

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



November 2023

Happy Birthday

No Birthdays to let you know about in November

Sue Lawrence-Brooks

Pause for Thought...



We may try to impress people with our strengths; but we connect with people through our vulnerabilities.

Nicky Gumble on Facebook.

From Mary Pringle.

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

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

A link to recordings of our services can be found on both our church Website (click on the 'worship' Tab at the top) and on our Facebook page.

WELCOME FROM OUR MINISTER, PAUL



Dear Friends,

This month we shall again remember them. Some readers will have first-hand memories of the Second World War. Others will remember people who themselves remembered first-hand.

On Remembrance Sunday we shall remember them: some we knew very well and some were barely acquaintances. Their stories make fascinating reading. Like that of William Coltman, whose story some of us were privileged to hear from his great-grandson over breakfast in August.

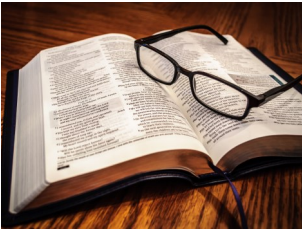
It looks as if this year we shall be additionally mindful of those who are being killed in both Israel and Palestine.

A fortnight after Remembrance Sunday we shall remember Another Who died, the One Who said, "Do this in remembrance of Me". Is He One Whom we know well? Or is He barely an acquaintance? Do we find His story as captivating as those of the servicemen who died? How well do we know His story?

Of course it is all there for us: four versions of it in the New Testament, one of which, Matthew's, forms the basis of our current sermon series. Have you ever thought of the Bible as God's letter to you? A letter from the Heavenly Front?

Is the Bible that precious to you? Do you open it daily with an excitement over what you will read, like a letter from a loved one? I hope so, for it is indeed God's Message to us all.

Your friend and minister,
Paul.



SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov 5th	Matt ch 6:5-18 Prayer and Fasting	Gary Wood
Nov 12th	Remembrance Sunday	Elders
Nov 19th	Matt ch 6:19-34 Seeking and Living the Kingdom.	Gordon Cresswell
Nov 26th	Matt ch 7 Astonishing Teaching The service includes sharing All Age Holy Communion.	Paul

November 12th is Remembrance Sunday.

Our service will be approximately 30 / 35 minutes long 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.

Paul will lead an **All Age Communion** November 26th

November's Helping Hands

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
Nov.	(Kathy)	(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
5th	Mark	Debbie	Tim	Alan & Judith	Mary & Trevor
12th	Wendy	David	Mark	Elsie & Pete	Pat & Linda
19th	Phil	Sue	Dave	Rachel H & Margaret	Ruth & Roger
26th	Kathy	David	Chris	Linda & Hilary	Kathy & Barry



Sunday Flowers (Barbara Conlon)

Nov 5th: Cheryl Read
 Nov 12th: Sue Lawrence-Brooks
 Nov 19th: Jane Hinds
 Nov 26th: Judith Robinson

“The Clean Team!” (Kathy Du Boulay)



Week Beginning
 Nov 6th: Ruth & Ann T
 Nov 13th: Our Chores
 Nov 20th: Joy & Pat
 Nov 27th: Our Chores

It would help to bear in mind that on the weeks the professional cleaners visit us, they now plan to come early on Wednesday mornings, as their work schedule changes and they will be in Groby that day.

Please let Kathy know if this presents difficulties at any time.



Our Harvest Lunch Together.



Harvest Festival

From the earliest times of crop growing, people have been giving thanks for harvesting their crops, often with an animistic belief in spirits.

In pre reformation England, harvest festival, called Lammas (meaning loaf mass), farmers made loaves from the new wheat crop, which was used as communion bread at a special mass, giving thanks to God and celebrating harvest. This custom ended when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church.

By the 16th century several customs were established by village and farming communities to celebrate harvest, and by appointing a Lord of Harvest to organise the gathering of the crop and preside at the harvest supper. The supper consisted of a stuffed goose and vegetables. This was also the origin of the Goose Fair.

The church based celebration originated in Cornwall in 1843 by thanking God for his provision and celebrating with hymns that we still rejoice in singing.

At a recent “Hymns of Praise” service it showed a church having a community project based on growing a crop. This included people of all ages, and family groups. For them, celebrating harvest had real meaning. What a splendid idea for a church adjacent to an allotment.

Jim Coaton

Our Harvest Flowers.





Dare we talk about Christmas in November?

Yes we have to if we are to do Christmas a little differently in 2023!

We all have individual traditions and it's becoming something of a tradition here in Groby URC to include a Christmas appeal that has a positive impact on our neighbours around the world.

Who can forget **Tearfund's** Bin Twinning, 'Tippy Tappy' and Toilet Twinning to name but three!

With the Christmas Harvest Appeal we can focus on.....

With attention focussed on the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, there is a risk of that the needs of millions of people will go unmet. Conflict and climate change are pushing people around the world towards total disaster.

Our **Christmas Harvest** donations could provide relief such as food, safe water and hygiene kits to people in desperate need.



Lucia from Uganda was forced to drop out of school to help her mother feed her family.

[Look out for details in the December Contact of how we can do our bit.](#)

LET'S HOPE NATURE WEAVES HER MAGIC...

The new flower bed at the manse was enough to make Monty Don weep! The garden specialists came and tackled the rampant ivy using pick axes and chemicals. After persistent phone calls they returned then departed implying the problem was sorted after which they promptly ceased trading.

An enthusiastic 'Bodgit & Scarper' church members' team were the next to try their luck, applying brawn and their energies on the creeping, climbing menace. They weren't at all optimistic that the end was in sight for *Hedera helix*.

With winter fast approaching after one of the wettest autumns ever, two ex-church secretaries donned their wellies and planted out 35 perennials & climbers, all of which had been donated from member's gardens. The grunt work yielded up more ivy roots, lumps of concrete and some red shale; little hope of a prize winning blooming lovely perennial border! Come on Mother Nature, give us a helping hand.



Sunday Service Take Aways

Richard Lindop kindly preach for us on Sunday, 15th October. He very bravely took on the challenge of giving us an overview of Matthew Chapters 5 to 7, The Sermon on the Mount. We will be looking more closely at these chapters over the coming weeks and Richard's thoughts gave us an ideal introduction.

These chapters are talking about change, being changed into Christ's likeness. The starting point is repentance and a change of mindset so that we live as Kingdom people, different from the world around us.

So the three chapters are about how we follow Jesus.

- **Chapter 5, following Jesus in relation to other people.**

As redeemed people, we are renewed by Christ's righteousness so we can live differently from the world.

- **Chapter 6, following Jesus in relation to God.**

We need to depend daily on God and let our relationship with God set our priorities.

- **Chapter 7, following Jesus in the knowledge of God's judgement.**

Living as repentant sinners we must follow God's way, living lives that reflect our calling as God's people. Only in the power of the Holy Spirit can we live the way Jesus asks us to live.

Richard's summary:

Our morality should come from God's revelation, not society's standards.

Our mentality should be formed by learning from Jesus every day.

Mastery - we should acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and Master.

The above can only give a flavour of Richard's challenging sermon - the full sermon is on YouTube if you missed out or would like to hear it again.

Mary



Groby URC Prayer Sheet – November 2023

“This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you.” John 15:12

Welcome to our November prayer sheet. We hope that you are finding our new format helpful in your prayers.

Following on from our harvest service in October we are encouraging you to pray for those in need. There are also prayers for the recruitment of a new Youth & Children’s worker and for the escalating situation in the Middle East.

Prayers for those in Need.

Early in October we held our Harvest Festival service, the focus of the service was thinking about those who have less than us and what we can do to help them.

In Y Church the children spent some time talking about what we might be able to do to help others and how we can pray for those we aren’t able to actually help. They wrote down some brilliant prayers and ideas of what we could pray about so we thought we would share these with you as things to think about while you pray on this topic:

- I pray that people have so much food and they don’t have to starve.
- I can give people food, stuff, houses and drinks.
- Dear God, can you help people in countries that don’t have enough food by giving them what they need.
- God loves everyone.



Prayers for Israel and Palestine

You Shall Not Kill

O Lord,
we hear the news and don't know what to say,
we see those scenes of violence and don't know how to pray;
we read of people fighting over the Land and know it was ever
thus.

We see the surprise and shock,
hear the cries for revenge,
taste the violence begetting more pain and sorrow,
and touch the bitterness of oppression and loss breeding yet
more violence;
a vicious circle that destroys life and land leading to despair and
hopelessness.

We hear of international outrage and messages of support,
but know there's more to this complex story of land, justice, faith,
security, and history than can be encapsulated in easy sound
bites.

We watch, listen, read, and try to pray but there are no words in
us.

Lord, You told us not to kill;
a commandment venerated and wrestled with by Jews,
Christians, and Muslims;
a hard commandment:
one we always want some wiggle room with
yet today we see Your children killing each other.

Violence

as a weapon of oppression,
purporting to be a weapon of protest,
seeking to be a bargaining chip
disfigures our humanity, distorts our perception, and disables our
discipleship.

In these desperate times, Lord,
give strength to those who work for peace:
diplomats and governments calling for restraint,
the Red Cross offering to visit all who are detained,
faith leaders proclaiming Your commandments in a world at war
and peace lovers praying for justice.

Bind up the broken hearted,
give grace to those seeking to end the spiral of violence,
grant wisdom to those seeking peaceful ways to resolve age old
conflicts;
and give us the prayers, words, and perseverance needed
to make our discipleship, our efforts for peace and justice count.

Amen.

From the URC website.

[Prayers In A Time of Conflict - United Reformed Church](#)



Prayers for a Children & Youth Worker

Following extensive work by 'Extend'/Churches Together in Goby, in consultation with representatives of Leicester Diocese and the URC Synod, in the second week of October a job advert went out for a full-time Children & Youth Worker for Groby. The closing date for applications is 20th November. (job advert on next page)

- Above all, we ask God that His choice of person will see the advert and be prompted by Him to apply.
- In faith that this prayer will be answered, we seek wisdom for those charged with the interview and selection process, whether there be just one candidate or more.
- Let us give thanks that, through the faithful generosity of local Christians, we have the financial resources to pay this worker for several years.
- We pray for whoever may apply, that they will hear God's calling and that they will see His hand in whatever decision the selection panel makes about their future.
- We pray for the arrival and settling in of a new Worker in the New Year, for their residential and working accommodation and for their initial contact with the various youth and children's groups the two Churches run and their relationships with the leadership of the URC and of St Philip & St James'.
- Beyond all this, we continue to pray for the children and the teenagers for whom we seek this Worker, for those already with Christian faith and for those who will yet be drawn to Christ.

CHILDREN & YOUTH WORKER – Churches Together in Groby

**Do you love Jesus and want to share that love with children,
young people and their households?**

**Can you follow the Holy Spirit's lead to step out in faith and
pioneer new ground?**

We are recruiting a full-time Children and Youth Worker to serve local children, young people and families alongside existing teams of volunteers. Can you take hold of what is already happening and help it to flourish and initiate new opportunities of outreach and discipleship?

We are looking for someone who is committed to their own personal discipleship and faith and has the desire and skills to share this in our two Churches and local community. The role will be dedicated to helping all in our community, from birth to leaving school, to experience the radical transformation of God's love. Experience of work with children or young people is essential and an appropriate qualification to Diploma level desirable.

Appointment is subject to a DBS check.

If you believe that God may be calling you to come and help build up God's Kingdom here, please contact to request more

information and an application pack: **application@ctgroby.org**

A full application pack is also available for download at

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5501/page/83901/view/>

For an informal conversation, please contact Rev Paul Ellis,

Minister of Groby URC: **tallpauellis@tiscali.co.uk** and

Rev Ed Bampton, Rector of Groby and Ratby:

revdredbampton@outlook.com.

Closing date: 20 November 2023

Interview date: 15 to 16 December 2023



Rock Solid Returns

Rock Solid has started back again this term with 17 youngsters joining us on 8th September.

It continues to be aimed at school years 5 (10 year olds) and above but mainly attracts those up to year 9. Three children joined who had been to the holiday



club and had just started year 5, two from Groby and one from Ratby. Some of the youngsters who attend Rock Solid helped as young leaders for the holiday club. This not only allows them to listen to the teaching but provides a vital bridge between the age groups and saves my aging legs!



The group has steadily grown, from a group of 3 to 5 young people, and has had over 25 through the doors. 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, cake or in hot weather ice creams! While mouths are full we have a discussion session, then finish with a more formal activity such as the 'bottle game'. This term

we continue to use 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 over half the youngsters who attend have no church connection this seemed the appropriate level of understanding. This term we are looking at 'Who is Jesus'. You'll be relieved to know that last week all the youngsters thought Jesus was a real person who actually lived!

Many thanks to Laurence, Rachael, Ricardo 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!

Prayer pointers

- That the number of volunteers and youngsters continues to increase.
- The possibility of a paid individual to **help** (not run) with this work.
- That carers and parents continue to investigate their own understanding of Christianity

Ruth Scott 07792 376059

Dates coming up:

3rd & 17th Nov.

1st Dec.



Pinkies up Ladies for



Afternoon Tea & Talk

Some photos that came in after last month's Contact deadline - well worth including this month. Thank you ladies for letting us go to print!



The speaker, Anji Barker, of the Newbiggin Community Trust





THE JUST SHOP AUTUMN BAGS LOTS OF NEW ARRIVALS IN STORE

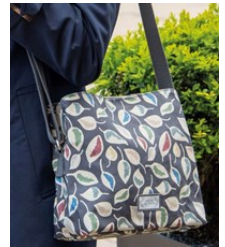
With new deliveries from Lefrik and Earth Squared to add to our stocks from Eco Chic and Coral + Spink, we have the bag for every occasion!



Lefrik's backpacks made from recycled plastic bottle fabric, combine high-performance and function with Spanish style.



Earth Squared's range of contemporary, stylish and affordable fashion accessories are made by skilled fair trade artisans in Vietnam.



Cora + Spink create durable long-lasting backpacks made in India by skilled fair trade artisans.

Opening Hours

Tuesday to Friday 11 am - 4 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm

(I can really recommend bags from the Just Shop, having bought one made from recycled drinks cartons 20 or so years ago and still using - you may have seen it!! Kathy)



News from the West Leicestershire Churches

When the representatives of the five Churches that comprise the West Leicestershire Resource Area met last month, I offered to write regularly for all the Church Newsletters. Most of these are published in alternate months, so I shall write once every other month with brief news of each of the Churches. I hope this will inform your prayers for the other Churches in the Resource Area.

First though I want to thank you for your kindness in sponsoring me for the Ride & Stride that I undertook last month (on the hottest day of the year!) Through the generosity of members of all five Churches, and a few other people, I have raised over £500, which will be shared equally between Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust and St Stephen's (which I chose as the Church in greatest need for maintaining an historic building).

And now the news...

Braunstone has settled into a routine of a morning service and an afternoon service each month, with my usually leading at least the afternoon ones. At Harvest, they made very generous contributions to a Lunch Box Campaign to improve the content of local children's packed lunches.

Christ Church offers an excellent *Messy Church* for families one Sunday afternoon each month, with an impressive level of adult help. Please remember that I base myself at Christ Church each Tuesday morning if you wish to see me, with or without an appointment. It is a joy that a whole new family has joined us each Sunday morning.

Enderby had a difficult summer, losing two very active Church members. The village Methodist Chapel also closed and we wait to see whether any of its members choose to worship at the URC instead. We recently held a successful Auction of Promises for Church funds.

Groby is hosting an *Alpha* course, run with our ecumenical partners, with a dozen participants ranging in age from 19 to 93! The *Alpha* Awayday will be on 4th November.

Together with Groby Parish Church, we have just advertised for a Children & Youth Worker: the advert is on the Synod website if you know of someone who might be interested. We are praying that the right person will apply.

I have this term joined the *Open the Book* team that each month takes Bible accounts into all three Groby primary schools.

St Stephen's has welcomed to worship a couple who will be getting married there at Christmas. There is also a new student at Loughborough University who has offered to play our organ some Sundays and recently made a promising start.

There are two future events for all five Area Churches:

- **Christmas Capers** on Saturday 14th December from 4.00 pm, when each Church is asked to provide two items to the afternoon, such as a song, a poem, something humorous or anything else pertaining to Christmas. This will be at Groby, who will provide hot drinks and a snack.
- **A Quiet Day** at Launde Abbey in the spring, probably on a weekday, with an outside leader. No date has been set yet.

Finally, Groby has been contacted by someone who has the complete Bible in CDs (the talking Bible), which belonged to his late wife and he would love it to go to a good home (free of charge). If you, or anyone you know, would be interested please get in touch with me.

God be with you all,

Paul.



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972



DIARY DATES

Prayers for Ukraine: Thursday November 9th & 23rd, 6.30 pm in church

Alpha Course: An Alpha course is running on Monday evenings from September 18th in our church.

Rock Solid: Every alternate Fridays, 7.30 - 9 pm at our church. For Year 5 - 11 children. Nov. 3rd and 17th.

Messy Monday's: used to be Whacky Wednesdays, now every Monday (term-time) 3.15 - 4.15 pm at Ratby Parish church

And some Christmas Dates?

Christmas Capers: A get together with our friends from the Resource Area Churches on Saturday 16th Dec. at 4 pm at our Church

Christmas Carol Service: December 17th with invitations to all. Paul to lead this service

All Age Christmas Eve Service: 5 pm



Waiting for the next Church lunch?

(Photo courtesy of Joy)



December / January 2023 issue

The next Contact issue will be a double issue for December and January. If possible, it would be good to be able to include all rotas to end of January but understand this is not always possible. The deadline for this issue is **SAT 18th November 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.

A note from Barb Lomas to those who deliver Contact:

Could all those who kindly deliver Contact please return some of the rubber bands that fasten them together to Barb Lomas (or Kathy) as I am running short. Thank you.

Groby United Reformed Church
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CONTACTS

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Paul Ellis <tallpaulellis@tiscali.co.uk>

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

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORKER: Vacancy, currently
being advertised.

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 Rock Solid 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'.