

# CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



July & Aug 2023

# Happy Birthday

We have 3 of our young church members with birthdays in July

**Harley Euden**

**Emilia Parker**

**Luca Fracchia**



*Happy Birthday to You All!!*

*May the Good Lord Bless You*

Sue Lawrence-Brooks

(None to let you know about in August)

## Strawberry Sunday

13th August at 12.30 pm

A bring and share lunch with a strawberry theme.



Music, fun and fellowship.

Prize for the best Strawberry themed outfit!!!

Bring a savoury plate to share.  
Strawberries and cream will be provided!\*

There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the Church - please let us know if you are coming along so we can plan.

\*Strawberry alternatives will be available!

# Church Minister

Rev'd Paul Ellis: [tallpauellis@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tallpauellis@tiscali.co.uk)



## & Elders

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

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

## WELCOME FROM PHIL CHURCH ELDER.



Summer brings the long school holidays and a time of year when many will take their annual holiday. Whether you are taking a break in the UK, going to a faraway exotic place, or just staying at home I hope you will find time for some of the R's: Relaxation, Rest, Recuperation, Recovery, Reflection and maybe a bit of Reading. Not only will the body benefit but the mind also from our daily routine or work.

Perhaps during your time of relaxation and reflection you may find some time to pray and consider how you may serve our church in the coming year. This could be by giving your time to being a volunteer helper at Tasters or at a church-based activity such as Y Church, serving coffee, welcome, etc. Help will also be needed later in the year when we plan to run an Alpha course.

Maybe you could also reflect on your financial giving to the church? A report was recently sent out showing our financial position with our spending exceeding income monthly.

However you spend your time I hope you will enjoy the summer months and Return with another couple of R's - Rejuvenated and Ready.

Phil

Elder and Church Treasurer

Paul and Jill invite you to  
**AFTERNOON TEA AT THE  
MANSE**

5 Laundon Way, Groby LE6 0YG

Saturday 22nd July

3.00 - 5.00pm

(drop in any time)



**Missing....**

Two photograph albums from the back bookcase in church. Please let Joy know if you have them, or happen to know where they are....

## *Alpha* – “let’s start at the very beginning”

A question for you: which of these would you find easier?

To invite someone to dinner, or

To tell them about Jesus and what, as a Christian, you believe about Him?

I am no cook, but I can still guess which one of those most of us would choose.

But let us raise the stakes.

Which of **these** would you find easier?

To invite someone to a dinner that someone else will host, cook and wash up; or

To spend ten hours talking with them about Jesus, faith, prayer, the Bible and the Holy Spirit?

At this point, that modern word “no-brainer” enters my head!

The *Alpha* course has been incredibly successful for decades now in explaining in a cringe-free way what Christians believe. It does so through a series of evenings with a simple format: a meal together, followed by a lively DVD, followed by a group discussion of the DVD, where all comments and opinions are heard.

Groby Churches have laid on the *Alpha* course successfully a few times in past years

This autumn, Groby URC, Ratby Methodist Church and the two Parish Churches will together run an *Alpha* course in the URC.

This is your golden opportunity to invite a friend, or maybe a work colleague or relation, to find out what makes us Christians tick, to discover for themselves what the Christian Church believes.

If you invite someone, you can come along with them each Monday. The course starts on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September with a meal at 7.00 pm**. For the sake of the catering, those attending are asked to register, mentioning any food allergy, at [office@bradgatechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@bradgatechurches.org.uk) by the previous Monday (11<sup>th</sup> September).

We shall need cooks and washers-up:  
the URC will be responsible for the meals on  
18<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> November.

We should like to be offer a crèche each Monday evening too, so that will need staffing.

Above all though, I sincerely hope that you will take this opportunity to invite a guest. Unless, of course, you would find it easier to host your friend yourself for eight dinners and explain to them yourself everything Christians believe!

*Paul.*



## A June Afternoon at Christ Church

(Sue Lawrence-Brooks reports on a very enjoyable social afternoon as our five area churches gathered for praise, worship, food and chat!)

Was it sunny? Yes it was!

Was it hot? Yes it was!! An eyewatering 33°!

But that didn't deter us from having a perfectly lovely afternoon in the cool of Christchurch, together with friends from all 5 area churches.

The quiz was taxing to say the least - but we, in Orange Group, struggled on valiantly and succeeded in avoiding bottom place by a whisker. Our knowledge of board games and TV adverts most definitely 'require improvement'.

But then - oh my goodness! What a feast awaited us - a simple 'bring and share' tea turned out to be a sumptuous banquet and we were able to sit outside in the shady garden area to enjoy food and fellowship, together with copious cups of tea in the best of our British tradition.





The afternoon concluded with outdoor worship, Paul's choice of theme being 'God's Creation'.



What could be more appropriate as we relished the gentle breeze, cast our eyes upwards at the clear blue sky, admired the beauty around us and, in the quiet moments, listened to the birds singing in the trees.

**O Lord my God!**  
**when I in awesome wonder**  
**consider all the works Thy hand has made . . .**  
**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,**  
**How great Thou art,**  
**How great Thou art!**

Thank you, Paul and Jill and to all at Christchurch for hosting such a very enjoyable afternoon - see you all again soon!

*Sue*



## Tribute to Jean Poole

(25th September 1927 - 26th April 2023)

Jean was the eldest of five, with four younger brothers.

On leaving school she worked in the typing pool of Premier Screw, meeting Fred whom she married in 1950. Fred had three children, Ron, Derek and

Sheila. When Fred started up his own engineering company in Rookery Lane, it was perhaps inevitable that Jean should do the office work there.

Jean and Fred enjoyed ballroom dancing, Spanish holidays and cruises together, and the grandchildren when they came along. Sadly Fred died in 1996 and was greatly missed.

It was through Fred's involvement with our church that brought Jean to become a regular attender.

Jean loyally served the church in many ways, - preparing drinks for both toddler groups (Noah's Ark and CATCH), as well as organising coffee and flower rotas for Sunday morning services.

Her love of and skills with flowers always came to the fore an arrangement was required - whether it was harvest, a wedding, funeral or a Sunday Service.



Jean also volunteered for the WRVS in a café at Groby Road Hospital and was a member of Women's Guild.

Jean enjoyed coach holidays, meeting Joe on one such occasion, who turned out to be a good friend. They enjoyed trips and short holidays together.

He sadly passed away three years ago.

Jean was always very smartly dressed, walking most days until very recently, and getting on the bus to go into town regularly. She continued to be fiercely independent even when beginning to struggle with dementia. However, when she was unable to live on her own, she moved to Portland House in Kirby Muxloe where she was well cared for. She passed away peacefully following a short illness.

*Edited from the Tribute given by Rev. Paul Ellis at Jean's funeral.*

I would like to thank everyone who helped with Jean's funeral service;

Rev Paul for the lovely service & his help with the funeral arrangements,

Kathy & Sue for welcoming us all to Church & helping with the funeral arrangements,

Barry for his work on the media desk, David for the music, & Joy, Kay and Angela for the lovely flower arrangements.

We were all very impressed with how smoothly and efficiently everything was done. Thank you.

God Bless,

Sheila, Dave & Angie



## SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR JULY & AUGUST

A Christian was once asked, rather incredulously, whether he really believed in the whale that swallowed Jonah. To which he replied that he believed not only in the whale, but also in the worm! If, like that questioner, you do not know to what he was referring, that will be revealed in our series from the Old Testament book of Jonah through most of the Sundays in July.

Then, we return to the New Testament and to the letter to the Philippians, which, like Jonah, conveniently divides into four chapters, one per Sunday. Not as theologically challenging to understand as Romans, nor as long as some of Paul's letters, many people would say Philippians was their favourite of the Biblical letters.

*Paul.*



*GOD gives better directions than Sat-Nav*

<b>July 2nd</b>	<b>Jonah Ch.2 'Jonah's Prayer'</b>	Gary Wood
<b>July 9th</b>	<b>Jonah Ch. 3 'Sin City'</b>	Cate Coffey
<b>July 16th</b>	<b>Jonah Ch 4 'God Loves More'</b>	Paul
<b>July 23rd</b>	<b>Philippians Ch. 1 'To Live is Christ'</b> <b>Service to include Communion</b>	Paul
<b>July 30th</b>	<b>Preachers choice</b>	Jim Coaton
<b>Aug. 6th</b>	<b>Philippians Ch 2 'Imitating Christ's Humility'</b>	Wendy Hall
<b>Aug.13th</b>	<b>Philippians Ch 3 'Rejoice in the Lord'</b>	Paul
<b>Aug. 20th</b>	<b>Philippians Ch 4 'Thank you Letter'</b>	Anne Willmott
<b>Aug. 27th</b>	<b>Reading to be confirmed</b> <b>Service to include Communion</b>	Paul

## Sunday's Helping Hands in July & August

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>July</b>		(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
2nd	Phil	Sue	Chris	Linda	Mary & Trevor
9th	Mary	Debbie	Tim	Hilary	Peter & Margaret
16th	Wendy	David	Mark	Ruth	Joy & Cheryl
23rd	Kathy	Debbie	Barry	Joy & Peter	Hilary & Dave
30th	Sue	Helen	Dave	Sue & Mike	Kathy & Barry

<b>Aug.</b>					
6th	Mark	TBC	Chris	Barbs	Pat & Linda
13th	Rachel	TBC	Tim	Margaret & Maurice	Ruth & Roger
20th	Phil	TBC	Mark	Joy & Peter	Kathy & Barry
27th	Kathy	TBC	Barry	Elaine & John	Peter & Margaret

# Sunday Flowers

(Barbara Conlon)



## July

2nd: Caroline & Alan

9th: Barbara & Hedley

16th: Barbara Conlon

23rd: Hilary Seaton

30th: Joy & Peter

## August

6th: Barbara Conlon

13th: Stacey Eudon

20th: Kathy & Phil Holmes

27th: Rachel Cooper-Kennedy



## “The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)

## July

Week beginning....

3rd: Linda & Tim

10th: Our Chores

17th: Sue LB & Sue A

24th: Our Chores

31st: Ruth & Ann T

## August

Week beginning....

7th: Our Chores

14th: Joy & Pat

21st: Our Chores

28th: Trevor & Mary

## Tribute to Gina Blower

(21st August 1935 - 7th May 2023)

Gina became a member of this Church in April 1976.

She was a Sunday School Teacher and served as an Elder for eleven years, from 1977 until 1988. For the last four of those years she was also Church Secretary, part of this time being during a vacancy between ministers, John Filsak's departure and Norman Whitaker's arrival, which increases the workload. Yet what increased her load much more was that Gina served in the era when the old



Chapel, on what is now our car park, was demolished and our current buildings – first the hall and then the Church - were erected.

That process was far from straightforward! Not only were there, inevitably, numerous meetings; but Gina was more involved than anyone else in wrangles over whether the decrepit old building should be preserved, and she even had to develop an understanding of rights of way permissions! John Mee, who was Church Treasurer at that crucial but busy time, reports how very easy Gina was to work with.

It was also at this time that prayer triplets were established.



*“I, every member of this Church over the last 40 years, and many more who attend activities here during the week, owe Gina a huge debt of gratitude. I do not doubt her driving force to keep going against the obstacles of a ‘crumbling listed building’, needing to seek planning permission a **second** time and everything else a Church Secretary faces, her motivation was to serve her Lord Jesus and to provide the best place for His people in Groby to offer Him their worship. Her faith in Christ shone clearly, even in my few visits to her. In one of my final visits to Gina, last month, she got us singing together Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Now it is through her Christian faith that we can know that Gina Blower is not just rid of her illness but has risen to glory with the Lord she loved, worshipped and did so much to enable us to worship in comfort. Rev. Paul*

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things (the thing) of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Saviour  
And life more abundant and free

His word shall not fail you, He promised  
Believe Him and all will be well  
Then go to a world that is dying  
His perfect salvation to tell

## Rev'd Riffat Ordination as Priest

Do keep Riffat in your prayers as she takes a next step in ministry.

She is to be ordained as priest on Saturday 1st July at St Mary's in Melton Mowbray.

This is a significant moment for Riffat and the congregations of the Groby and Ratby churches.

*(edited from Rev. Ed)*



**'WHAT I CAN DO, YOU CANNOT.  
WHAT YOU CAN DO, I CANNOT. BUT  
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SOMETHING  
BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD.'**

**- MOTHER  
TERESA**

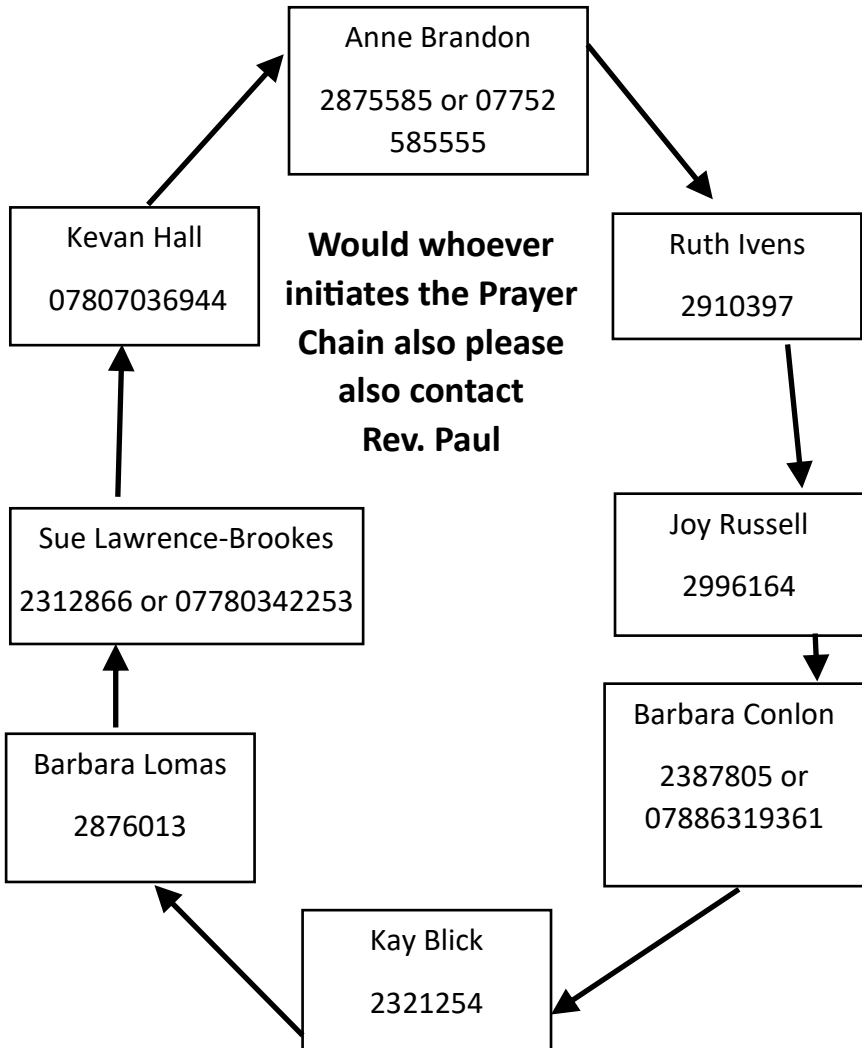


Shared by Nicky  
Gumble on  
Facebook.

From Mary  
Pringle

## Prayer Chain May 2023

We've had a prayer chain running in church for some years. Its been updated recently so printed below for your information. If you would like prayer for something please alert one of the people on the prayer chain. They can pass on your request to others, and then a lot of people are praying in just a short space of time.



## Christian Aid Week 2023

A huge thank you to everyone who prayed, gave and took action during Christian Aid Week 2023.

This year Churches Together in Groby raised £ 3,228.50. An additional £527.50 will go to Christian Aid from gift aid promises. While this is less than last year it is still a very welcome sum of money which can help more farmers like Esther and Jen secure a fair price for their crops and support and educate their children.



Christian Aid Week is the biggest act of Christian witness in the UK and it was inspiring to see so many homes in Groby displaying posters and flying the flag for Christian Aid.

It was also wonderful to have the support once again of Classic Cuts Hairdressers, Groby Community Library and Laundon Way Co-Op who all helped as drop off points and displayed posters too. We are most thankful that they make time in their busy working days to help in this way.

Also thanks must go to Ann Wignall who donated the takings from the sale of her beautiful 'Dove' cards to Christian Aid Week. She is a truly talented artist.



Y Church also celebrated Christian Aid Week with 'Pigeon Pea' related games and activities that the children enjoyed while learning about Malawi and the meaning of compassion.



They also tried out some pigeon pea biscuits!!

Well done everyone for your wonderful support for Christian Aid Week 2023.

Finally thinking ahead to 2024 – we will probably still deliver envelopes next year as this appears to be the most effective way to raise money for Christian Aid. However, it would be great to have some ideas of new ways in which we can promote the week to the village and perhaps mix things up a bit. Do speak to us if you would like to get involved at the planning stage or have any ideas!



Thanks everyone.

Mary and Trevor Pringle



## DIARY DATES

**Church Meeting:** Thursday 22nd June at 7.30 pm

Please let Paul or one of the elders if you have something for the agenda. All are welcome to our Church Meetings.

**Prayers for Ukraine:** July 6th and 20th, and August 3rd, 17th and 31st. 6.30 pm in church

**Strawberry Sunday:** 13th August at 12.30 pm (see first page for more info.)

**Men's Breakfast:** Monday 28th August at 9 am at the URC

**Ladies Afternoon Tea:** Sunday September 17th. Guest speaker Anji Barker from the Pioneer Hub. Time to be confirmed.

**Alpha Course:** An Alpha course will be running on Monday evenings from September 18th.

***For all the above last four events, please consider who you could invite along***

They say its impossible for one person to make a  
difference

But impossible is just a word

One that offers little resistance to a soul that  
decides to align itself with compassion.

To put its faith in love, and put that love in action.

Gideon Heugh.

## September 2023 issue

The deadline for September's issue of Contact is **SAT 19th August 2023** 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.

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

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

“I know its your first time back on a boat Noah.....”



Groby United Reformed Church  
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## CONTACTS

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**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 3 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'.