

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

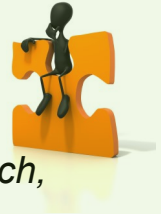
United Reformed Church



Churches
together
in
Groby

June 2024

Pause for Thought...



*“ Jesus didn’t die so that we could go to Church,
He died so that we would become Church.”*

The Word Dwelling Among Us

25th April 2024

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.

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.

CONTENTS

Pause for Thought	2
Elders Welcome Letter - Mary Pringle	4
Teaching & Readings for June / Helping Hands	6 / 7
Christian Aid Week - Trevor Pringle	8
Area Churches Social Afternoon	10
Summer Holiday club in August	11
A look at what the homegroups are doing - this month - Monday evenings in Anstey	10
Groby URC Prayers	13
Groby Remembers D-Day	17
The Just Shop - fighting to stay alive with new initiatives	18
The Launde Abbey Quiet Day	20
Groby Sings	23
News from West Leicestershire churches	24
Safeguarding Training	26
Wanted for Summer Holiday Club crafts	26
Diary Dates	27
Church contacts	28

WELCOME FROM MARY CHURCH ELDER



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 107

Hello everyone and welcome to the June edition of Contact.

As I write we are halfway through Christian Aid Week, and I am struck by the many things that we have to be thankful for. Our partnership with Saint Philip and Saint James, bringing us together to worship, work and share fellowship together. The number of people willing to deliver envelopes, display posters and give, act and pray to help others to push back against extreme poverty. And of course, not forgetting to be thankful for the weather! After what seems like months of relentless rain the first two weeks of May have brought some warmth and lovely sunshine for those taking part in the 70K in May litter - picking challenge to enjoy.

I'm a member of the Thursday evening homegroup and one of our recent sessions focused on the third commandment, honouring God's name. Sadly, we were all able to think of the many times and places when we had heard God's name misused. Particularly in the workplace and on television. But the author of the study, J John pointed out something that I had not previously considered, that we misuse God's name when we omit to mention Him. Forgetting to thank Him and give Him the credit for all that He has done for us, for the talents and abilities and opportunities He has given us. Sometimes omitting to praise and thank Him even when He has answered our prayers. Instead thinking of some 'logical' reason why something has happened rather than praising and elevating God for answering our prayers.

At our recent Quiet Day at Launde Abbey Mike Playdon mentioned the book *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. There is a memorable scene in this book when the young boy, Colin is healed and there and then, in the garden, the three children and the gardener, filled with thankfulness and joy, lift up their voices and sing:

Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above you heavenly host,
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.

In the months to come we have much to look forward to in our Church life, with many ideas and themes emerging from our well attended April Church meeting. Opportunities for growth and development in our children's and youth work and a new member to welcome to mention just a few.

Let us thank and praise God for each of these blessings. In our prayers and our worship, and in our interactions with others, I pray that we always seek to give Him the glory and honour His name.

God Bless

Mary



TEACHING AND READINGS FOR JUNE 2024

June 2nd	Matthew 14: 13-36 Feeding 5000, walking on the sea, and healing	David Coxhead
June 9th	Matthew 15: 1-20 Defilement from Within	Richard Lindop
June 16th (Father's Day)	Matthew 15: 21-39 Healing and Feeding The service will include sharing All Age Holy Communion.	Paul
June 23rd	Matthew 16: 1-12 Pharisees and Saducees	Cate Coffey
June 30th	Matthew 16:13-28 Jesus the Christ, taking up your Cross	Paul

There will be an All Age Communion on June 16th. The children will stay with their families as we celebrate this special time together, either before or following their age appropriate groups.

June's Helping Hands

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
June	(Mary)	(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
2nd	Wendy	Debbie	TBC	Ruth & Roger	Pat & Linda
9th	Margaret	David	Mark	Sue & Mike	Ruth & Roger
16th	Sue	Sue	Chris	Joy & Peter	Barry & Kathy
23rd	Mary	Debbie & Trevor	Barry	Barbs & Anita	Peter & Margaret
30th	Mark	David	TBC	Elaine & John	Joy & Cheryl



Sunday Flowers
(Barbara Conlon)

June 2nd: Ruth Ivens
 June 9th : Pete & Elsie
 June 16th : Helen & Ric
 June 23rd: Hilary & Dave
 June 30th: Caroline & Alan

“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)



Week Beginning
 June 3rd: Joy & Pat
 June 10th: Our Chores
 June 17th: Trevor & Mary
 June 24th: Our Chores
 July 1st: Kathy & Barry



Christian Aid Week 2024

As I write this article we are coming to the end of Christian Aid Week 2024. A big thank you to everyone who has already made a donation to support Christian Aid. It is much appreciated.

Although it will be a few weeks before we know the final donations total we can say with certainty that Groby is a lot tidier as a result of the efforts of our CTG litter picking team who have easily passed their 70 kilometre challenge and will continue right up to the end of May. That's a lot of rubbish! Well done team!

Although we have published regular daily updates in the Churches Together in Groby

Facebook page not all of our readers use Facebook. Here then

are some pictures showing some of our very own URC litter pickers happy in their work.





This year our challenge has also been the subject of a feature article in the Leicester Mercury. Let us pray that this service will prove fruitful.



Thank you once again to all who have given their time, money and support to this challenge.

Trevor Pringle,
on behalf of the Groby CTG litter picking team.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

We are invited to

CHRISTCHURCH

(Barbara Road, LE3 2EB)

on Saturday 22nd June at 3.00pm
for an afternoon with our friends from
the Area Churches.

The afternoon will begin with a

' Paul & Jill Quiz'



continue with a **Bring
and Share Tea**



and conclude around 6.00pm
after a **time of worship.**

Please add your name to the list in church
to give us an idea of numbers.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Summer Holiday Club

19th and 20th August

To do checklist

book Ratby Church rooms ✓

plan activities and crafts ✓

digitalise application forms ✓

write risk assessments ✓

produce posters and flyers ✓

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 13th June at 7pm in Ratby Church
to give an outline of the days and check DBS status.

If you can help please let us know

Louise Brown 07450 688217;

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



A look at what the homegroups are doing!

This month - Monday evenings in Anstey.

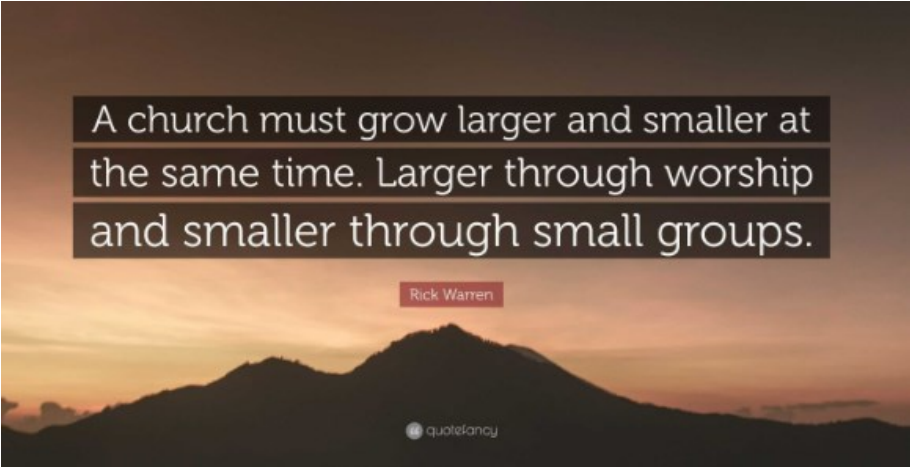
Last month, we heard from Mark Hiscocks that their group had been using meditations from the book 'The Hymn of St Patrick'. It was the featured 'Recommended Read'.

Helen Fracchia sent me the following about the group that she is involved with:

"We're still meeting alternate Mondays in Anstey and are pleased to have gained 2 new members recently!

After reading Pete Grieg's book on How to hear God... we're reading through the book of James and listening to what God might be saying to us through it. We still have space for people to join if anyone is looking for a house group."

If not already involved in a group, perhaps this might be a prompt for you to consider taking Helen up on her invite!



A church must grow larger and smaller at the same time. Larger through worship and smaller through small groups.

Rick Warren

quotefancy



Groby URC Prayer Sheet

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Welcome to our June prayer sheet.

This month our prayers are focusing on God's vision for the future of our church and for the worship within church. We also have some more Christian Aid prayer inspiration. for you.

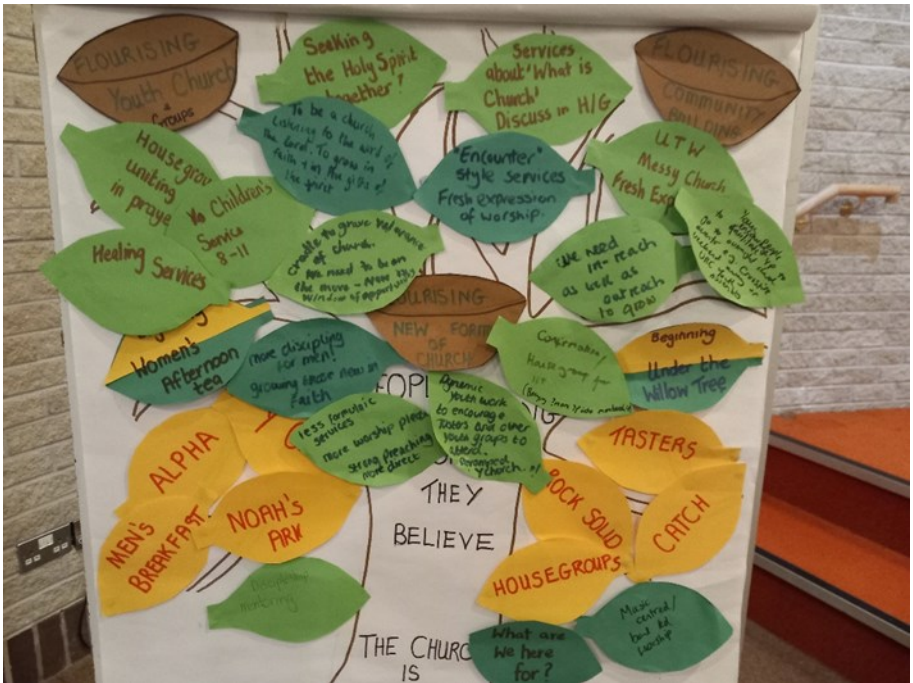
Prayers for the future of the church

At our church meeting in May we spent a lot of time talking about what our vision might be for the future of our church. Having been told in advance many members had come having taken time to listen to God about what he might be telling them of his plans. There were many ideas that were shared, and we were encouraged to write what we thought God was telling us on leaves to be added to a church tree.

As the Elders continue to consider these, the main ideas are shared below for us all the prayerfully consider before God, and listen to what he has planned for all of us at Groby URC:

- Seeking the Holy Spirit together
- Services about 'what church is' with discussions in home groups
- To be a church listening to the word of the Lord. To grow in faith and in the gifts of the Spirit
- 'Encounter' style services – Fresh expression worship
- Under the Willow Tree, Messy Church
- We need in-reach as well as out-reach to grow

- Children's services
- Healing services
- More discipling for men – growing those new in faith
- Less formulaic service with more worship
- Dynamic youth work to encourage other youths to attend
- Revamped Y Church
- Encourage young people to go to overnight church events
- Cradle to grave relevance of church – we need to be on the move



Prayers for Worship

Worship is an integral part of church life, something that is often a focal point of a Sunday morning service. Many who attend services find that worship can be a time to reflect, but also a time to be present with God and feel him with them.

Recently there was a meeting of those who are involved in worship within our church to discuss it's future, here are a couple of prayerful reflections from those who attended this meeting that they thought would be helpful to share as we all pray for the future of worship within our church:

- “Our pool of musicians able to play for the service on piano or guitar is small, and means these musicians play once a month. There is little leeway, for unexpected eventualities. Please pray that the Lord will lead musicians to the church.”
- “Might we pray that the preparation offered beforehand by our musicians is such that the congregation is not distracted from their worshipping on Sunday mornings.”

In addition to these please pray for the following:

- Thank God for the hard work and faithful service Tim has put into making the worship run smoothly every Sunday morning.
- For those who are now taking on the responsibility for running the worship sessions – thank God that we have been gifted with musicians who are willing to do this and ask that he will inspire and strengthen them in this work.
- For everyone who is part of our worship, either as a musician, singer, or member of the congregation – that our worship time will be Spirit filled and give us a chance to move closer to God and experience his presence.



Prayers for the ongoing work of Christian Aid

Christian Aid week may have finished by the time this comes out, but the vital work of Christian Aid continues 24/7, 365 days per year.

Mary Pringle has asked that we continue to pray for Christian Aid in the following ways:

- Pray that the gifts, prayers and actions taken during Christian Aid Week 2024 make a real difference to people suffering extreme poverty.
- Remembering Aline's experience, pray for people around the world who know what it is to be treated as less than human.
- Pray especially for families in Burundi who do not have sufficient food, clean water, or access to healthcare.
- Pray that as Christians we work together to uphold the dignity of every human being, so that no one feels forgotten.
- Christian Aid week is over for this year, but Christian Aid works all year round. Pray for all those who work or volunteer for Christian Aid, pray for their safety and that they are inspired with a vision of a world where justice and peace prevail.
- Pray that God will bless the efforts of individuals and Churches, of politicians and ordinary people as they try to push back against poverty.

GROBY REMEMBERS 'D-DAY'

Thursday June 6th 2024

There will be a commemorative gathering at the Stamford Arms on Thursday June 6th, from 6.30pm, for a special 1940's evening followed by a group walk to St P&J Parish Church for a Service of Remembrance at 8.30pm.

At 9.00 pm, a red lantern, ' The Lamp of Peace' will be lit and all will gather outside the church to conclude the evening's commemorations.

The red colour of the lantern signifies the sacrifices made, while the flame symbolises the peace that emerged from the darkness of the war.

Everyone is invited to attend and anyone unable to do so, is invited to light a candle or place a lamp in their window at 9.15 pm on the evening.

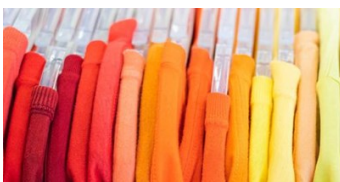


FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION

Fairtrade isn't just food and drink - you can buy Fairtrade clothes too!

The Minimum Price means that farmers sell their goods at a decent price, with an additional Premium to be used by farmers to improve social, economic and environmental conditions 🧥

3rd March 2024



The Just shop is fighting to stay alive!



We have had close links with the Just shop in town - most of our Tasters and Sunday morning tea & coffee are purchased there, and Roger has volunteered as 'Tuesday Roger' for many years!

Following a financially very challenging 2023, the shop trustees are looking for new ways of attracting customers, increase sales and return to financial sustainability. One way is through their new 'Pre-loved Rail' (info. on next page).

Other new initiatives:

- They are working with local independent business **Fox Books**, and you will now find a selection of their fiction and non-fiction titles on the shelves upstairs in the Just shop. You can also order a title from them on line and collect from 'Just'. foxbooksLtd.com
- They are also interested in '**Local Makers**' who would like to showcase their products with a pop-up in their shop. People of a passionate fair trade, ethical and sustainable business. If you know of anyone who might be interested, get in touch with the Just Shop.

PRE-LOVED

@JUST...

The Just Shop have introduced a Pre-loved Rail where you can pick up a bargain, buying something new to you at a very reasonable price.

How it works: They believe the clothes they sell are of the highest quality, and want them to be worn and loved for many, many years. Bring a garment into store from a brand that they sell, or have sold in the past, in a clean and re sellable condition. In return you will receive a £5 voucher for each garment returned to spend on something new. Your returned garments will have a new lease of life via the Pre-loved rail!

So flick through your wardrobe, rummage in your drawers and find what you no longer wear. Bring it to Just. Get a Voucher and let your old clothes be loved by someone new!

There are more details on the Just shop website:
<https://justfairtrade.com/>.

The shop in Leicester City Centre is at 36 Silver Street.

Shop Opening Hours

Tuesday to Friday 11am to 4pm

Saturday 10am to 5pm

Sunday & Monday Closed

“We are a workers' co-op social enterprise. We seek out the best fair trade ethical and sustainable products.”

THE LAUNDE ABBEY QUIET DAY

Reflections from Cheryl ...

"Those of us who hadn't been on a Quiet Day to Launde Abbey before, were a little apprehensive, but we were reassured by those who had, that everything would be good. And it was!

As we approached the Abbey from the single track road, the beauty of the countryside, the birdsong, the sheep and the cattle grazing and even the building itself, gave a feeling of peace, order and calm.

Jill greeted us and pointed out where to park and within minutes, we were welcomed into The Stables (an annexe to the main house just across the courtyard) with coffee and cookies and the lively chatter of people reacquainting with each other.

After re-assembling in a seated circle the business of the day began with the theme of 'liminals' and 'thresholds'. We seemed to agree with Rev Mike Playdon (the facilitator for the day) that we may cross many thresholds during an ordinary day without giving them any thought.

Revelation 3v8 speaks of an open door that no one can shut and Revelation 3v20 says:

" Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

The liminal or threshold that Mike was referring to was, of course, the conscious decision to enter God's Kingdom.

During the day, Mike read excerpts from 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland', 'The Secret Garden' and 'The Chronicles of Narnia', giving us familiar stories which perhaps show that crossing a threshold can be an adventure and can sometimes

take us by surprise.

Entering God's Kingdom is something that we have to do ourselves - it is a personal journey of intent, courage and trust.

At midday, we gathered in the beautiful chapel for daily prayers which was very peaceful and set us up nicely for a delicious buffet lunch.

So when was the quiet time??

There were times to reflect throughout the day and plenty of space for us to explore or to just sit quietly. The weather was chilly, but we were all grateful that it did not rain and most of us were able to enjoy a little time in the grounds of the Abbey.

Later in the afternoon, tea and cakes were enjoyed as we had an interesting time sharing our thoughts from the day.

Mike had used the term 'thin space' and was asked for his interpretation. He thought that a 'thin space' was somewhere that enabled a feeling of being close to heaven.

Certainly, parts of Launde Abbey are thin spaces!“

And from Kay . . .

“I really enjoyed hearing Mike once again with his thoughtful words on thresholds. This is not something that we often think about.

I feel it's important to follow your instincts to whether it's the right move or not to cross a particular threshold – whether it's a physical one or whether it's being presented with a new opportunity in your life – a new door to open.“


And others . . .

“Sitting under the trees during a 'silent' time, I felt blessed to be there, knowing that the Holy Spirit had touched us all with His calming and healing Grace.“

“I had a lovely day at Launde Abbey, so peaceful and contemplative. A real place to escape and to think. So good for the soul. The coffee and lunch were an added bonus.”

“ Mike spoke of thresholds – times of transition which we all encounter in life. Some will be joyful and some painful. During one of the quiet times, a dear friend and I reflected on the painful threshold which we had crossed from marriage to widowhood. But Mike urged us to use these times of transition as opportunities to grow closer to God – to take those steps into the unknown with confidence, trusting and believing that God will go with us.”

Thank you, Paul and Jill, for organising this memorable day!



Inspiring Words in Needlework at
Launde Abbey

Jesus is the Rock of Ages,
so that Geologists can understand

Jesus is the Cornerstone,
so that Archaeologists can understand

Jesus is the Bread of Life,
so that Bakers can understand

Jesus is the Light of the World,
so that Electricians can understand

Jesus is the Good Teacher,
so that Educationalists can understand.

Seen Christmas 2023



European Tour

Your community choir, **Groby Sings**, will soon be embarking on our **European Tour** and invites you to come and enjoy our summer concerts.

Where? **English Martyrs School, Anstey Lane, Leicester LE4 0FJ**, which has lots of parking, tiered audience seating, a lift and interval refreshments

When? **Saturday 22 June 7.00pm** and **Sunday 23 June 3.00pm**

Tickets **£6 each**

Tickets will be on sale **from Wednesday, 22nd May** at **The Groby Club** during the Club's normal opening hours as well as at choir rehearsals there on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. There will also be a choir member selling tickets at **Groby Library** on **Wednesday** and **Saturday** mornings **10.00am-12.00pm**, and **any choir member** will be happy to obtain tickets for you. You will also be able to buy tickets on the door at each concert.

Bring your family, friends, neighbours and especially visitors from abroad. We've had people from all corners of Great Britain and from all over the world who've enjoyed our previous concerts. The support for the choir from the community is invaluable so do come along and enjoy the event as much as we will. After a warm welcome for *Groby Sings at the Opera* last November, we are very much looking forward to returning to English Martyrs School.

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

NEWS FROM THE WEST LEICESTERSHIRE CHURCHES

What a great time 32 of us, from all five Churches, had on our Quiet Day, enjoying God's presence, the hospitality of Launde Abbey and the leadership of Rev Mike Playdon. Some have suggested that this should be an annual event, but remember that we received a large grant from the URC, without which the price would have been prohibitive for some. Maybe in two years' time...

In the meantime, our next event together repeats last summer's with a quiz, tea and worship at Christ Church (Dumbleton Avenue, Leicester) from 3.00 pm on Saturday 22nd June. All the Churches are asked to contribute food for the tea.

Groby has been considering, in Church and then Elders' Meetings, its vision for the next year or so, seeking the way forward in worship, discipleship and with our children and youth, now that our Children & Youth Worker, Louise Brown, is in post. There will be a special Welcome service for Louise on Pentecost evening. Youngsters and their parents are meanwhile helping Groby to explore the Synod's 'Children & Youth Friendly Church' scheme.

Groby's efforts for Christian Aid Week this year include people from both the local Churches litter-picking in the village.

St Stephen's recently enjoyed a filling Italian lunch after morning worship, where we were joined by some of the Ramblers. The Sunday after saw a *Songs of Praise* service, with hymns chosen by Church members and accompanied by one of St Stephen's rota of very capable organists.

Like all five Churches, **Braunstone** was pleased to welcome Richard Knott, Synod Children & Youth Development Officer, on his recent prayer pilgrimage...but it might be the only URC on his tour where he was surrounded by pre-school children, part of the United Play Nursery that meets there daily!

Christ Church had the thrill of baptising two teenagers who had been attending weekly since last year. Installing and filling a baptistery meant a lot of work beforehand, but it was worth it for this very special occasion. The Church will host a coffee morning and cake sale for Christian Aid Week.

One Sunday **Enderby** had two preachers turn up, both expecting to lead the service! Some Secretaries would say it is hard enough to find just one per week! Later in May, the three Churches in the village will unite in a prayer evening, the first time this has happened in my time here.

As I read back what I have just written, I notice how children and youth keep being mentioned. None of our Churches is overrun by youngsters – at least, not on Sunday mornings! – yet all five have an important role with children, from the occasional one on Sundays through hosting Guiding groups to Groby's new group for children with special needs.

“Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” Jesus, recorded in Matthew chapter 19 verse 14

Rev Paul Ellis.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Thursday 6th June

7.00 at URC

All who are involved in Noah's Ark, y.church, Tasters, Rock Solid and Crossfire are encouraged to attend.

We said that there would be no need to sign up, HOWEVER, there is a suggestion that HOMEMADE CAKE may be provided, so if you don't want to miss out, please sign the list in church to give us an idea of numbers!

Wanted!

Empty tea bag boxes that have a lift up flap for part of the craft for this year's holiday Club in August.

They can be left in Louise's office in church.

Thank you.



DIARY DATES



Thursday June 6th at 7 pm- Safeguarding Training. 7 pm at Church

Thursday June 6th - Groby remembers D-Day (info. on pg. 17)

Thursday June 13th, 7 pm in Ratby Church - Meeting for those interested in volunteering for the Summer Holiday Club

Saturday June 22nd at 3 pm. - West Leicester Area Churches social at Christ Church URC

Thursday 27th June, Groby URC Church Meeting, 7.30 pm at Church. Please let Rev. Paul or any of the elders know if there are items you would like to have included in the agenda.

Prayers for Ukraine: Thursdays 13th and 27th 6.30 pm in church

Rock Solid: 7.30 - 9 pm at our church on Friday evenings as follows: 7th and 21st June, and 5th July.

For Year 5 - 11 children.

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

July / August 2024 issue

The next issue of Contact will be a double issue covering July and August.

The deadline is **SAT 22nd June** 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.

Groby United Reformed Church
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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.