

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



November 2024

Pause for Thought...



Love is strong because it is vulnerable;
it overcomes because it serves;
it is powerful because it rejects power.

Love doesn't wait for daylight, it sets up camp in
the dark night of the soul and builds a fire.

Love wins because it is willing to lose.

Gideon Heugh. August 2021



'You are here to be light. Bringing out the God colours of the world.'

(Matthew 5:14 Message Version)

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WELCOME FROM MARK, CHURCH ELDER



Welcome to the November edition of Contact.

November is a month of remembering. Our memories can stir so many emotions in us. They can be a source of thankfulness, of smiles and laughter, and of tears. We can remember a job well done with justifiable pride and our unkind words to someone with shame. We can also 'remember' events which we have not experienced directly - such as events from history.

After All Hallows' Eve (or "Halloween"), November begins with All Saints' Day on the 1st, an opportunity to remember all the Saints of God, followed by All Souls' Day, a day of prayer and remembrance for the faithful departed, on 2nd November.

Then "*Remember, remember, the 5th of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason, why gunpowder
treason, should ever be forgot.*" and on the 11th, Remembrance Day. On which of these days will you choose to remember others?

In this season of Autumn, we might also decide, with God's help, to let go of some of our hurtful memories as the trees around us allow their leaves to fall to the ground, preparing themselves for the Winter and the new growth of Spring.

Proverbs 3:5-6 states:

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight."*

I simplify this to, if we remember the LORD in everything we do, and he will show us the right way.

God bless, Mark

Recommended Reads (or listen if you prefer.)



Lectio 365

Pray the Bible, every day.

Lectio 365 is a free daily devotional resource to help people to pray the Bible every day. It is written by the 24-7 Prayer movement leaders (Pete Greig and others) and is delivered through an app. The app can be downloaded to phones or tablets (but not desktop computers) and is very easy to use.

Lectio 365 is inspired by an ancient form of praying the Bible called *Lectio Divina* (divine reading). It is a way of approaching Scripture expectant that we will encounter God and hear something relevant for our lives today.

Morning Prayers are short devotionals written for every day of the year. On Sundays a simple Sabbath Prayer is found and on special Saint's days the focus is on celebrating heroes of the faith.

Night Prayers aim to help readers process their day with God and prepare to sleep by reflecting, rejoicing, repenting and resting.

You can listen or read which ever works best for you. Music is used but can be turned off if you find that unhelpful.

The stated aim of the writers is that these devotionals will help you meet with Jesus today and every day. I've been using the app for a few months, and like a number of others in Church I have found it to be helpful. If you've not seen it why not take a look?

Mary Pringle



TEACHING AND READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2024

Nov. 3rd	Matthew 25 vv 14-30 (Hidden talent)	Dave Lomas
Nov. 10th	Remembrance Sunday.	Elders will lead this service.
Nov. 17th	Matthew 25 vv 31-46 (The sheep and the goats) Service will include Holy Communion.	Paul
Nov. 24th	Christ the King	Mike Furborough

November 10th is Remembrance Sunday

As in past years, our service will be 30/35 minutes long to allow time for us to join the act of Remembrance led by CTG and held at the Groby Club at 10.45am.

Coffee will be served at our church for those who do not wish to, or who are unable to go to the Club.

No yChurch provision that day.

November's Helping Hands

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
Nov.	(Mary)	(Trevor)	(Barry)	(Joy)	(Joy)
3rd	Mark	Debbie	Barry	Elaine & John	Mary & Trevor
10th	Sue & Margaret	David	Mark	Alan & Judith	Pat & Linda
17th	Wendy	Sue	Dave	Pete & Elsie	Ruth & Roger
24th	Phil	Debbie	Chris	Rachel & Margaret	Peter & Helper



Sunday Flowers
(Barbara Conlon)

Nov 3rd : Cheryl Reed
 Nov 10th : Sue Lawrence-Brooks
 Nov 17th : Jane Hinds
 Nov 24th: Judith Robinson

“The Clean Team!”
(Kathy Du Boulay)



Week Beginning
 Nov 4th: Linda & Tim
 Nov 11th: Our Chores
 Nov 18th: Sue LB & Sue A
 Nov 25th: 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.

WHAT IS GROBY URC'S CONNECTION WITH JUSTINA?



Justina aged 24 lives in Kagoro Zambia – one of the least developed countries in Africa, with 54% of the population living on less than £1.50 a day. Her family have always struggled to escape poverty. Despite primary education being free in Zambia, low income families can't afford books, uniforms, shoes, and healthcare too is expensive.

SO WHAT IS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JUSTINA?

tearfund of course!

Through their partners, the church community in Kangoro help break the cycle through a Transforming Communities programme, which equips the church in practical ways to work with the local community.

Justina undertook training in tailoring skills and now has a sewing machine to make and mend clothes. She sews school uniforms, and profits from her business are funding her niece's education. Justina has further plans to become a qualified teacher and she's saving money to pay for the training.

NICE TO BE THANKED!

Our church's gift, of £1079.13 which is 5% of the offertory was acknowledged by a letter in July to our treasurer- Phil.

Dear Friends, Thank you for Your Church's generosity which is providing hope for people like Justina in Zambia

Chris Blizzard, Donor Care Manager Tearfund



November's Prayer Sheet

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 6-7

Welcome to our November prayer sheet.

This month we're encouraging you to pray for a range of things going on in the church including the Alpha Course and the start of our Christmas activities, Journey to Bethlehem. We've also included prayers for Tearfund and the ongoing situation in the Middle East.

Prayers for the Alpha Awayday

As you will be aware the churches in Groby and Ratby have once again joined together to run an Alpha course for anyone who may be interested in exploring more about Christianity.

A key part of the course is the Alpha Away Day, which focuses on the Holy Spirit. This year's away day is to be held on Saturday 9th November at St Joseph's Tea Rooms.

Let's pray:

- That all those who are on the course will be able to attend the awayday.
- For all those attending the day that they will experience the Holy Spirit for themselves and will forward in their journey to knowing Jesus.
- For those who are leading the session, that they will be

filled with the Holy Spirit and that God will give them the right words.

- For those who are facilitating the discussions, that God will bless them with insight on how to lead conversations and how to encourage the members of their group to think about this more deeply.

As the Alpha course moves towards its final sessions let us pray for all those who have taken part in the course this year and remember those who took part last year, that completing Alpha will be the first step on their journey of faith and that they will continue on this journey.

Let's also pray for ourselves as churches, that God will show us how we can continue to support those who have completed Alpha on their journey and how we can encourage them to become a part of church communities so that they can learn more about Jesus and how they can have a relationship with Him.

Prayers of Thankfulness for the young people's away weekend.

After reading Louise's report on the weekend away in Bromsgrove (see page 14), give thanks to God for the 9 teenagers who took part, and for Louise and volunteers that accompanied and supported them over the weekend. Thank Him for the fun and laughter, and the opportunity to chat over relevant Bible verses.

Ask God to bless each of these teenagers, that He will continue speaking to them through activities in church and beyond. Pray that they will know God's love in their lives.

Prayers for Journey to Bethlehem

Journey to Bethlehem is an annual event where members from both Groby churches come together to share the message of Christmas with children from across the village.

This year Journey to Bethlehem will be held at the URC from Monday 2nd December to Wednesday 4th. All three Groby Primary Schools will be attending and will experience the true meaning of Christmas re-enacted. This is a great opportunity for children throughout Groby to hear the story of Christmas and to welcome them into our church.

Whilst it may seem early to be thinking about Christmas preparations for this production are already underway so let's pray for:

- All those who are involved in the production, planning and preparation of the sessions as work gets underway to make sure everything is ready.
- The children and staff from all three schools who will be attending, that they will understand the important message of what Christmas is really about and that they will take this to heart in build up to Christmas.
- That God will protect and bless all those involved in Journey to Bethlehem, both those running it and those watching it, as they share in His word at the start of this busy time.

Prayer suggestions for Tearfund

“Prayer is at the heart of everything we do at Tearfund. Our vision is far bigger than what we can achieve alone. We believe in a loving God who hears and responds to our prayers. Your prayers can make a difference – please join us in praying for an end to extreme poverty and injustice”.

- Thank God for the work of Tearfund, not only for their involvement in emergencies and war torn areas of the world, but through projects like ‘Transforming communities’ that is highlighted on page 8.
- Thank God for the opportunities Tearfund provide to invest in people like Justina; people who have risen to the challenge of available training. Justina has turned her income to support her niece’s education, and has ambitious plans for herself in the future.
- Thank Him for the hope this brings to Justina and communities like hers
- Thank God for the church communities that partner Tearfund, like Kangoro, who enable people to access local training which, in turn, provide the means to independent income. Pray that many more people and communities will be able to benefit from this sort of work.
- Thank God for those involved in this church and many, many other Christians in the UK who give so generously to enable this self sustaining project to be successful.

If you would like regular updates from Tearfund on what to pray for, you can sign up by using the following link:

[Pray with us - Tearfund](#)

There are prayer suggestions in their newsletter ‘Tear Times’, published three times a year.

HOMELESSNESS IN LEICESTER



Too early to think about Christmas?



Never too early to have faith in a homeless person's future

The number of rough sleepers in the City centre are reported to be on the increase with 464 at the last count.



For this year's Christmas Appeal we are Going Local and supporting the work of One Roof Leicester who provide accommodation, support and advice to people who are homeless, destitute and vulnerable.

ORL started in 2012, is multicultural and deeply rooted in Leicester. You may remember Helen Hayes had involvement in their early days.

Wish to know more about how our support will change lives? Check out the Tearfund notice board in the hall or speak to Kathy, Ruth, Joy. You can always Google www.oneroof.org.uk

....."Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

ADVENTURE



An Adventure packed weekend.

A few weekends ago, 9 intrepid teenagers set out for an Adventure weekend at Blackwell Outdoor Centre in Bromsgrove

Organised by the URC East Midlands Synod, it proved to be a weekend of rain, fun, laughter and lots of outdoor activities.

Friday night started with a get-to-know you session with a total of 36 young people from across the East Midlands making shapes from pipe cleaners, then explaining them to each other followed by hot dogs and lots of chat! It was great to see them looking through their bibles for different passages.

Saturday morning dawned with light rain in the air but it didn't deter our intrepid teenagers, who after a hearty cooked breakfast, set out for a morning of outdoor activities, orienteering, zip wire and High All Aboard – a platform 30ft in the air to share with your friends!

A great morning was had, followed by another hearty meal and time to relax before trying the activity they hadn't yet had a go on. The thunder started to rumble and they did wonder if the zip-wire was safe!! (It was.)

Saturday afternoon continued with sessions looking at how story affects our lives and how to deal with the bad stuff in life.

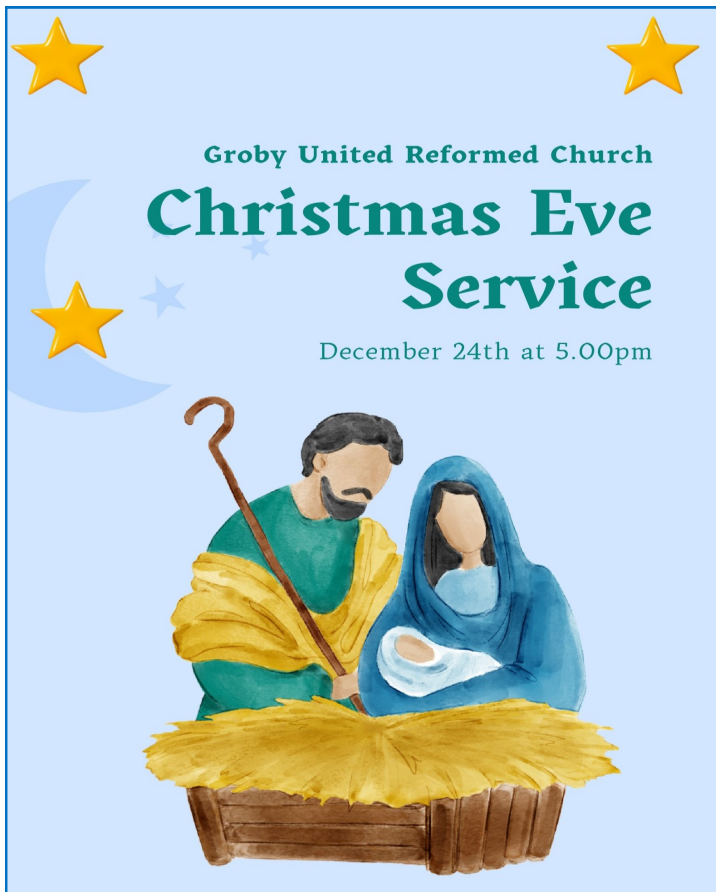
Another hearty meal followed then the prospect of the campfire loomed. Unfortunately the campfire wouldn't light as the ground was soaked with the deluge of rain we'd had, so their pizza's were cooked inside and lots of conversation was had.

By Sunday, they were used to the rain and a few games of laser tag soon wore them out. Some of the older group were able to use the 3G swing – a giant swing which looked terrifying!!

The young people were then treated to a full Sunday dinner of roast chicken before being collected by their parents.

A full and exhausting weekend, but the young people enjoyed themselves immensely and have already said they want to go next year!!

Louise



Celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the Birth of Isaac Watts

Some of us had the great pleasure of singing some of the more famous Isaac Watts hymns in the beautiful church of St Stephens, one of our area churches.

A hard job for Paul to choose only 8 of the over 600 that Watts wrote, many with interesting back stories which Paul was able to provide. Our singing was accompanied by the wonderful up tempo organ playing of Louis Kowal, a student at Loughborough University, and was made all the more enjoyable by the welcome refreshment break half way through.

Our thanks to Paul for all the research and moving sermon on the crucifixion to the world, to the welcome and hospitality of St Stephen's congregation, and to the very proficient organist, Louis Kowal.

Kathy

Were the whole Realm of Nature mine,
That were a Present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my Soul, my Life, my All.



(A hymn based on Galatians 6:14)

Isaac Watts (1707)

“CHRISTMAS CAPERS!”



Saturday 14th December



4pm to 6pm

at Groby URC

**A get together with our friends from the
Resource Area Churches**

**With Christmas Songs and Party Pieces
and to include hot drinks
and mince pies!**



**DO COME ALONG AND ENJOY
SOME CHRISTMASSY FUN!**



DIARY DATES



Alpha dates in November: 7th, 14th and 21st.

Saturday 9th November is the Away Day

Prayers for Peace (including prayers for Ukraine):

Wednesdays whilst Alpha is running - 6.30 pm in church,
13th and 27th November

Rock Solid: 1st, 15th and 22nd November:

7.30 - 9 pm at our church. For Year 5 - 11 children.

Some of our upcoming Christmassy events to put in your diaries!

Christmas Decorations: These will be put up sometime in the week beginning November 25th. Please see Sue or Joy if you would like to help!

'Journey to Bethlehem': 2nd to 4th December at our Church. This is when children from the local primary schools come to church to learn more about the Christmas story.

Christmas Concert at Christchurch: Saturday 7th December. More details to follow

'Christmas Capers': Saturday 14th December at our Church (see info on page 25)

Christmas Eve Service: December 24th at 5 pm.

December / January 2024 issue

The next issue of Contact will be a double issue for December and January.

The deadline for this will be **Saturday 16th November.**

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.

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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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.