

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



G Churches
together
in
Groby

October 2024

Happy Birthday

Keziah Euden and Alex Down both have their birthdays in October.



Happy Birthday to You

May the Good Lord Bless You

Sue Lawrence-Brooks

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.

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WELCOME FROM SUE CHURCH ELDER & SECRETARY



Hello everyone and welcome!

Camping? Under canvas? Some friends of mine were recently extolling its virtues and regaling their adventures from back in the summer. Their enthusiasm most certainly did not match mine as I recalled my camping days as a Girl Guide - muddy fields, rainy days and uncomfortable nights.

I have vivid recollections of searching for suitably sized sturdy sticks in the nearby woods to lash together as a bedding rack, only to finding the rack listing at an alarming 30° angle as our Guide Captain (Linda Wapples, nee Bent- some of you may remember her?) approached to inspect our endeavours, thus earning us 'nil points'.

Then there were more sticks to be found, some each sufficiently sturdy to support an array of upturned welly boots - not too near the tent flap to cause a hazard, but close enough to retrieve in the dark, pull on over our PJs and venture out to the field latrine, guided by the feeble light from a small torch. No mod cons in those days.

Other sticks were needed to create a tripod on which a frying pan could be balanced and in which we could cook the inevitable sausage and beans. Then there was the search for kindling with which we had to attempt to light a fire . . . with damp matches of course.

But prior to all of these ingenious and character building tasks (and many more) was the crucial job of erecting the tent -

stretching the guy ropes and firmly hammering them down with tent pegs. We always seemed to be short of at least one peg and someone else from another group invariably 'borrowed' the mallet while we were searching for the lost peg.

But nobody relished the prospect of being exposed to the elements by failing to secure their canvas protection and so we did our best.

Alistair Begg, in his devotional book ' Truth for Life' uses the analogy of camping when he tells us that there will always be squalls, storms and even deluges in our lives and sometimes we may feel as though we are in imminent danger of collapse.

But at these times and during each trial, could we use the opportunities to remind ourselves that the steadfast and everlasting love of God will hold us firm until the storms have passed, as we put our hope and our trust in Him?

He urges each of us to say this prayer:

“Lord Jesus Christ, help me to have the tent pegs of my life staked securely in your steadfast love, so that in life and death, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and health, I might rejoice. “

How secure are the tent pegs in your life?

I pray that you will take the time to hammer them in firmly into the solid ground of God's love, embedding them in the Word of God and in prayer.

May God bless you always,

Sue



For the word of God is alive and active.

Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the

thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

TEACHING AND READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2024

Oct 6th	Matthew 22 vv 23-46 (Love the Lord)	Gary Wood
Oct. 13th	Matthew 23 (Grief and anger)	Malcolm Clarke
Oct. 20th	Matthew 24 (The end of the Age) The Service will include sharing Holy Communion.	Paul
Oct. 27th	Matthew 25 vv 1-13 (Out of oil)	Ruth Mwenga

October's Helping Hands

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
Oct	(Mary)	(Trevor)	(Barry)	(Joy)	(Joy)
6th	Wendy	Debbie	Barry	Ruth & Roger	Kathy & Barry
13th	Margaret	Sue	Mark	Sue & Mike	Margaret & Maurice
20th	Sue	David / Trevor	Dave	Joy & Peter	Joy & Cherryl
27th	Mary	Sue / Trevor	Chris	Barbs & Anita	Hilary & Dave



Sunday Flowers
(Barbara Conlon)

Oct 6th : Ruth & Roger
 Oct 13th : Ann Tombs
 Oct 20th : Hilary & Dave
 Oct 27th: Susie Flude

“The Clean Team!”
(Kathy Du Boulay)



Week Beginning
 Oct 7th: Kathy & Barry
 Oct 14th : Our Chores
 Oct 21st: Dave & Hilary
 Oct 28th: Our Chores

Our Chores, the cleaning company we use, tend to clean on a Tuesday morning ideally, occasionally Monday pm or Fridays, depending what else is happening. Please let Kathy know of any problems with these times. Thank you.

Celebrating 30 years of Fairtrade



At Tasters



Celebration Cakes at Saturday Tasters and Sunday's after service Coffee

Display of many of the Fairtrade goods that can be bought at the Laundon Way Co-op and at the Just Shop in Leicester.



Richard Knott leads our Altogether Harvest Service. That banana gets everywhere! Of course! On average citizens in the UK consume 5 billion of them every year! Make sure yours have the FT logo on!

WELL, WE DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE COMING!



While many of the Fairtrade quiz contestants struggled with some of the answers, especially the flags, our very own 'super stars' Luca & Roberto came out with the most correct answers. Well done Boys, it bodes well for the future of Fairtrade.

The photo above shows Luca & Roberto being presented with their prize by Craig, the Manager of Laundon Way Co-op. Mum Helen came along too. The prize hamper was full of Fairtrade goodies kindly donated by the Laundon Way Co-op.

Our thanks to Craig and Adrian, Adrian coming along to part of our Saturday Taster time.



Flowers, food & fellowship by Sue Annable

After the service on Sunday 25th August, we held a bring & share lunch for our regular congregation & those who come to Tasters. The 'ice – breaker' was a Flower Quiz which certainly got the conversations going.



The winning team (Anita, Anne Brandon, Neta, Cheryl and Ann & Sandra from Tasters) certainly 'know their Alliums!')

Carrying on the flower theme – each table was provided with a selection of materials to make flowers & put together an arrangement. The creative juices were flowing on Kezi's table & they were the winning team – well done to all those involved!



As always, the food was varied & plentiful. Many thanks to all those who provided it, served it & washed up after it. Trevor rounded up the afternoon leading a sing – along of some old favourite songs.

It was a good opportunity to chat & have fellowship with one another.



Great speaker, great food!

Men's breakfast August 2024

A group of men from both church and Tasters gathered for breakfast on bank holiday Monday morning and to hear a talk from an invited speaker.



The full English breakfast was cooked by Dan and served by a group of ladies. There was plenty to eat and it tasted excellent! The breakfast was followed by a talk from Gary who spoke of his personal drug addiction and recovery program. He now

volunteers at a men's Christian charity which helped him. He described an overview of their program and how being linked to a church assists residents in their path to recovery. The success rate is impressive. It was both a harrowing and uplifting story from Gary of his fall and rebuilding and coming to faith.

Many thanks to Gary for speaking, Rev Paul for organising and to all who sourced, prepared and served us food. Although this event was not as well attended as previous talks, it is hoped more events will be available for men in the future. (Ladies events also planned!).

Phil.





October's Prayer Sheet

"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing." Psalm 143:10

Welcome to our October prayer sheet.

This month's prayers focus on some of our areas of outreach, including Tasters, and activities we have coming up, there's also the opportunity to continue to pray for all those who have been to any of our recent events, as well as prayers for those in positions of leadership in our country.

We would love to encourage as many people as possible to contribute to the prayer sheet, so if you have any topics you would like to get people praying for then please get in touch with Rachel Edwards to get them included in future sheets.

Prayers for Youth and Children's Work

Now that the summer is over Louise is planning ahead and looking at what youth and children's activities we can run. She is holding a meeting on 11th October about this.

Let's pray:

- For all those who are involved in any youth or children's activities within the church, thanking God for their commitment and dedication.
- For Louise as she starts to make plans for the future of this important work within Groby, that she will get a clear vision of what God wants to see happening here.
- For those who might be interested in getting involved in youth and children's work, that God will show them where they can best serve Him within this important work.

Let's also pray for the children and young people within Groby:

- Pray for those who currently attend a church, that they will
- continue to grow in their faith and come to commit their lives to Jesus
- For those who come to regular activities such as Rock Solid, Noah's Ark and Catch, that they will hear the messages of you that are being shared there and want to know more.
- For those who attended any of the summer activities run in Groby and Ratby, that this will be the first step in their journey to knowing Jesus and that they will come along to some of the other events that are running.
- Pray for the families of those who are coming to activities, that they too will hear the message of Jesus and want to know more.



Prayers for Tasters

At our last Church meeting, Roger gave an encouraging update on Saturday morning Tasters and the way it has evolved. It has become a welcoming community, where we, as church, can extend a Christian welcome to all that come - from all walks of life and all ages. It gives those that come regularly, a purpose and a meeting place, meeting the needs of those who live alone or are lonely. It is a safe and welcoming space for families, where they can feel accepted whatever their situation.

It involves a lot of volunteers from the two Groby Churches, both seen on Saturdays (chefs, servers, chatters!) and unseen, (cake bakers, furniture & toy shifters and rota admin - as well as buying all the grub and accounting for the money donated and spent.) Following a visit by Hinckley & Bosworth, Tasters received 5 stars for the good order and organisation for food storing, preparing and cooking.

Please pray

- That this weekly event will continue to be relevant and enjoyable to the community it serves.
- That all who come will feel at home, and want to engage more with us
- That it will be a successful springboard with which our visitors can be invited onto other events where the Christian message will be shared, such as Alpha, Men's Breakfast and Ladies Tea.
- That those serving on the management group for Tasters will know God's leading in the way the event develops
- That there will always be enough volunteers to ensure its success every week.

Prayers for Leaders

It will not have escaped your attention that over the summer we had a change of government, and with it a change of leadership across the country.



It is important that we, as Christians, pray for all those who are in positions of leadership both at a national, international and local level.

Pray for:

- All those who have been called into positions of leadership, that they will be driven by a sense of what is right for all those that they serve.
- That those who are taken on new responsibilities will be given a clear vision of how they can work for the good of all.
- That God will be present in all places of leadership and power and that His will may fill the hearts and minds of those who make decisions that will affect the lives of others wherever that may be.

Take some time to bring to mind someone in a position of leadership, this could be a politician, a public figure, a member of the Royal family, a local leader and ask God to be with them and help them in their role.

Finally, think of someone who is a Christian in a position of leadership pray for them, that God will strengthen their faith and give them the courage to stand up for what they believe and challenge decisions which do not align with our Christian teachings.

A look at what the homegroups are doing!

This month - **Wednesday evening group.**

We are a group of seven, meeting fortnightly diaries permitting. With a relaxed evening in vogue, kick-off is with tea and coffee, Fairtrade of course, and catching up with each other, the community and often beyond. The session that follows is usually along a theme or individual topic we take in turns to lead.

The current theme Romans, is a Bible Society study guide with course notes and 20 minute video for each session which has proved an excellent way to enliven the content and context with Rome as a backdrop! There is also a background book, Romans: A letter That Makes Sense of Life by Andrew Ollerton. If any other groups wish to use the video and notes on Romans, please talk to Kathy.

In the past, the varied themes have been either by personal requests or ideas via Kathy for us to choose from including Isaiah, Hebrews, The Cross- John Stott and individual topics from Phil. Anything on the Holy Trinity often takes us long in to the night, I can't imagine why....

Always welcome are the BBQs and Christmas get-togethers at home including with other groups in the past.

Barry du Boulay

Over the past few months, we've had a brief look at what the five different homegroups are up to. If this has wetted your appetite to know more, or visit one of them - please see the list of homegroups and people to contact on next page.

Homegroup Contacts

Please contact one of the people below if not already part of a homegroup but would like to find out more.

Mondays- (evenings) in Anstey

Contact Helen Fracchia. 0116 2365349

hmotson@hotmail.com

Wednesdays - (afternoons) in Groby

Contact Jim Coaton, 0116 287 6909

jrcoaton@gmail.com

Wednesdays - (evenings) in Groby

Contact Mark Hiscocks on 07887 399107

hiscocksm@gmail.com

Wednesdays - 7.30 pm in Groby

Contact Kathy DuBoulay on 0116 224 5095

kathygrace127@gmail.com

Thursdays - 7.30 pm in Groby

Contact Elaine Mee on 0116 287 7608

elaineamee@gmail.com

And let us consider how we may spur one another on
toward love and good deeds,

Hebrews 10:24

I could do that !



Several of our Churches Together in Groby activities are in need of extra volunteers.

None of the tasks are difficult and just once a month would be welcome.

Tasters - Saturdays 10am —12noon. Serving hot drinks, hot cobs and cakes, chatting with visitors, helping with children's activities. Average attendance 50 people.

Split shifts can be arranged.

Contact Sue Lawrence-Brooks or Chris Davies

Fair Cuppa - Thursdays 10.30am - 12 noon . Making and serving hot drinks and cake. Chatting with people. Washing up. Average attendance 25 people. Contact Elizabeth Jarvis

Catch for preschool children - Fridays during term time. 9.30am - 11am. Getting toys out, making hot and cold drinks, chatting with people. Average attendance 12 parents, grandparents or carers with children. Contact Louise Brown or Ruth Scott

Rock Solid for young people in years 5—11

Fridays 7.30pm - 9pm during term time.

Helping prepare snacks / food . Being available to chat with young people. Average attendance 18 young people.

Contact Louise Brown or Ruth Scott



NEWS FROM THE WEST LEICESTERSHIRE CHURCHES

As summer draws to a close, we face the autumn and Harvest seasons with thankfulness to God.

St Stephen's has a Church Meeting early in October, when we shall discuss possible future scenarios for both the Church and its building. Meanwhile, following a meeting between the Elders and three representatives of the Synod, a professional valuation of the premises is being sought. We are also in discussions with the Redeemed Christian Church of God, who rent our premises and worship in our halls each Sunday morning.

On a brighter note, a new baby daughter has been born to a young family that regularly attends St Stephen's.

Enderby has held a number of money-raising events over the summer. An initial meeting about becoming a Child & Youth Friendly Church strengthened the links between the Church and the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows who meet in its hall each week. We shall also host a joint prayer meeting for all the three village Churches.

Groby has had a busy summer, with extra activities for children while the schools were closed and lunches planned after worship for those more on the fringe of the fellowship. We have welcomed Richard Knott into Church membership. Together with the other local Churches, we shall host an evening *Alpha* course from September until November.

Braunstone has now held two Café Church sessions on Sunday afternoons, which are a little less formal than the morning services. We wish regular attender Joanne Ngembus every blessing as she starts at University this term.

Christ Church held a successful three-day Holiday Club in August on an Olympic theme: the “Eiffel Tower” the children built out of cardboard boxes was much taller than me! Allied to this, their monthly Messy Church will be re-launched in October. Two new members, Joy Parker and June Leeson, were welcomed in August.

As to joint events between the five Churches, three are planned for the remainder of this year:

- You are all invited to ‘Cake and cuppa’ in aid of Crohn’s & Colitis UK at Christ Church, Dumbleton Avenue, on **Saturday 28th September** between 10.00 and 12.00. (Unfortunately this clashes with Enderby’s table-top sale.)
- We shall celebrate the 350th anniversary of the birth of the great Congregational hymn-writer Isaac Watts with ‘Songs of Praise’ at St Stephen’s, DeMontfort Street, at 6.30 pm on **Saturday 5th October**.
- Groby has agreed to host ‘Christmas Capers’ again this year, on the afternoon of **Saturday 14th December**.

Finally, may I thank you all for the love expressed towards me and Jill at this time?

Your friend and minister,

Paul.

Groby Scarecrow Festival

The theme of the festival this year was children's books which gave us a great opportunity to show the wider community something of the Open the Book project. With items from our props cupboard and some borrowed from other churches we set up Peter the fisherman with the miraculous catch of fish. On Saturday the display was visited by a good number of families with many children recognising the props.

Lots of good conversations with children and adults some of whom were pleased to step inside the church. Sunday afternoon's rain meant fewer visitors and has given a whole new meaning to the term "wet fish".

Chris Davies





**URBAN
SAINTS**

Rock Solid

Games and Grub

Friday 7.30 - 9:00

At the URC chapel

Chapel Hill, Groby, LE6 0FE

£2

Who for

**Top Primary and
Secondary**

(Year 5 -11)

Dates

6th 27th Sept (21st residential)

4th 18th October

1st 15th 22nd November

6th December

Contact: Ruth Scott 07792376059

Family Cinema at Ratby Church

13th September

11th October

8th November

13th December

Confession They Say is Good For the Soul

(1John 1:9)

When looking to replace the church teapot after a recent accident with the lid, I discovered the little brown teapot is called 'A Brown Betty'. Who knew that?!

So what is special about this particular type of teapot?

Apparently, there are no identifiable designers or makers, these objects are anonymous and make the best pot of tea on the planet as the red clay, only found in Staffordshire, retains the heat better than any other clay. It also claims to absorb the flavour better.

Pop into Tasters and test it for yourself.

Butter Fingers

Recipe Gone Wrong

I didn't have potatoes so I substituted rice,
I didn't have paprika so I used another spice,
I didn't have tomato sauce so used tomatoe paste
A whole can, not half as I don't believe in waste.

A friend gave me the recipe
she said you couldn't beat it,
There must be something wrong with
her,
I couldn't even eat it!

Anonymous



And on other kitchen / cooking matters

Some years ago, we bought the following for some church catering events. They're quite happy in the darker recesses of our kitchen cupboard, and there isn't any room in our church kitchen, anyway, but if anyone would like to use them

..You know who to speak to.

Barry & Kathy du Boulay



There are:

2 large baking tins - 37 x 31cm

2 loose bottomed flan tins - 32 x 21cm

2 plastic boxes with lids - 27 x 27 cm

4 shallow bowls - 34 cm diameter.

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

Since the outbreak of the Russian war on Ukraine, a group of us have regularly prayed together for peace. We have been meeting on alternate Thursdays from 6.30 - 7pm.

For the duration of the Alpha Course, we will meet instead on alternate Wednesdays at the same time at church.

We will also be widening the scope of our prayers to be more inclusive of other world conflicts.

It is often not easy to know how to pray and, yes, there are times when we feel that God is not listening, but pray we must for the suffering people in our world.

Please join us if you can for **Prayers for Peace** on Wednesday 2nd, 16th and 30th October at 6.30pm.

Sue

Pause for Thought...

I pray because I can't help myself.

I pray because I am helpless

It doesn't change God..... It changes me

CS Lewis





DIARY DATES



**Songs of Praise: Sunday October 5th at 6.30 pm,
St Stephens URC Church, Leicester.** Celebrating 350th
Anniversary of the birth of the great hymn writer, Isaac Watts.

Alpha dates in October: Thursday 3rd, 10th & 17th

Prayers for Peace (including prayers for Ukraine):

**Wednesdays whilst Alpha is running - 6.30 pm in church,
2nd, 16th and 30th (see separate notice on previous page).**

**Rock Solid: 4th and 18th October. 7.30 - 9 pm at our church.
For Year 5 - 11 children.**

***Advance notice of Church Meeting and AGM -
Thursday January 30th at 7.30 pm***

November 2024 issue

Please note, the deadline for November's issue of Contact is earlier than the usual schedule - **THURSDAY OCTOBER 17TH.**
I won't be able to accept articles or information after this date. Happy / preferred 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
member: Evangelical Alliance UK
www.grobyurc.com, LE6 0FE



CONTACTS

MINISTER: Rev. Paul Ellis. 0116 292 6218

Paul Ellis <tallpauellis@tiscali.co.uk>

SECRETARY CONTACT : Sue Lawrence-Brooks 0116
231 2866 / 07780 342253/ susanbeverley46@yahoo.co.uk

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORKER: Louise Brown.
07450 688217 / youthworkergroby@gmail.com

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. (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.