

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



**Christian Aid Week -
May 14th to 20th**



May 2023

Church Minister

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& Elders

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There will be no service at the URC on Sunday May 14th as we meet at 9.30 am for a joint service at St Philip and St James at the beginning of Christian Aid Week.

There will be no provision for children that day during the service, **but children from both churches with an adult are welcome to the URC for activities planned from 10 am onwards.**

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

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

Our Church Safeguarding Team



Rachel Parker

Ric & Helen Fracchia



Groby URC is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk, and to ensuring their well-being.

Please see page 6 for more information about what the safeguarding team do.

WELCOME FROM MARK CHURCH ELDER



Welcome to the May edition of Contact

This year in May we will benefit from 3 Bank Holidays!

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey, in a service steeped in centuries of tradition and rich in Christian symbols and values. One suggested prayer of the Church of England is

Gracious God,

in company with our King,

we rededicate ourselves to your service.

Take our minds and think through them,

take our lips and speak through them,

take our hearts and set them on fire

with love for you and your kingdom;

that here we may have your peace,

and in the world to come may see you face to face;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As part of his letter to all clergy, Justin Welby - Archbishop of Canterbury writes:

“However you choose to mark the Coronation weekend, we hope this will be a time celebrating God’s love and generosity, and making that love known in our communities and national life.”

In the New Testament, Jesus is also described as a king, the true king of Israel and indeed of the whole world. Even Pontius Pilate, who signs Jesus' death warrant, writes on it "*the King of the Jews*" [John19:3]. But his model of kingship is very different to that of those Old Testament rulers, and indeed many rulers today. His kingship is not about power or prestige, wealth or status. Most people who came across him in the 1st Century would not have thought he was a king of any kind, and when he was sentenced to death and crucified then faith in Jesus as God's chosen king would have been very difficult to sustain. But the consistent witness of those who were there and wrote about these things is that Jesus rose from death after three days, and that one day he will return to this world. At that point heaven and earth will be renewed and reconciled, and Jesus will reign, the King of justice and of peace. [from Christianity.org.uk]

God bless you, Mark



Groby URC Safeguarding Team.

Who are we?

Rachel is an Occupational Health Nurse, Helen is a Speech and Language Therapist and Riccardo is an Engineer and Cub leader in his spare time.



What do Safeguarding Officers do?

We are here to offer advice and support to the Elders and Group Leaders when making decisions around safeguarding policy and implementing the guidelines set by the URC. If you have any safeguarding concerns we are more than happy to listen and offer advice on what to do next.

So what does Safeguarding mean?!

To us, it means making sure that we are providing a safe, welcoming environment for our church family and for the wider community who enter our Church. We do this through having risk assessments, policies and procedures in place to ensure we are able to provide that safe, welcoming environment and by attending training to ensure we keep our awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse up to date. Safeguarding is about protecting ourselves with safe practices as well as noticing any safeguarding concerns in those we come into contact with.

What can you do to help?

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

If you are volunteering, please attend the safeguarding training- it's online now and can be completed any time.

Please complete the job application forms for volunteer roles as part of our safer recruitment processes.

If you have any concerns at all about anyone or anything, please talk to us. No concern is too small.

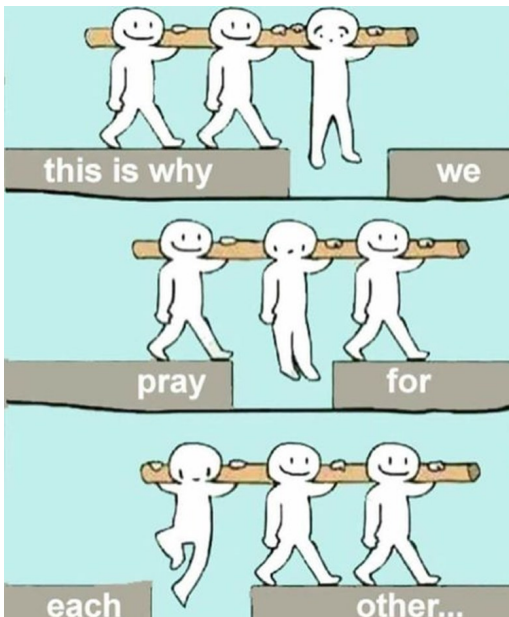
Forms for recording concerns are available in the vestry, along with the Good Practice Guide. Please contact us as soon as possible if you would like help with completing the paperwork, and to inform us of any concerns.

The Good Practice Guide is available online if you would like to learn more.

Helen

NB: There is a copy of the Groby URC Safeguarding Policy both in the kitchen and in the vestry.

Other safeguarding information can be found on the URC website: [Safeguarding - United Reformed Church](#)



1 Timothy 2:1 says

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people

Christian Aid Week - May 14th to 20th



As I write Christian Aid Week is fast approaching, the envelopes have arrived, (3,500 of them) and many of you have already agreed to help with delivery or act as a drop off point. Thank you for your willingness to support Christian Aid Week again. More deliverers are needed please!

Also excellent news- Groby Library, Classic Cuts Hairdressers, Laundon Way Co-op and Chaplin's have all agreed to help again. This means everyone in the village will have an envelope drop off point in a home or business near to them.

The Churches Together in Groby, Christian Aid Week 2023 Just Giving Page is also up and running - so if you prefer to donate on-line please use the link or QR code below. This is a great way to donate as money goes directly to Christian Aid and we don't need to count it or take it to the bank!

[https://www.justgiving.com/
page/
churchestogetheringroby-
caw2023](https://www.justgiving.com/page/churchestogetheringroby-caw2023)



Christian Aid Week 2023 is focused 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. Money raised can help to extend this work to other farmers, generating more income to support their families and afford school fees which have doubled in price in the last year.



What our gifts can do:

£10 Could pay for a 2kg bag of pigeon pea seeds.

£50 could provide pigeon pea seeds and farming tools for a family.

£70 could buy a bicycle so an experienced farmer can reach others in remote areas and teach them essential business skills.

£250 could pay for a cooperative oven, supporting more than 800 people to turn their pigeon peas into profit by baking bread.

£1,000 could pay for a fish food processor, so co-operatives can turn their pigeon peas into fish food and raise fish to sell.

Finally and most importantly please support Christian Aid Week in prayer, and come to the CTG Christian Aid service which is at St Philip and St James on Sunday 14th May, 9.30am with Rev Ed and Rev Paul.

Mary Pringle

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

When Russia invaded Ukraine in March 2022, we were all deeply shocked and a number of us, from both Groby churches, met together to pray for those caught up in the war.



Only occasionally does the war reach the headlines nowadays, but a small group of us still commit to meet every fortnight to pray for this ongoing and tragic situation.

It is often difficult to know how to pray, but we know that God is with us as we sit in His presence and as we focus our thoughts on Russia and Ukraine for a short period of time.

We pray for the families torn apart by the war, for those who have lost family members, for those suffering cold, hunger and homelessness, for those who have been forced to seek refuge in other countries remembering especially the families in Hinckley who are being supported by Malcolm and Jane Clarke and others, and also for Anna's family here in Groby.

Above all else, we pray for peace.

We invite you and would welcome you to join us in prayer, at church, between 6.30 and 7 pm on Thursday May 11th and 25th and each fortnight thereafter.

Sue Lawrence-Brooks

Easter Sunday 2023 at the URC

It was great to see so many people at our Easter Sunday service to celebrate our Risen Lord .

It was 'nearly' a full house! Friends and families, old and new, taking the opportunity to catch up together, the worship group in fine form helping us to sing to the rafters!, Dave Lomas spot on with his exploration of John's Gospel chapter. 20, and prayers from Tearfund's Gideon Heugh, we thank God for such an uplifting service. Thank you to all involved!

Kathy

See, what a morning gloriously bright
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem.
Folded the grace clothes, tomb filled with light
as the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love
Born in pain, paid in sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ, the man, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead.

The Empty Tomb
by
Joseph Juvenal





SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR MAY

Following on from Easter, we start this month by considering Jesus our King.

The second Sunday will be a CTG service for Christian Aid week. As our last two joint services have been at the URC, we will be at St Philip & St James on this occasion, and begin at 9.30 am. The service will include Holy Communion.

There will be no service at the URC that day but children with an adult from both churches are welcome to the URC for activities planned from 10 am onwards.

The last two Sundays will focus on the start of a new series looking at women in the New Testament which we hope will be challenging and encouraging for us all.

May 7th	Psalm 2 Jesus. The King	Ann Willmott
May 14th. 9.30 at St Philip and St James	A CTG service for Christian Aid Includes sharing Holy Communion	Rev'd Paul Ellis
May 21st	John 4: 1-45 The Woman at the Well	Richard Lindop
May 28th	Acts 2 Women at Pentecost	Linda Rayner

Sunday's Helping Hands in May

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
	(Kathy)	(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
May 7th	Phil	David	Tim	Sue & Mike	Pat C & Linda
14th	Mary	N / A	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Service	at St	Philip &	St James
21st	Rachel	Sue	Dave	Margaret & Maurice	Peter & Margaret
28th	Sue	Debbie	Chris	Joy & Peter	Joy & Cherryl

Flowers



(Barbara Conlon)

7th: Barbs & Hedley Lomas

14th: Sarah & Chris Down

21st: Mary & Trevor Pringle

28th: Tim & Linda Symonds

“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

May 1st: Our Chores

May 8th: Ruth & Ann T

May 15th: Our Chores

May 22nd: Trevor & Mary

May 29th: Our Chores



The Public Access Defibrillator on the Wall of our Church

As you can see, and probably will have already seen on our wall, the public access defibrillator is now installed and also registered, with public access 24 / 7.

It was an initiative by the Groby Allotment Society who approached us (Groby URC) to see if it were possible to install it on the wall of our building and close to the footpath that runs through the allotments.

The equipment was purchased with the help of a grant from the Thomas Herbert Smith's Trust Fund. The external cabinet will keep the defibrillator safe and warm via a small electrical charge, was donated by the Joe Humphries Memorial Trust. Training on its use was provided for allotment users and some of our own members included first aid response to cardiac arrest.

If you missed this, the important thing to remember is that it can be accessed by dialling 999, and the equipment does have audio instructions on it's use.





We had great fun with our Easter presentation, bringing back our lovely donkey who responds particularly well to a carrot! The children loved him and thoroughly enjoyed following Jesus, waving their palms and shouting and cheering. It was a very noisy presentation indeed.

We have begun our new term back in the Old Testament with a large cast of children and noise once again, when Joshua blows his trumpet and the walls fall down. We have children dressed in tabards representing the walls and more children in tunics as Joshua's army. The rest of the children enjoy counting the 7 trips round the walls on the 7th day before Joshua lets rip with his trumpet.

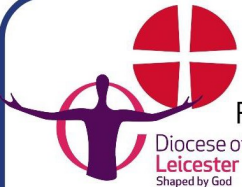
Its all great fun, as anyone in the team will tell you. We are always keen to have new members join us, so if you feel this could be for you, just have a chat to any of us about it. We do also very much appreciate your prayers for the team, the children, and the school staff who also, of course, hear our messages.

Lynda Hawkes

Open the Book Team



The Coronation Weekend in Ratby 6th-8th May 2023



Diocese of
Leicester
Shaped by God

Live Coronation Screening

Saturday 6th May, Morning (times tbc)

Ratby Parish Church & Church Rooms LE6 0JE

LIVE broadcast of the entire ceremony with refreshments and children's craft activities available.



RATBY
CO-OPERATIVE
BAND

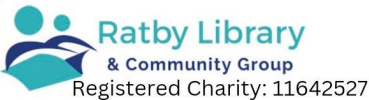
Registered Charity: 1011147



Sunday 7th May, 12 - 2pm

Ratby Band Room, LE6 OHQ

Join the Ratby Band for a Coronation Celebration and with an open-air afternoon of live music in the heart of our village. Bring your own picnic, seating and suitable weather protection.



Ratby Library
& Community Group

Registered Charity: 11642527

Monday 8th May
10am - 4pm

Sign up for our village litter-pick, collect equipment from the library and browse our community group tables to explore more of the services and offers within our community



Lend a hand. Make a change.

All the above events are FREE to attend. There will be collections taking place throughout the weekend to support tree planting in our village later in the year. Thank you.



Group for Evangelism And Renewal

within the United Reformed Church



Growing closer to Jesus



Enthusiastic about the Bible






Alive in the power of the Spirit



Reaching out with the Good News

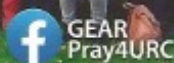
GEAR seeks to serve and inspire the URC by:

-  Mobilising prayer through *Pray4URC* (facebook.com/pray4urc) and a national prayer network
-  Running regular *Refreshing Your Ministry* conferences on Zoom and in person, as well as the *Crossfire* youth camp
-  Producing thought-provoking booklets and the inspirational *In GEAR* magazine



For more information visit:
www.gear.org.uk

Or contact Rev Sheila Coop
01616 202 884 | secretary@gear.org.uk





At the Movies

We seem to be rapidly heading towards summer now which means that things are hotting up for *Groby Sings* as we're excitedly beginning to look forward to performing our first concerts back at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus, Ratby Road, Groby LE6 0FP (known locally as BGLC or Groby College). We hope to welcome back in the audience the many supporters from home and abroad who enjoyed our previous 15 concert seasons as well as other music lovers who have yet to experience the joy and enthusiasm of the community choir that is *Groby Sings*. Make sure to put these dates in your diary:

SATURDAY 24th JUNE 7.00pm and **SUNDAY 25th JUNE 3.00pm**

TICKETS - only £5 - will be available **from 22nd MAY** at **THE GROBY CLUB** (during normal opening hours), **GROBY LIBRARY** (Wednesdays and Saturdays only 10.00am-12.00pm) **via CHOIR MEMBERS**, who will be able to purchase tickets at rehearsal sessions.

Whilst many singers are happy to be on stage, we know that it's not for everyone and so taking part in *Groby Sings* concerts is entirely optional. If any singer has mobility issues or concerns about standing for long periods, there will be seats in front of the stage and space for wheelchairs and we always try our best to cater for everyone's needs. It's important too that anyone who enjoys singing but prefers not to take part in concerts knows that they are still always welcome to join us on Wednesdays and we hope that non-concert singers will take the opportunity

to come along and appreciate the performances as part of the audience.

Come along and sing with 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.

All sessions include a refreshment break . Pre-school children are welcome in the afternoon in the care of their adult with a crèche area available.

Enquiries via our [website www.grobysings.org](http://www.grobysings.org).

June L. Ward



Saturday 10th June at 3.00 pm

Our Resource Area churches will be gather at Christ Church for a joint social afternoon, to include a quiz (thanks Paul!) and finishing with worship together.

A sign up list coming your way soon.

Meanwhile put the date in your diary

All Welcome!

Pause for Thought...

From Mary



“

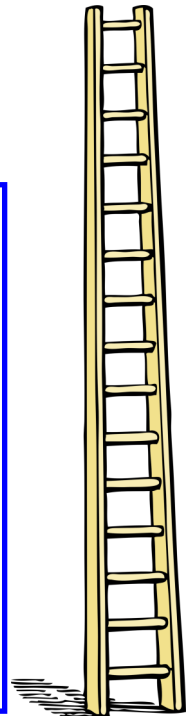
‘Christian hope isn’t passive. Hope in the certainty of God’s future calls us to change the world in which we live now, to make it look a bit more like the Kingdom we await.’

JUSTIN WELBY



Christian Aid
Facebook
page -
10.4.2023

A poem by Gideon Heugh.
People who spend their
lives
climbing the ladder of
success
will reach the top
and
realise
there’s nothing there.



THE CHANTRY CHOIR

Join us in a celebration of
the Coronation of HM King Charles III



"THE BEST OF BRITISH"

Enjoy High Tea and music by the choir
and harpists from the
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Christ Church, Dumbleton Avenue,
Leicester, LE3 2EG

Saturday May 13th at 4pm
£15 admission by ticket only from
Sheila: 01530 245 098



DIARY DATES

Church Meeting: Wednesday 26th April at 7.30 pm

Men's Breakfast: Monday 1st May 8.30 am at the URC

Christian Aid Week: 14th to 20th May. More info. about local events on Page 8.

There is a coffee morning & cake sale on 20th May, 10 am at Christ Church.

Prayers for Ukraine: 11th and 25th May- 6.30 pm in church

Rock Solid: 5th & 19th May . 7.30-9pm at the URC

'The Best of British' - The Chantry Choir: Saturday May 13th at Christ Church, Dumbleton Avenue, LE3 2EB (see flyer on page 21 for more info. and booking tickets)

West Leicestershire Area Churches Get Together:

Sat 10th June at 3 pm. A tea followed by worship at Christ Church, Dumbleton Avenue, LE3 2EB.

Wacky Wednesdays: Every Wednesday in Ratby, 3.15-4.30pm, for Primary School children. Ruth Scott has more info. (ruth.scott.rscott1037@yahoo.co.uk). On May 10th there will be an extended Wacky Wednesday with ice-cream and film.

June 2023 issue

The deadline for May 2023 issue is **SAT 20th May 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.



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'.