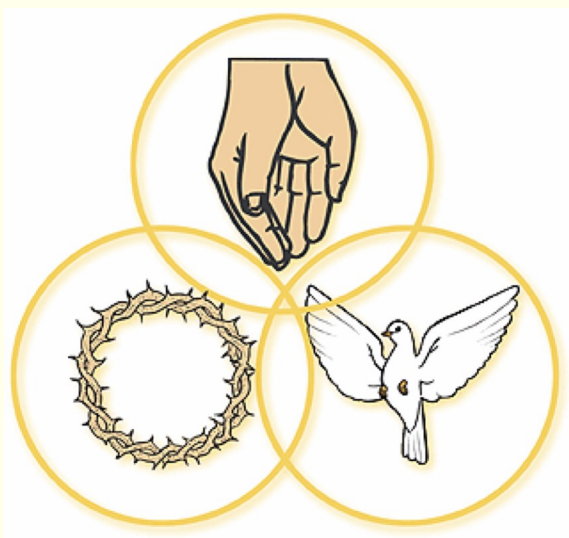


CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



G Churches
together
in
Groby

June 2023

Church Minister

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

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

WELCOME FROM RACHEL CHURCH ELDER



Hello & welcome to our June copy of Contact!

As we come to the end of May the weather finally seems to be improving, the sun is shining (a little bit more often), the birds are singing & the flowers are starting to bloom. Whilst I'm not a natural gardener it's fantastic to see the flowers & plants that I managed to grow starting to come to life & bring some colour & even more nature into the garden!

The wonder of nature never ceases to fascinate me, the fact that a beautiful flower can come from a tiny seed & that flower can be part of a huge habitat that can sustain so many forms of wildlife, which in turn spread the seeds which help create more flowers is truly amazing!

I could spend hours professing the wonders of nature & how it tells of the beauty, power & tenderness of our God, but whilst searching for a topic for this month's welcome this is not what I feel God is wanting me to share (but feel free to spend some time revelling in His goodness in nature anyway!)

When thinking what to write for these letters I find myself often going back & forth over different ideas, rewriting them all several times, before realising that it is God's words, not mine that matter, so finally sitting & listening to what He wants to say.

This month this process has constantly led me back to something Paul said at a recent Elders' meeting when talking about our new members. He told us that when someone asks to become a member of a church, he asks them one question; "What do you believe?"

Since then, I have found this question coming to mind frequently – it seems such a simple question, but how would I answer it? It seems to be more challenging than it seems on the surface. To me it can often be difficult to put into words exactly what I believe, it can seem too big to explain without trivialising the importance of my faith, the difference it has made to me & what it could do for someone else.

Earlier today a song I was listening to reminded me of a tradition we had at the church I grew up in, where on the first Sunday of each year we would have a rededication service. As part of this we would all read The Apostle's Creed. Whilst this seems to be largely an Anglican tradition it's something our Baptist church had done for years & as I grew up the importance of the words being read, in unison with other Christians, helped me affirm & then reaffirm what I believed.

I'm sure most of you will have heard the words of the Apostle's Creed before. But if you're not familiar with it here it is:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

I find as I reread these words for the first time in several years it reminds me of the key aspects of my faith – I believe in God as my Father, I believe that His son, Jesus Christ, came to earth, was crucified & rose again, I believe that through him we can all be resurrected & I believe that Jesus left his Holy Spirit on earth to help us all live a life of faith.

Taking the time to dwell on these fundamental truths is not just reaffirming, it's also exciting! It helps me to see glimpses of God at work in my life & it helps me to reconnect with my Father God & to feel Him close to me.

So, I would like to pass Paul's question on each of you & challenge you to spend some time thinking about what it means to you:

“What do you believe?”

God bless you all.

Rachel

Connie's Trip to Israel



At the time of writing, it is just about 7 weeks since I came back from Jerusalem – and that's nearly the same amount of time that I was there for! The time has passed very quickly since I last wrote for Contact and I'm now back at work –

coming to terms with the fact that my day job no longer involves shepherding tour groups from all over the world around a place that may or may not be the site of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Thank you to those of you who were praying for me during my time away. I asked that God would help me to serve with the strength that he provides and speak his words and I believe he answered this prayer abundantly. During my time working at The Garden Tomb, I had the opportunity to guide over 99 groups from at least 21 countries – over 3,135 people, in all weathers (!)



around the site which naturally provides visitors the opportunity to reflect on the cross, and the hope of the resurrection. I was

so thankful for the opportunity, for the team around me, for our team leaders and the actual work which I loved. Being away from normal life and responsibilities also allowed me the freedom to 'just' focus on the people and tasks in front of me each day which was also restful in an unusual sort of way. I also enjoyed lots of time for reading, socialising with new friends and a bit of sightseeing.



One of my favourite days was a Sunday when some of the team headed out of the city to have a picnic in the fields. As we drove, the neighbour of one of my co-workers (a Dutch lady trained as a tour guide) casually pointed out the place that (traditionally) David is said to have met Goliath. In this

part of the Judean foothills, surrounded by olive groves, vineyards and almond farms, there are ancient ruins to stumble upon everywhere. Our sights were mostly set on finding a quiet place to eat lunch, however! We observed how vividly green the fields were. It can be surprising to learn that this part of the world is not all desert. Seeing the fields at the end of the rainy season, and this real-life middle eastern shepherd guiding his sheep and keeping them out of the road, helped us to reflect on Psalm 23. This is the place and the picture that David had in mind when he wrote that 'The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing'!

I am thankful that during my time away I was able to reflect on God as the Good Shepherd who leads and guides, feeds, protects, keeps and knows his sheep completely. And he had led me to green pastures in every sense.

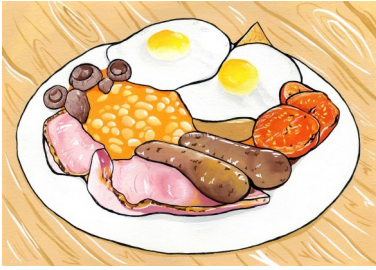
After one of the best experiences of my life I was very sad to come home (particularly as it took me two attempts to actually leave the country due to the strikes over judicial reform) but I do trust that he will continue to lead and guide me now I'm back and as I consider my future. I would value your continued prayer in this. If you are able, please also pray for the work of the Garden Tomb, and for peace in the whole region which (as you may know from watching the news) is troubled, not only by the impact of the ongoing occupation and conflict but with much upheaval related to government proposals for judicial reform.

Shalom!

Connie Pringle



With fellow volunteer Erika from Vancouver.



Men's Breakfast

On the early May Bank Holiday – do you remember which one that was! - more than twenty men, most of whom do not regularly attend Church, sat down to a large and

sumptuous full English breakfast, cooked by our regular *Tasters* chef, Jon, and his young assistant.

Stomachs well filled, everyone listened attentively to our speaker from *Christian Vision for Men*, Gasky. He told his dramatic life story as a Leicestershire Police Officer and of how Jesus picked him up from his lowest, suicidal ebb and turned his life around. It made for gripping listening!

Sincere thanks go to all who helped this be such a successful event, including those who prepared beforehand and the efficient team of waitresses.

Now the Elders need to consider how to follow this up, mindful that we shall be hosting an *Alpha* course, joint with the Anglicans, from September.

Paul



Gasky from Christian Vision for men, guest speaker for the breakfast.



SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR JUNE

The first Sunday in June is Trinity Sunday and we warmly welcome back our former minister, John Hall, who has especially asked to preach on the Trinity: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That will be a Communion service. We shall also celebrate Holy Communion on the last Sunday of June, when we shall welcome **three** new Church members.

In the middle of June, we continue to consider women in the New Testament, how Jesus saw them and how the early Church saw them (even if the later Church got it wrong!), and what we should learn from that.

If you look back at preaching themes over recent years, the majority have, very reasonably, been based on the New Testament. It was felt though that it is time to return briefly to the Old Testament. So, at the end of the month, and for most of July, we shall explore the account of Jonah. I am sure we shall all have a whale of a time with that! *Paul*

June 4th	Focus on The Trinity	John Hall
	Includes Holy Communion	
June 11th	Acts ch. 18 ‘Priscilla’	Ben Wright
June 18th	2 John	Paul Ellis
	‘The Lady Chosen by God’	
June 25th	Jonah Ch. 1 ‘On the run’	Paul Ellis
	Includes Holy Communion	

Sunday's Helping Hands in June

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
	(Kathy)	(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
June 4th	Rachel	David	Mark	Elaine & John	Hilary & Dave
11th	Mark	David	Barry	Alan	Mary & Trevor
18th	Rachel	Sue	Tim	Pete & Elsie	Pat & Linda
25th	Kathy	Debbie	Dave	Rachel	Ruth & Roger

Flowers

(Barbara Conlon)



4th: Ruth Ivens

11th: Pete & Elsie Randall

18th: Helen & Ric Fracchia

25th: Hilary & Dave Smith

“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week beginning....

June 5th: Kathy & Barry

June 12th: Our Chores

June 19th: Dave & Hilary

June 25th: Our Chores



Thanks - from **tearfund**

One thing you can say about Tearfund is they have lovely manners!

On a regular basis our church receives thank you letters for our regular and faithful financial gifts; they also send periodic updates of how this support helps communities become more sustainable and improves the lives of many people.

Last month we received details of a holistic approach to waste management - you may remember our Bin Twinning Christmas Campaign of December 2021.

**The Earth is the Lord's The World and all who live in it
(Psalm 89:11)**

Thanks to your support, we are helping prevent burning waste.

- With no access to water management, 2 billion people have to dump or burn rubbish.
- Burning waste releases toxic fumes, increasing the risks of heart disease and cancer.
- Up to a million people die annually from diseases caused by unmanageable waste.

Small steps to better care for God's creation.

Our support is also helping to improve health, air quality, safety, and education, opening up opportunities for new sources of income, often through church-led self-help groups.

- 1 billion people do not have electricity
- 2 billion people still use firewood, charcoal and dung to cook

Off-grid technology, like solar energy, provide people with electricity for the first time.

Voice for justice hope this shared information will encourage us as a church and give us ideas as we choose to live sustainably, inspired by people from other countries around the world.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.’ 1Peter 4:10



Saturday 10th June at 3.00 pm



Our Resource Area churches will gather at Christ Church for a joint social afternoon, with food (bring & share) a quiz (thanks Paul!) and concluding with worship together.



What could be better?

Please add your name to the sign up list in church so we have an idea of numbers

All Welcome!



**JOINT CHRISTIAN AID WEEK SERVICE
'TAKE AWAY'**



**PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD
SEED – MATTHEW CHAPTER
13 VERSES 31 & 32**

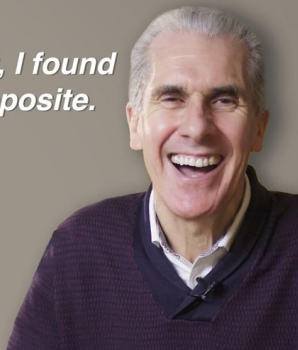
The mustard seed is an evocative, surprising image, representing subversive power in small things. This 'smallest of all seeds' takes over. It was not a welcome sight in an agricultural setting. It was a weed that, once it took hold, grew exponentially and smothered the ground around it.

In a similar way, just and equitable sharing of resources may be unwelcomed by the powerful few who want to control everything. When we unite with those who struggle at the margins, we, like the mustard seed, can create a place where people can rest and nest safely.

Paul

*I thought that becoming
a Christian would mean
the end to my enjoyment
of life.*

*In fact, I found
the opposite.*



Pause for Thought...

Nicky Gumble

Facebook -
17.5.2023

From Mary Pringle

Summer Holiday Club

21st to 23rd August

To do checklist

- book Ratby Church rooms ✓
- ask Open the Book to help with sketches ✓
- ask Extend for support ✓
- plan activities and crafts ✓
- write covering letters and other paperwork ✓
- find volunteers – MOST VITAL!

Without at least **20 volunteers** a day we will be unable to run a summer holiday club for our primary age children.

If you can help for all or part of the time there is a meeting on

Thursday 8th June 7.30 at Ratby Church

to give an outline of the days and check DBS status.

If you can **commit** to help please let us know

Ruth Scott 0116 2321175

Angie Cain 0736 8370121

Parish Office 0116 2393768

I know it will be hard work but it is great
fun as well - honest

**Groby Sings has two exciting pieces of news to report this month.
Firstly, tickets are on sale NOW for our concerts:**



We're a dementia-friendly choir! For more information please get in touch with our dementia coordinator, Louise, at lou_ross@yahoo.com

Groby Sings

AT THE MOVIES

**Saturday 24th June at 7.00pm
& Sunday 25th June at 3.00pm**

Brookvale Groby College Sports Hall

Tickets £5 each available from
Groby Library (Wed and Sat 10-noon) or Groby Club
or any choir member from 22nd May

www.grobysings.org for more information Registered Charity no. 1180490

Come along and support your Community Choir

The second piece of great news is that we've had this message from Hannah Meredith, Communities Editor, BBC Radio Leicester:



'Groby Sings has been shortlisted as a FINALIST in the Community Group category for BBC Radio Leicester's Make a Difference Awards 2023. It's an award that goes to a group of people who have helped to genuinely change the lives of others within the community. We had hundreds of nominations across the eight award categories, so you should be incredibly proud of yourselves that we got to hear about your dedication and effort which is obviously highly valued by many. The judges had to shortlist four finalists for each Make a Difference category and it is just wonderful news that you are one of those finalists for the Community Group award.'

There is to be an awards ceremony on Sunday, 3rd Sept, when the overall winner will be announced. Radio Leicester is planning to record some audio and video clips of the finalists to play in the lead up to the event so listen to our local radio and keep an eye on the Radio Leicester website for glimpses of Groby Singers sharing their passion for singing and socialising.

Meanwhile, we have many singers who are not from Groby and we welcome anyone from anywhere who'd like to sing with us on **Wednesdays**, term time only, at **The Groby Club**, Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester LE6 0DJ, which has ramps and disabled facilities. Groby Sings is a dementia-friendly choir and people with memory problems and their friends and carers are especially welcome to join us.

Enquiries via our website www.grobysings.org. June L Ward
Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490



DIARY DATES

Church Meeting: Thursday June 22nd, 7.30 pm at Church.
Please let Paul or any of the elders have any agenda items you want included. Thank you

Prayers for Ukraine: 8th and 22nd June- 6.30 pm in church

West Leicestershire Area Churches Get Together:

Sat 10th June at 3 pm. A tea followed by worship at Christ Church, Dumbleton Avenue, LE3 2EB. Make sure you add your name to the sign up list. More info on page 17.

Rock Solid (Urban Saints): 2nd, 16th and 30th June.
7.30-9pm at the URC. For years 5-11.

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).

Ratby Holiday club Volunteers meeting: Thursday 8th June,
7.30 pm at Ratby St Philip & St James

Messy Church at Christ Church, Dumbleton Avenue:

Our next session on 11th June will celebrate our the Christ Church and Messy Church anniversaries.

And in August....

A date for your diary!



Strawberry Sunday - 13th August

A bring and share lunch with a strawberry theme.

More details nearer the time.

(Strawberry alternatives will be available!)

July / August 2023 issue

The next Contact magazine will be a double issue to cover July and August. The deadline for this issue is **SAT 18th June 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.



And Finally (One to make you groan, courtesy of the Christ Church Communicator)

Q: What kind of juice drinks do we serve in church?

A: Christianade!



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. A link to the recording can be found on our website and Facebook page (see page 2 for details of this.) 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'.