we are already home while on the way.



From Bread for the Journey  
By Henri Nouwen  
1932-1996

*From Mary Pringle*

## The Picnic that Never Was!

In the past we have had some lovely picnics at Maplewell Hall School, Woodhouse Eaves.

With Covid seemingly behind us an after church picnic was planned for Sept 25th.

However, on that particular weekend, the weather took an autumnal turn with a wreath of mist laying low over the trees and the sky above was that

cold clear blue you often get at this time of the year. Not best for sitting outside!



We decided to stay put and enjoy some fellowship by sharing a lunch and sitting together so everyone could join in the conversations. The food was delicious and as so often happens on bring & share occasions, it was plentiful.

What is it about quizzes that brings out the competitive nature even the in most mild mannered members? Surely, it isn't the prizes? How well do you know Lesah Citeh posed questions about Richard III & Lady Jane Grey. And Lestah Phrases caused much amusement.

The children let off some steam with their own carpark treasure hunt.

If you know the meaning of: Ay up, meduck, ayumashed? Gorago. Wanna croggeh? You too could have won one of those stupendous prizes!

Thank you Sue, for rounding us up.

Hungry Church Mouse (wasn't much food leftover)







# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND FOR PRAYER

**Prayers at the URC for Ukraine**

**Thursdays every two weeks at 6.30 pm.**

**(please note the earlier time)**

10th and 24th November

Everyone is welcome, whether you normally come to these things or not, and everyone welcome to take part. Please do come if you can.



## **COP27 on 6–18 November 2022 in Egypt**

Pray that this conference on Climate change will see Governments turn words into action and make good on promises made at Glasgow COP26.

In particular regarding financial help to support those most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, and towards achieving cleaner energy.



The Open the Book Team are putting on 'Journey to Bethlehem' for year groups at our three Primary Schools in Groby & Ratby.

Please add this to your diary for prayer - Tuesday and Wednesday November 29th and 30th. Set up on Monday 28th.

See page 14 for more information.



## Diary Dates for our younger folk!

**'Ready, Set, Go' a Service** for children & families -  
November 6th at 3 pm, Groby URC.

Please note there is no yChurch at our 10 am service when there is a 'Ready, Set, Go' service in the afternoon

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

**Urban Saints**— Fridays 7.30 pm—9 pm November 4th and 18th at Groby URC. Activities for years 5 to 11.

### Advance Notice

Rev. Paul Ellis will be inducted as Minister to the URC West Leicestershire Resource Area Pastorate at 3 pm on Saturday 3rd December 2022 at Enderby URC.

This is to fit in with the availability of Geoffrey Clarke, the East Midlands Synod Moderator.

Further details to come, but please put this date in your diary and pray about the arrangements being planned.

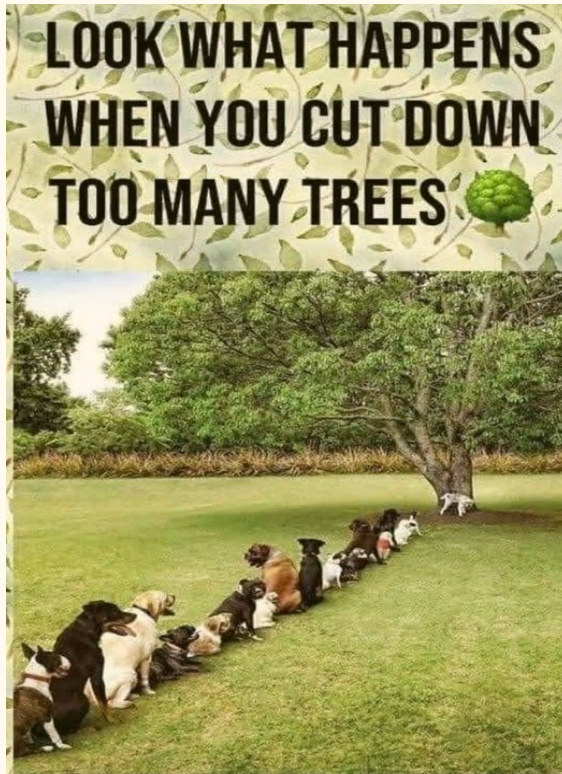
## November issue

The deadline for the December / January double issue of Contact is **Saturday 19th November** 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 Kathy know at the magazine email address

[magazine@grobyurc.com](mailto:magazine@grobyurc.com)



Groby United Reformed Church  
member: Evangelical Alliance UK  
www.grobyurc.com, LE6 0FE



## CONTACTS

**MINISTER:** Vacancy

**SECRETARY CONTACT :** Sue Lawrence-Brooks  
0116 231 2866 / susanbeverley46@yahoo.co.uk

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

### 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'.