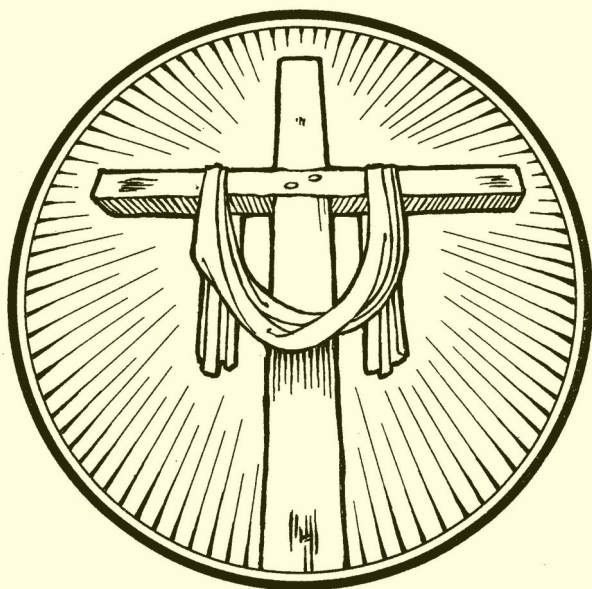


CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



G Churches
together
in
Groby

April 2023

Happy Birthday



Noah Parker; Holly Hung

Happy Birthday to You

May the Good Lord Bless You

Sue Lawrence-Brooks

Church Minister & Elders

Rev'd Paul Ellis

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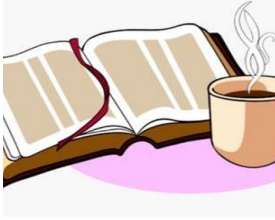
wendyredshoes@outlook.com

Kathy Du Boulay

kathygrace127@gmail.com

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

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



Homegroups

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

Please contact one of the people below if not already part of a homegroup but would like to find out more.

Mondays - 6.30 - 8 pm in Groby.

Contact Mark Hiscocks on 07887 399107
hiscocksm@gmail.com

Mondays- (evenings) in Anstey

Contact Helen Fracchia. 0116 2365349
hmotson@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
elaineamee@gmail.com

WELCOME FROM SUE CHURCH ELDER



Welcome to our April edition of Contact - the time of year when we anticipate the joy of celebrating Easter.

I love Easter! Ever since I can remember, the word has evoked images and thoughts of daffodils and blossom trees, green leaves and newborn lambs, glorious sunshine and the promise of warmer days (not forgetting chocolate eggs!) - and I'm sure that Easter will always be these things for me.

But now, by the grace of God, I have a deeper understanding of the real reason for the celebration and it all hinges on those final three words which Jesus spoke as He hung on that wooden cross:

"It is finished!"

What was finished? God's plan to redeem and heal us and to open the door to adopt us into His family. God's Son, Jesus Christ, paid the price for our wrongdoings and endured the ultimate punishment which we deserved.

"There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
He, only, could unlock the gates
of Heaven and let us in."

Because it is finished, there is nothing left for us to do . . .
.except to believe! Jesus finished it once and for all! He
triumphed over death! The debt was paid in full! We are free
and forgiven!

Then, on Easter Sunday, when the power of death had been destroyed and the account settled, Jesus greeted His disciples with yet more profound words:

"Peace be with you"

That means with us too - peace in the knowledge that because of His great love for us, we have been given the gift of eternal life.

What a gift! Jesus' death and resurrection changes everything - we now have hope for the future and purpose for today.

May the love of God and the peace that we have in Jesus anchor us as we face the uncertainties, the setbacks and the sorrows of this earthly life.

A peaceful and blessed Easter to you all.

Sue



Tasters goes Bananas (Fair Trade of course!)

On the day

Having had a meeting with the very enthusiastic Ruth and Joy it was clear that the Fairtrade celebration wasn't to be missed, so I agreed to help on the day.

It was obvious what my role was when I arrived – waiting for me were two very flat deflated bananas desperately needing plenty of puff. I normally go to events well prepared but hadn't allowed to bring a pump with me. It certainly would have saved my embarrassment of having such a red face and the knowing glances given by the other volunteers, but all great fun!



Some very Appeeling Bananas!

The event

In the door entry the Fair Trade bunting looked very effective as did the display of Co-op Fair Trade goods. The walls of the



rooms had Fair Trade posters and signs up and even on the tables, leaflets and topic starters of Fair Trade information.

The smells of cooked breakfast – locally sourced sausages, bacon etc wafted around the rooms. Tea and coffee were Fair Trade

In the children's area, which was a hive of activity, including lots of toys, activities, colouring, sticking and puzzles. The bananas were put to very good use in making banana splits,

with lashings of ice cream and decorative sweets. The walking/talking banana was volunteer, Wendy, who was clearly relishing the role. At one point it did seem strange to see a banana eating a banana!!

Result

A great time was had by all. Fair Trade was well and truly promoted and the Co-op products were very well received.

Well over 60 people, young and old enjoyed a lovely morning, being fed, kept warm, fully engaged, and having fun. Plus, those that wanted, took home a banana with them.

The Taster sessions will continue every Saturday and I will try and join them occasionally. I'm sure there will be other events that the Co-op will link with them, and no doubt next year's Trade Fortnight will be bigger and better.

Adrian Walker, Co-op Member Pioneer
Laundon Way Groby Co-op and Birstall







Rock Solid Returns

Games and Grub

£1

Friday 7.30 - 9:00

At the URC chapel
Chapel Hill, Groby, LE6 0FE

Dates: 21st April

5th 19th May

16th 30th Jun

7th July

Who for

**Top Primary and
Secondary**

(Year 5 -11)

Contact: Ruth Scott 07792376059



Pigeon Peas! Who knew!

Christian Aid Week 2023
14th - 20th May 2023

Just a heads up that Christian Aid Week is not far off!
This year we are focusing on how farmers in Malawi are transforming their livelihoods using the humble but mighty pigeon pea - a drought resistant, soil revitalising, high-protein delicious crop.

Christian Aid, together with local partner organisations, are working with farmers to form co-operatives, ensuring that they get a fair price for their crops and are not exploited by unscrupulous middle-men. Seeds, tools, safe storage units and co-operative ovens also help them to generate more income to support their families and afford school fees which have doubled in price in the last year.

Funds raised this Christian Aid Week can extend this work to more farmers, like Jen (below), who is facing the terrible dilemma of which child to educate.

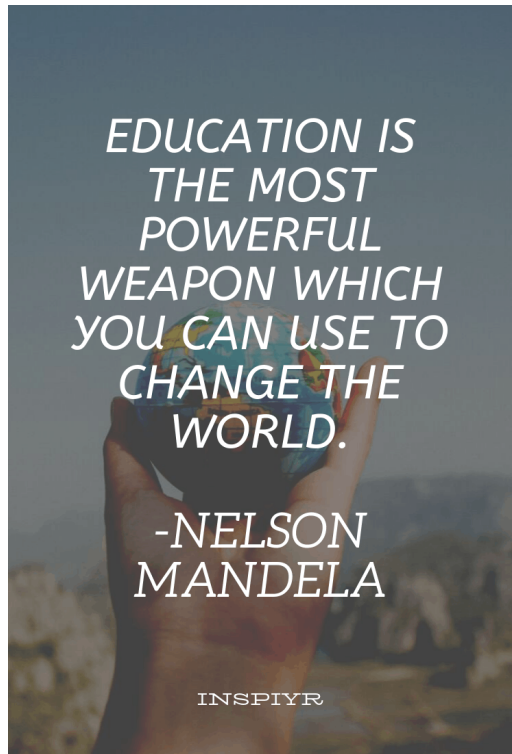


Here in Groby we want to raise money to support and extend this work by our 'Delivery Only' Envelope Collection. (Envelopes are delivered to every house in the village and returned to any one of 30 drop off points in homes and shops).

More details in next month's Contact but if you haven't been involved with CAW in the past and would like to know how you can help please speak to one of us.

During CAW last year Churches Together in Groby raised £4,245 plus £776 gift aid. Let's pray and plan to do even better this year.

Mary and Trevor Pringle



A Report on Rock Solid

It is now a year since Rock Solid started in its latest form, that is to say on the first and third (and occasional fifth) Friday evenings of the month. It has been for school years 5 (10 year olds) and above but mainly attracts those up to year 8.



It has steadily grown, from a group of 3 to 5 young people, and has over 20 through

the doors, with an average attendance of about 10 to 12. The evening usually starts with table tennis, pool, table football and a craft available. We stop at about 8.15 for a spot of food whether chips, pizza or cake! While mouths are full we have a discussion session, then finish with a more formal activity such as the 'bottle game'. This term we are using videos from Kleer series, which are provided on the Urban Saints Energize website. These are aimed at 11 – 14's who have no biblical knowledge as discussion starters. As half the youngsters who

attend have no church connection this seemed the appropriate level of understanding.



Many thanks to Laurence Holmes, as a male presence, without whom this could not run. Thanks also to Rachael Parker and to the band of refreshment providers, who rise to



the catering challenges I present them with!

I have been asked why we couldn't meet weekly as we used to and the reason is easy, there would need to be more leaders!

I personally think this work is vital – to me these children are our future and the seeds sown here will last them a lifetime. If we are serious about spreading Gods love in the village, this is a pressing need but it cannot be done

by just the same few individuals. It needs the all of the both churches to back it with both action and resources. Although serious consideration is being given to employing someone to assist in this work in the near future, this is the time for action and we need to reflect on what each of us can do to help now.

by Ruth Scott

(Dates when Rock Solid meet in April, May, June and July are on page 9)



SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR APRIL

There will be a 'Ready, Set, Go' service on April 2nd, 3 - 5 pm
Peter Redington who will be preaching for us on April 23rd is a
lay preacher, recommended by Connie Pringle and has
preached at Beeston Free Church. The reading is one he has
chosen.

Paul will lead us in sharing of communion on April 16th

April 2nd Palm Sunday	John 19 'Jesus Dies'	Ruth Mwenga
April 9th Easter Sunday	John 20 'Jesus Lives!'	Dave Lomas
April 16th	John 21: 1-14 'Breakfast on the Beach' Service includes Holy Communion	Rev'd Paul Ellis
April 23rd	Col. 1:15 'Jesus is Supreme'.	Peter Redington
April 30th	John 21: 15-25 'Jesus Forgives Peter'.	Rev'd Paul Ellis

Sunday's Helping Hands in April

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
	(Kathy)	(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
April 2nd	Sue	TBC	Tim	Linda	Kathy & Barry
9th	Kathy	TBC	Dave	Hilary	Peter & Margaret
16th	Rachel	TBC	Chris	Ruth	Joy & Cherryl
23rd	Mark	TBC	Barry	Joy & Peter	Hilary & Dave
30th	Wendy	TBC	Mark	Sue & Mike	Mary & Trevor

Flowers



(Barbara Conlon)

2nd: Cheryl Read

9th: Rachel Edwards

16th: Ruth Ivens

23rd: Jane Hind

30th: Joy & Peter Russell

“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

3rd: ‘Our Chores’

10th: Linda & Tim

17th: ‘Our Chores’

24th: Sue LB & Sue A

1st May: Our Chores



Tributes to Joyce Mitchell

2nd May 1937-28th January 2023

Joyce's funeral was on 22nd February and Wendy Hall was asked by Joyce's son, Neil, to pay tribute. Wendy tells us that the first time she met Joyce was when they were standing looking at a house she and Kev were thinking of buying. "Are you thinking of buying that house she asked," we expressed our uncertainty, but Joyce looked from us to the front door and back again. "You should" she said, "I just saw Jesus standing on the doorstep."

"If that sounds outrageous to you, it was not so for Joyce. She was a woman who knew her beloved Jesus intimately, and whose life of prayer, worship, and bible study gave her spiritual insight. Joyce knew that what seems foolishness to us, is wise to God. In short Joyce was a woman of faith".

Joyce remembers seeing her father sitting on his soldiers backpack ready to go to war from which he never returned. Growing up in Ratby,

Joyce's Grandma played a huge role in her upbringing and was very strict, even when Joyce was older. She started taking her to church with Joyce's aunt; a time that began her faith journey.

Joyce worked in the Hosiery industry as a young adult, eventually marrying Vic and having two sons - Andy and Neil.

Neil has happy memories of family holidays camping and boating.

Losing both Andy and Vic were terrible blows and she was brave and courageous.

"Her strong sustaining faith and trust in God, carried her through.



Despite deep sadness and grief, her indomitable Spirit shone". Joyce's sense of serving God through church was always very strong. She came into membership at Groby URC on 18th April 1976, which coincided with her meeting Elaine Mee, when she helped Elaine begin the 1st Groby Girls Brigade Company. Elaine recounts how they didn't have many girls to start with, which limited their activities rather. After mentioning this to Joyce, Elaine remembers how, the next week, Joyce turned up with two new recruits - her boys! "Joyce was a faithful officer and always did her bit and enjoyed every minute. We had plenty of laughs along the way". Elaine tells of how she misses Joyce catching her eye with a beaming smile when the worship group lead "hands turned to heaven and singing her heart out".

Joyce became a Church elder in 1986 and Wendy pays tribute to Joyce's prayerfulness, and how she, and many of the stalwarts at that time, prayed our current church building into existence when the original building was beginning to fall apart.

Joyce was quite well known in the village, having helped serve in the Chaplins shop in the past, and recently became a regular for her lunch at the Stamford Arms. Wendy says "A light has gone from our village, and we all miss her and mourn our loss. Joyce's presence brought out the best in us. But Joyce is so happy now as she dances with the Lord, she called friend".

Joyce often wrote prophetic words and poems. Wendy read one out at the funeral that Joyce had given to Margaret Chaplin. You can find it on page 21.



L is for Lifestyle

Encouraged by the challenge from Paul's service to consider **new** changes in our personal life in order to make the world a fairer place, I decided to share my personal journey through the lifestyle alphabet from A- G.

Activist: Do I enjoy being an Activist? I have no option but to be a voice for justice.

Bananas: I do buy only Fair-Trade bananas, but there are many other products with a Fair Trade Logo, or of an ethical status. It challenged my shopping habits anew, and the good 'Shopping Guide' is once more in use.



Creation: Reading through the chapter encourages you to appreciate the beautiful earth God has given us. To me, it reinforced the desperate need to look after such a precious gift. Decided to plant more bee friendly flowers in our garden.

Driving: As a non driver I rely on a driver, but I try to use my bike, legs and bus as much and as long as possible.

Energy: We turned down the thermostat by 2 degrees Celsius most of the time. I think twice about what goes into the washing machine and I iron much less. Cooking in batches needs my attention.

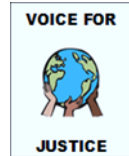
Food: I buy most of the fresh food from farm type shops. (maybe veg boxes in the future) It is my plan to grow lettuce again, and Roger will not give up on potatoes and onions.

Globalisation gave me a new awareness on how we depend on so many people to feed and clothe us, and the exploitation which goes with it. Informing myself about the topic and adjusting my life accordingly has become a greater priority to me.



It would be good to share each other's ideas in our pursuit for justice. Tearfund Lent notes say: The church isn't a building. It isn't a church service. It is a family sharing high and lows with Jesus together. That includes issues of justice. Why not talk to Kathy, Joy or myself?

Ruth Ivens



Worship music tapes / Spring Harvest seminar recordings

Being an older person myself, who still has a cassette player I wondered if anyone else would enjoy listening to these tapes.

There are worship music tapes & also several Spring Harvest seminar recordings.

Thank you,
Anita Dorok



Earthquake Appeal

A donation of **£936.00** has been sent to Tearfund for the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal, composed of £500 from church donations and £436 from Tasters donations.

Quite an amazing and generous amount!

We now pray that the money reaches those that need it most and some good can come out of this tragedy.

Phil

Phil has already received an emailed response from Tearfund for our donation, as follows:

Thank you for letting us know that you have sent a gift from your church of £936 to Tearfund by bank transfer. Your generosity in giving and prayer will help Tearfund, as part of the global church, to bring material and spiritual transformation to those affected by the Turkey/Syria Earthquake.

We are thankful that our church partner in Aleppo has opened shelters for people who have lost their homes to the earthquake. The church in Aleppo is providing warm spaces, shelter, hot meals, water and other essential items such as baby milk, hygiene kits, blankets and warm clothing. The cold winter weather in the region is making response work particularly challenging where people are exposed to the elements. Please continue to pray with us for all those affected.

When we receive your donation we will use it to support the earthquake response.

Recommended Reads.

You Don't Know What War Is By Yeva Skalietska

Published by Bloomsbury with a forward by Michael Morpurgo.

This quite special book was written in English by a 12-year-old Ukrainian girl - yes you did hear that right - who lived a normal life with her grandma in a block of flats on the eastern side of Kharkiv.



It recalls: family life at home; text messaging between school friends; the beauty of her beloved city; rumours of war; the first night of shelling; and seeking safety.

This is not a morbid book, but the reality of a child's rapidly changing circumstances from normal citizen, to internally displaced minor, to refugee in Western Europe. Yes there is a happy-ish ending, and her daily diary entries played a big part in that coming about.

Plenty of food for thought. Recommend it for teenagers and adults with open minds. Happy to loan my copy to anyone who would like to read this book.

Roger Ivens

Tearfund Lent Devotional

Throughout Lent, Tearfund have been sending daily devotionals for Lent. This one came in recently which I thought was particularly interesting.

The Meaning of Church

**‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer
(Acts 2:42, NIV)**

The global pandemic impacted individuals, communities and churches more than we ever could have imagined.

The benefit of online services has been felt across the globe, with many unchurched individuals attending from their own homes. It gave a safe space for people to explore faith, while also allowing those less mobile to connect.

But if we believe the church is a physical community that gathers around the person and work of Jesus, should we crave proximity again? Church doesn't have to be complicated, but it does require community. This is why Tearfund works through local churches: being at the heart of communities, they can easily become centres for transformation.

Is now the time for us to strive for deep community again? What if we took the positives of new online expressions, but pursued fellowship again?

Church isn't a building. It isn't a Sunday service. It's a family sharing the highs and lows of life with Jesus together.

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font inside a dark teal rectangular box.

Lois Franks

Lois is on the leadership team at Hope Church Rhondda, Wales

Local churches Changing Lives

Edwige has big dreams for her life, and for her baby's. But for young people like her in Ivory Coast, the door out of poverty keeps getting slammed shut. Youth unemployment in Edwige's community is rife. Without an education or decent job opportunities, young people feel trapped. Many have to turn to illegal gold mining or worse just to survive.



'Alongside the gold panning, there is prostitution,' Edwige explains. 'Girls as young as 14 are involved in sex work...'

Edwige did everything she could to avoid the fate of other young people in her community, working tirelessly as a farm labourer. But it wasn't enough to support her and her baby.

'I couldn't make ends meet,' Edwige remembers. 'It was difficult. I had gone three days with no food.'

A couple saw Edwige crying outside her home and invited her to church. There, she received support for her baby and heard about business-skills training, which is part of the Church and Community Transformation programme we are running through local churches. This opened a door for Edwige that changed her life – both materially and spiritually.

'With God, everything is possible, he will give me another opportunity tomorrow,' Edwige says.
'There is always hope.'



At the Movies

Groby Sings has had a great start to our first season of 2023 and numbers are increasing weekly and heading towards pre-Covid levels with many returners and new singers joining us on Wednesdays for singing and socialising. We're delighted that our Youth & Children's Choir has doubled in number since restarting and we'd love more young singers to join us as their fresh and lively voices add so much to our overall sound. Our theme for Spring/Summer, ***Groby Sings at the Movies***, is proving very popular with the choir as we've included songs to suit all ages and tastes from films such as *Top Gun*, *Jailhouse Rock* and Disney's *Aladdin*.

Groby Sings is a fully inclusive choir and everyone is welcome. This season we are actively encouraging people who have been diagnosed with memory loss or dementia, as well as their friends and carers, to come along and experience the enjoyment of singing together. There is plenty of room, comfortable seating with tea, coffee and a bar available plus an interval for us to socialise and eat cake.

So, come and join us on **Wednesdays**, term time only, at **The Groby Club**, Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester LE6 0DJ, which has ramps and disabled facilities. **Adult singers:** 1.30-3.00pm or 7.30-9.00pm, **Youth & Children's Choir** (7 years and over): 3.40-4.40pm. Pre-school children are welcome in the afternoon in the care of their adult with a crèche area available. **Reminder:** no sessions on 5th and 12th April, the Easter school holiday. Enquiries via our [website www.grobysings.org](http://www.grobysings.org).

June L Ward

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490

A Prayer for the Church

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.' (Acts 2:42-47)

'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...'

God, open our minds to the teachings of others.

'...and to fellowship...'

God, open our hearts to the friendship of others.

'...to the breaking of bread...'

God, open our tables for the provision of others.

'...and to prayer...'

God, open our souls to your beautiful voice.

Amen.

Gideon Heugh

Gideon writes for Tearfund and is a poet and environmentalist

CTG Maundy Thursday - April 6th, 7 pm

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

Add your name to the sign up list at the back of the church.



DIARY DATES

Easter Ready Set Go: Sunday April 2nd. A service for families. 3-5 pm at Groby URC

CTG Maundy Thursday. A meal of soup & bread, followed by sharing Communion - Thursday 6th April. 7 pm at Groby URC.

Prayers for Ukraine: April 13th & 27th - 6.30 pm in church

Rock Solid: April 21st, May 5th & 19th. 7.30-9pm

Church meeting: Wednesday, 26th April 2023. Please let Paul, Kathy or any elders know of any agenda items.

West Leicestershire Area Churches Get Together:
Sat 10th June at 3 pm. A tea followed by worship at Christ Church, Barbara Road, Rowley Fields, LE3 2EB.

May 2023 issue

The deadline for May 2023 issue is **SAT 22nd April 2023** 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.

Print or Hard Copy of Contact?

Contact magazine is published in print and on the church website, grobyurc.com. If you would like to be added or removed from the monthly hyperlink email list, please let Kathy know at the magazine email address magazine@grobyurc.com

If you receive a paper copy and no longer wish to, please let us know through the magazine email address.

You are, of course, most welcome to receive both.

Poem by Joyce Mitchell

Lord Jesus on that Cross you died, for all our sin.
All you ask of us Lord Jesus is to open our hearts and let you
in.

Your love and faith are always there, no matter where we go.

You answer prayers before we ask

Because you love us so.

Lord Jesus keep us humble, so others we may show,
There is no heaven without you, and nowhere else to go.
We remember the Good Shepherd, will keep searching till
he's sure,

that all his sheep are safe and sound for evermore.

Father in heaven hear us pray

Oh, how we need you day by day.

You, alone our sorrow bear

Father our father, you are always there.

Let us be the ones to call and let us say Father we give you
all.

Till nothing else we have to give, only then Father do we start
to live.

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



CONTACTS

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Paul Ellis <tallpauellis@tiscali.co.uk>

SECRETARY CONTACT : Sue Lawrence-Brooks 0116

231 2866 / susanbeverley46@yahoo.co.uk

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORKER: Vacancy.

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS: Jane Hinds 07530 957022 /

janesnips@hotmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Our Sunday morning services start at 10 am and are recorded then broadcast afterwards on our Church Facebook page.

Groby United Reformed Church / Facebook. Our worship includes monthly Holy Communion

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. (alternate Fridays during term time) 7.30 pm Urban Saints. Games and Grub for children in Years 5 - 11.

Sat:Tasters* Coffee, hot cobs. Kids activities -10-12am

There are also regular Homegroups running throughout the week. Our Secretarial Contact has more information.

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