

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



March 2024

Happy Birthday



Roberto Fracchia celebrates his birthday in March

Happy Birthday to You

May the Good Lord Bless You

Sue Lawrence-Brooks



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.

Our Minister and Church Elders



Rev'd Paul Ellis



Margaret



Sue



Mary



Wendy



Mark



Phil

WELCOME FROM MARK, CHURCH ELDER



Welcome to the March 2024 edition of Contact.

We are now in Spring, a time when we begin to see growth in our gardens, perhaps snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils. The days are getting longer.

We are also in Lent, which is an old English word for lengthen. For Christians, Lent is a time for self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter:

God proved His love on
the Cross. When Christ
hung, and bled, and
died, it was God saying
to the world, 'I love you.'

Billy Graham

BrainyQuote®

This year we are reintroducing a service on Good Friday, led by our minister Paul. This is an opportunity to reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus who spoke the words: "It is finished" meaning his work on earth, and "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.". This is a quote from [Psalm 31 verse 5](#), meaning that Jesus gave up his will and life fully to God, trusting in him, even into death.

Then on Easter Sunday it is with joy we celebrate that He is risen. So as we see nature waking up after winter, let's work to seek out spiritual growth for ourselves and others, secure in the knowledge of his love for us.

"He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:7

God bless you

Mark



TEACHING AND READINGS FOR MARCH 2024

March 3rd	Matthew Ch12 vv1-14 Lord of the Sabbath.	Ben Wright
Mar 10th (Mothering Sunday)	Matthew Ch12 vv14-30 Behold My servant and a House divided	Rev. Paul Ellis
Mar 17th	Matthew Ch12 vv31-37 Opposing Matters	Tom Donoghue
Mar 24th (Palm Sunday)	Matthew Ch21vv 1-11 Palm Sunday	Rev. Paul Ellis
Mar 29th 10am (Good Friday)	Matthew Ch 27 (verses to be confirmed)	Rev Paul Ellis
Mar 31st (Easter Sunday)	Matthew Ch28 vv1-10 Easter Sunday Service includes sharing Holy Communion.	Rev. Paul Ellis

We will be holding a simple reflective service on Good Friday at 10 am (no provision for children on this occasion.)

The visiting preacher on the 17th, Tom Donoghue, is the Synod Mission Development Officer.

March's Helping Hands

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
March	(Mary)	(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
3rd	Mark	Sue	Dave	Elaine & John	Roger & Ruth
10th	Sue	David	Barry	Alan & Judith	Kathy & Barry
17th	Wendy	Sue	Chris	Elsie & Pete	Peter & Margaret
24th	Phil	Debbie	Mark	Rachel & Margaret	Joy & Cherryl
29th	Margaret	David	Tim	Linda & Hilary	N/A
31st	Mary	Debbie	Barry	Ruth & Roger	Hilary & Dave



Sunday Flowers

(Barbara Conlon)

March 3rd: John & Elaine
 March 10th : Sue LB
 March 17th : Rachel & Dan
 March 24th: Kay Blick
 March 31st: Kathy & Barry

“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)



Week Beginning

March 4th : Our Chores
 March 11th: Trevor & Mary
 March 18th: Our Chores
 March 24th: Kathy & Barry
 April 1st: Our Chores

A WHISPER FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

based on some thoughts by Tearfund ambassador, Pete Greig

tearfund

Grobby URC collected a tidy sum for the Christmas Appeal and also sent off 5% of our annual church offertory.

THAT'S US DONE AND DUSTED FOR ANOTHER YEAR! OR IS IT?



Collecting money, yes, however, those benefitting from the Appeal face huge challenges to feed themselves due to climate change, a situation caused mainly by the developed nations. Pete Greig encourages us to pray into these overwhelming problems, to spend more time listening and less speaking. He suggests that we sit quietly to listen, maybe looking at a picture of people in desperate need, then stare at it until their plight becomes our plight.

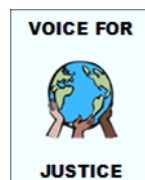
So often we feel overwhelmed and unable to keep up with the world's problems... Prayer isn't just for the work of Tearfund; in intimate times of prayer, God is able to change us, to give us compassion and insight. Ultimately, it is in prayer where we will find the answers of how to identify with our brothers & sisters in areas where Tearfund lives out the Kingdom of God.

Pete Greig is the founder of the 24-7 Prayer Movement. His latest book **'How to hear God' A Simple Guide for Normal People**, is an encouragement for us all.

See Contact Prayer Sheet on page 14.

If you are unable to find a copy of Pete Greig's book, you can read his article in the Spring edition of Tear times.

Ask one of the team for a copy. Joy, Kathy, Ruth



Recommended Reads

Who Moved the Stone by Frank Morison

This is not a new book, and many of you may already have read it. It was first published in 1958 but is as relevant today as then.

The author, Frank Morison, set out to write a book detailing the last few days of Jesus' life, looking for scientific evidence and human intervention to explain the Crucifixion and Resurrection story. The book he set out to write, didn't get written.

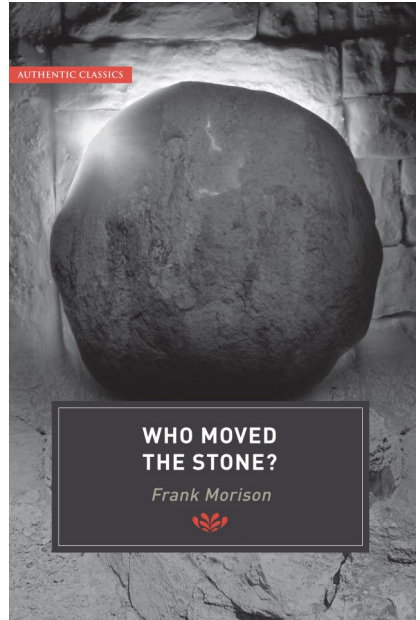
"The writer discovered that not only could he no longer write the book as he had once conceived it, but that he would not if he could". His perspective on the facts changed "by the very stubbornness of the facts themselves".

'Who Moved the Stone' was written instead.

It is an in-depth exploration of what happened between the death of Jesus and the resurrection, as recorded in the Bible. It uses many information sources and is full of vital and interesting detail. Its a powerful tool of persuasion for those who question Christianity.

I found it absorbing and convincing; a timely read leading up to Easter. I have a copy for anyone who would like to borrow it.

Kathy



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday 28th March

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN GROBY

You are invited to share a light meal, together with our friends from St Philip & St James, which will include an informal Holy Communion.

It will be held at Groby URC and will begin at 7.00pm
For catering purposes, a sign up list will be up 2 weeks beforehand.

Pause for Thought...



Let God's promises shine on your problems.

Corrie Ten Boom



Future *Pause for Thought...*

Its always good to include contributions from different people. I would be delighted to receive suggestions for 'Pause for Thought' to include in future editions of Contact. Kathy

Groby URC Prayer Sheet



“A new command I give you:

Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13: 34-35

Welcome to our March prayer sheet.

Following on from our AGM at the end of January this month we are encouraged to pray for our Elders, including those elected at the AGM, as well prayers for Tasters based on their annual report. We also have a prayer request from our Voices for Justice Team

Prayers for our Elders

At our Annual Church meeting in January the church members elected Margaret Chaplin to join the Eldership team & re-elected Sue Lawrence-Brookes to continue to serve as an elder for another term.

This is a role where God calls His people to become leaders within his church. Let's take this opportunity to praise God that he has chosen Margaret & Sue to join Phil, Wendy & Mary in leading His Church here in Groby & call on him to bless them as they start out on this new calling:

- Praise God that He blesses all of us with different gifts & that He has shown Phil, Wendy, Mary, Sue & Margaret how He wants to use them within His church here in Groby
- Pray that God will bless & strengthen them as they take on this role within the church
- Pray that they will be encouraged by those around them
- Pray that they will be given wisdom as to how God wants to use them during their time as elders.

Let's also take this opportunity to praise God for Kathy Du Boulay and Rachel Edwards*. Kathy has now stepped down as an elder after over 6 years of faithful service as both elder & church secretary. Rachel feels a calling to serve the church by giving more time and attention to yChurch, but has served 3 years as part of the elders team, bringing initiatives and creativity*.

**(Kathy's additions)*



Prayers for Tasters

In their report to the church meeting, the Tasters management team listed a number of requests both for prayer & practical help. We would encourage you to pray about all of these, but also think if you can help in anyway:

- The Lord to give us a clear sense of vision and direction, especially for the children's work.
- More opportunities to "sow the seed" & speak about the gospel.
- More volunteer – could this be you?
- More volunteers from St P&J? More visitors to volunteer.
- Another chef to support with this important part of Tasters.
- A new cohort of children & families as the current group gets older and moves on.

In addition to this the team shares the following:
Prayer for customers is an area of opportunity. Jim Coaton comes along most weeks and talks to many people, offering to pray. Rev Paul also engages many folk in conversations. Kevan finds that a small number of folk ask for prayer (although it's usually for them not with them) It would be helpful if more people from the churches came along to chat with our customers



Thank God for all those who selflessly give up their time to serve at Tasters & pray for all those who attend, that they will come to know God.

Prayer Request from the Voices for Justice Team

The Voices for Justice team ask that you reflect on what you have read in this edition of Contact & prayerfully think about the following:

What global situation has God put on your heart this month? Think of a recent disaster or emergency that you've heard about and hold it before the Lord. Spend some time listening to discern how He wants you to pray about global issues.



Do you want to fast this Lent?

in the words of Pope Francis.

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Shared by Christ Church, Swindon

Muriel Ward

Hilary and Kathy recently visited Muriel, and we found her looking well and settled in her new home, a Care Home in Spondon, Derby. She has been there over 6 months now, enjoys various activities put on by the home, and is close to her family who visit regularly.

She is clearly content and is well loved by the staff looking after her.

Open the Book Spring Term

We have dipped into the Old Testament for the start of this term and began with Rev Paul taking the leading role as Daniel. With Rev Ed playing one of the “baddies”, some of us had the rare pleasure of throwing 2 members of the clergy into a lions den on 4 occasions. We also acquired a superb lion painting that was being discarded at Lady Jane Grey School and utilised that in our scenery.

February has been fun to say the least, with Andrew Scott deserving an Oscar for his portrayal of Jonah. We used a fish shaped pop up tent for the whale and that worked beautifully until it came time to put it back into the bag. A headmaster at one of the schools even tried for half an hour and still couldn't do it. The prize eventually went to Ruth, the only team member who was successful, phew!



We are now planning the Easter presentations when we will portray the last supper, the crucifixion and the resurrection, a mammoth task with some of the team doubling up on roles. This is such an important story for the children and the staff to see at Easter time, so please pray that they will all see beyond the

chocolate and the bunnies to the true meaning of Easter and what it can mean for each of them.

We are very thankful for your prayers for the team and for the schools as we continue with this vital work to spread the gospel to our local children. If you want to learn any more about what we do, please ask one of our team members at your church.

Lynda Hawkes

Team members at Groby URC are:

Rev. Paul Ellis, Mary Pringle, Margaret Chaplin and Dave Smith.

'The new apprentice'

Helping the decorator on a Friday morning!!



Christ Church URC

Dumbleton Avenue LE3 2EG

'Christ is Crucified'

You are invited to Christ Church on

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29th

7.00pm – 8.30pm

***The Crucifixion told through words,
music, and images, starting
informally at 7.00pm with
refreshments and concluding at
8.30pm.***

***A time of reflection
this Eastertide.***



FEELING BLOOMING GOOD ABOUT FAIRTRADE ROSES

Did you know that during the colder months, when you buy a bunch of roses in the UK, they are often grown in Africa? Thousands of roses were flown in to the UK for Valentines Day. So the question is, should we feel bad about this?

The fact is with Fairtrade flowers you can feel good about floral shopping habits.

5 REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BUY FAIRTRADE FLOWERS:

- ◆ FT flowers have a lower carbon footprint
- ◆ FT flowers are reducing water usage
- ◆ FT is pioneering gender empowerment
- ◆ FT flower farm workers are some of the first moving towards a living wage.
- ◆ FT flower farms receive a premium of 10% for every flower stem sold, which provides workers with healthcare, education, and other social benefits.



If you wish to dig deeper, then Google, fairtrade flower facts.

If you wish to buy Fairtrade flowers, then try: Co-op, Aldi, Tesco, Sainsbury's, M&S, Lidl, and Groby Road Flowers to name but a few, however, not all their flowers are fairly traded.





Are you ready to join us on our **European Tour** featuring songs from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and 'hits from around the continent'? Although our first session was on **Wednesday 28th February**, it's definitely not too late to join us and all welcome. We meet at **The Groby Club**, Leicester Road, Groby LE6 0DJ, which has ramps and disabled facilities as well as a bar and hot drinks.

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.

A warm welcome to everyone who enjoys singing and socialising. We are a dementia-friendly choir and would like to encourage singers experiencing dementia or memory problems to come along together with their friends and carers. Our choir is lucky to have a lovely Youth and Children's choir and we'd love to attract more young people so do spread the word that we have a special after-school session for children aged 7 and over.

We're looking forward to seeing you on 28th February!

Enquiries via our [website www.grobysings.org](http://www.grobysings.org) and [check out our Facebook page too.](#)

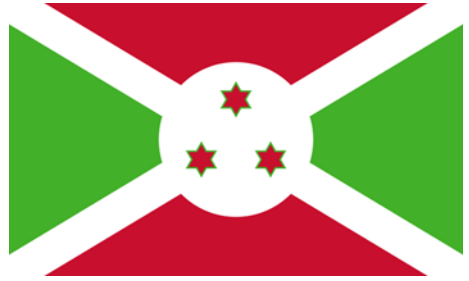
June L. Ward

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490

Where in the world?

This landlocked country became independent in 1962.

Of its population of 11.8 million, 90% work the land.



Natural features include Mount Heha as the highest point and Lake Tanganyika at the south-west border.

One of the world's poorest nations - a popular saying is 'the reception has more value than the invitation'.

The main exports are coffee and tea, only 2% of the population have bank accounts, and the national language is Kirundi.

The national bird is the Great Blue Turaco and the national animal is the Transvaal lion.



Have you worked out where it is? The answer will be in the April edition of Contact. If you can't wait until then check out the Christian Aid notice board!

Mary & Trevor



DIARY DATES



Prayers for Ukraine: Thursday March 14th 6.30 pm in church

Maundy Thursday: There will be a Churches Together in Groby event on Thursday March 28th, 7 pm at our Church, consisting of a light meal and informal Holy Communion.

God Friday: Reflective service at our Church (see pg 6) 10 am.

Good Friday: Children's Activities. 10-1.30 pm at Ratby Church Rooms.

Good Friday: Reflections for Good Friday. At P&J. 3 pm

Good Friday: 'Christ is Crucified' A presentation at Christ Church, Rowley Fields. Refreshments served at 7 pm ready for a 7.30 pm start (see flyer on page 18)

West Leicester Area Churches Quiet Day: Thursday April 25th at Launde Abbey, to be led by Mike Playdon.

Look out for more details and a sign up list in the next few weeks.

Rock Solid: Every alternate Fridays, 7.30 - 9 pm at our church. For Year 5 - 11 children. March 1st & 15th

Messy Monday's: every Monday (term-time) 3.15 - 4.15 pm at Ratby Parish church

***Save the date: West Leicester Area Churches social afternoon
Saturday June 22nd, Christ Church URC***

As we know, Christ Church is one of our Area Churches, on Barbara Road in Leicester, LE3 2EB. They now have a new church website up and running where their latest newsletter, the Christ Church Communicator, can be found.

<https://christchurch-urc.org/>

April 2024 issue

The deadline for the April issue of Contact is **SAT 23rd March 2024** 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.



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(contact details to be confirmed)

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'.