

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



March 2025

Happy Birthday

Roberto Fracchia celebrates his birthday in March



Happy Birthday to You

May the Good Lord Bless You

Sue Lawrence-Brook

Pause for Thought...



“During Lent, let us find concrete ways
to overcome our indifference”

-Pope Francis

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

Elder's Welcome Letter	4
Teachings & Readings for March	6
Helping Hands for March	7
Tearfund Donations making a world of difference	8
Training for Growth	10
March's Prayer suggestions	11
Lighthouse	15
Ladies Afternoon Tea & Talk	16
Groby Sings in its Elements	18
Spring Fair in Ratby	19
Using the Church Car Park	19
'Disturb us Lord'. A poem by Sir Francis Drake	20
'Where in the World?' This year's focus for Christian Aid	21
Our Minister & Serving Elders	22
Diary Dates	23
Church Contacts	24

WELCOME FROM MARY, CHURCH ELDER



Welcome to the March edition of Contact.

While having a pre - Spring clear out I came across my old typewriter. Bought in 1974, superseded in 1985 by an Amstrad 8256, it was a surprise to discover it lurking at the back of a cupboard. Seeing it again after so long reminded me of the typing evening class I attended when I was about 15 and how my Grandad would carry the typewriter there and back, each week. I was telling Trevor this story and he said 'well your Grandad must have loved you a lot! This thing weighs a ton!' It was only then that it really occurred to me what a labour of love my Grandad undertook, to carry this heavy beast of a machine half way across Luton and back must have been exhausting. Unfortunately it's very easy to take people who love you for granted, and forget about the sacrifices they have made for you.

Our speaker, at the ladies tea, Gary Kinton also mentioned carrying a great weight. Sadly, this was the weight of feeling worthless that he carried for many years, caused in part by the thoughtless words of his teacher who dismissed Gary as 'will never amount to anything'. This feeling of worthlessness took Gary into the depths of despair and drug addiction. Only when he called out to God in total desperation did he find his way back to life and hope. The weight of his addiction and misery lifted off him by the revelation that he is loved and valued by God.

'For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.' John 3.16.

As we know, far beyond any sacrifice a friend or relation can make for us, is the sacrifice that our Saviour, Jesus, made for us on Calvary. Bearing the burden and the weight of our sins He died that we can be forgiven and know new life, and life in all its fullness.

'For the full content of divine nature lives in Christ, in his humanity, and you have been given full life in union with him.'
Colossians 2. 9-10.

So as we move into Lent, which starts on 5th March, let's make time to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, His love for us and how we need to respond. One simple thing to do each day of Lent is to make time to read the Bible. Many people have daily Bible notes to help with this. If you would like to know more about these please speak to Elsie or Pete.

Or if you prefer to use email why not sign up to the Bible Society's free Lent Encounter with daily readings and reflections starting on 5th March.

Whatever we do, let's aim to spend time with Jesus this Lent, remembering His boundless love and the sacrifice that He made, going willingly to the Cross for us.

God bless,

Mary



TEACHING AND READINGS FOR MARCH 2025

March 2nd	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Faith in Christ enables us to interpret scripture	Tom Donoghue
March 9th (1st in Lent)	Galatians 2: 1-10 Holy Habits 2. Fellowship	Paul
March 16th	Romans 12:9-21 Fellowship through love.	Gary Wood
March 23rd	Luke 24: 13-35 Holy Habits 3. Breaking bread. This service will include sharing communion.	Paul
March 30th (Mothering Sunday)	Mothering Sunday intergenerational worship	Richard Knott

March's Helping Hands

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
March	(Mary)	(Trevor)	(Barry)	(Joy)	(Joy)
2nd	Margaret	Sue	Dave	Barbs & Anita	Pat & Linda
9th	Phil	David	Chris	Elaine & John	Ruth & Roger
16th	Wendy	David	Barry	Alan & Judith	Kathy & Barry
23rd	Sue	Debbie	Mark	Elsie & Pete	Margaret & Maurice
30th	Mary	Debbie	Dave	Rachel & Margaret	Joy & Cheryl



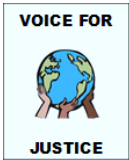
Sunday Flowers
(Barbara Conlon)

March 2nd: John & Elaine
 March 9th: Sue Lawrence
 March 16th: Rachel & Dan
 March 23rd: Kay Blick
 March 30th: Kathy & Barry



“The Clean Team!”
(Kathy Du Boulay)

Week Beginning
 Mar 3rd: Our Chores
 Mar 10th: Ruth & Ann Tombs
 Mar 17th: Our Chores
 Mar 24th: Joy & Pat
 March 31st: Our Chores



HOW OUR REGULAR DONATIONS TO TEARFUND CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE...

When civil war broke out Julius fled from South Sudan with his family to nearby Uganda. Traumatized and often hungry they spent time in a refugee camp. After the conflict ended they returned to a burnt out village and poverty.



Julius was shocked at what he found. 'All the buildings were burned down There was nothing left of my house, no food to eat. There was not a remnant of my crops left.

With Tearfund's support, broadcasting Hope, a radio station is helping to end hunger in South Sudan. Julius is rebuilding his life thanks to a radio show called 'Transforming Communities'.

Starting from scratch was tough for Julius until one day he found his friend listening to Radio Hope FM. The one hour programme offers training in sustainable farming technique with income - boosting ideas. The next week when he tried to listen at home, there was just static, so Julius set off, with torch in hand to find a signal. He found it under a large tree where a local church meets. Every week his sets off to sit beneath the branches to listen, learn and put ideas into practice. In Proverbs 4:7 it commands us to look for wisdom.

Would you walk for half an hour in the dark at night to sit under a tree and tune in to your favourite radio show?



Julius and Family looking happy after identifying the resources they already had to grow crops for them to eat and have surplus to sell to provide for them.

Julius said 'Through Tearfund and the improvements in my life, we don't go to sleep hungry any more.'

tearfund

Does make a world of difference and we are part of that in countries of the world that we have no access to. Yes, we can see the impact our support is having, and are confident our money is being used well.

Pray for the radio station's success in promoting Tearfund's Transforming Communities work

GROWTH

Do you want Groby URC to continue to grow? Of course you do! So do I. What is more important, I believe it is God's desire too.

Last November, Wendy and I attended a two-day course called *Leading Your Church Into Growth*; it was about the best training course I have ever received from the URC.

We shared it with the Eldership in December and they agreed that we should follow the course together, in order to apply it specifically to Groby.

So, on February 13th (together with three Elders from Hinckley URC) we enjoyed the first of seven sessions, presented for us in Groby by the Synod Mission Development Officer and the Synod Training Officer: see photo.

We shall continue on the course with further sessions roughly monthly, and possibly invite one or two other Groby members to join us. We should appreciate your prayers for this venture, but, more than that, please join us in praying that God would

continue to bless this Church with growth, spiritual as much as numerical, not for our own sake but so that more of the village may come to know the joy of loving our Lord Jesus.

Paul.



Tom Donoghue - Mission Development Officer

Derek Graham - Synod Training Officer.



March's Prayer Sheet

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:16

Welcome to our March prayer sheet.

This month instead of focusing on two or three areas for prayer we're inviting you to pray for a range of activities going on across our church. The focus for most of these have come from the annual reports submitted as part of the recent AGM,



Prayers for the Pastoral Support Team:

- Ways to develop a wider range of activities in conjunction with Rev Paul and others.
- For the wisdom of God, insight and strength to build up His kingdom through this ministry.

Prayers for Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark is a parent and toddler group that meets every Monday during term time. It is run by a dedicated group of volunteers.

- Please pray for the leaders, children, their parents & carers, and their continued good health and enthusiasm.

Prayers for Youth and Children's work

Louise Brown is our Youth and Children's worker. She has requested the following prayers for the year ahead:

- We need to continue to engage with the schools within Groby and that these children and young people come to know God
- We need more people to volunteer time to help during the groups or to pray for the young people within them, we need people to volunteer to make refreshments,
- The children and young people
- The volunteers
- That we can reach those within the village who need a touch from God

Prayers for Y Church

Y Church is our Sunday morning group for children and young people within the church.

- As always pray for more volunteers & ask God if you can serve Him by helping as a volunteer both for Y Church & Crossfire. In particular pray that there will be more volunteers willing to lead sessions. ·
- Pray for all our children, they are a real blessing to the church & a fantastic group of children, pray that they will continue to grow in their faith. ·
- Pray for the leaders & helpers who currently give their time for Y Church, thank God for their commitment & ask that He strengthens them & gives them wisdom as they teach our children. ·
- Pray for God's wisdom in how we move forward with the challenges above & how we can ensure the children have space & time to learn what they need about God to equip them for a life of faith.

Prayers for Tasters

Tasters is a community café we run in the church every Saturday morning.

The group that runs Tasters have asked for following prayers:

- The Lord to give us a clear sense of vision and direction for Tasters.
- More opportunities to “sow the seed” (speaking about the gospel), to meet the needs of our friends and to welcome new ones.
- More volunteers, could it be you?
- Another chef would be great!
- A new cohort of children as the current group gets older and moves on.

Prayers for Under the Willow Tree

Under the Willow Tree was featured in last month’s prayer sheet & is a group specifically aimed at children with additional needs and their families.

They have asked for the following prayers:

- That we might help and support more families through our outreach into the primary schools.
- For funding as we progress the new shed.
- Ask God if this is an area you might be able to help in.
- That we develop our vision.
- That more families join us and that the Kingdom of God might flow in the flourishing, care, acceptance, and love, found in our gathering.
- For the children that they will find friendship with one another, and socialisation.
- That we may follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, in imaginative expression of his love and Kingdom.
- Crucially please pray also for safety in each session, especially as numbers increase.

Prayers for Tearfund's Transforming Communities Work

Voice for Justice ask you to pray for the success of Hope Radio, and how it promotes Tearfund's Transforming Communities Work (see page 8 & 9).

- Thank God for this innovative work that, with Tearfund's support, more farmers can learn new farming techniques and identify resources they need to ensure their families have enough food.
- Pray that Hope Radio continue to have the resources they need to continue this life-giving ministry
- Pray for people like Julius and his family, that those who need the knowledge gained from these radio programmes will be able to receive a signal and listen in.
- In our western society, it might seem strange that someone would need to gain information by walking so far to ensure a signal on a radio, when we seem to receive a barrage of information just by looking at our mobile phones. Ask God to help us discern the information we need to pay attention to and ignore what we don't.

Lent begins on March 5th.

You can sign up for the Bible society's Lent Encounter notes by going to their website <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-lent-encounter> (see Mary's Welcome Letter on pg.4)

Tearfund are also producing reflections for Lent which you can register to receive at <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/lent-devotional>



This year's Holiday Club is based around
The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe
and will take place on
Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th August at
Ratby Church & Church Rooms

This can't happen without some fabulous volunteers.

If you can spare some time on one or both days,
please let Louise know.

07450 688217 or youthworkergroby@gmail.com



Did you know? All of the cotton in this year's
Comic Relief Red Nose Day T-shirts, sweatshirts,
totes, pouches and aprons is Fairtrade certified,
traded, audited and sourced from Fairtrade
producers. That's got to be good news!
Red Nose Day is later in March.



Afternoon Tea & Talk



There was a great turn out for the Ladies afternoon tea on Sunday 9th Feb. And why wouldn't there be with the promise of some delicious eating treats, lashings of tea or coffee, a non alcoholic but beautiful looking 'Pimms' welcome and a very interesting and moving talk given by Gary (mentioned in Mary's Welcome Letter).

Our thanks to the lovely ladies who organised and prepared the food.



It was all served by these well-scrubbed up waiters.



Gary Kinton from 'The Carpenters Arms' provided the talk.

And here's a few of us enjoying the treats!!





in its **ELEMENT**

Yes, we're back! On Wednesdays, **The Groby Club** will be rocking to the theme of *Groby Sings in its Element* featuring 'songs with beautiful chemistry'. At our first session before half-term we enjoyed catching up with choir members from previous seasons and gave a warm welcome to some new singers who came along to experience our brilliant community choir. We listened to all the songs, joined in with those with which we were familiar and got ready to learn some new numbers as well as trying to work out which ones fit into the theme of 'chemical elements plus air, earth, water and fire' – some were more obvious than others! Among the less tenuous links were *Gold* by Spandau Ballet and *Set Fire to the Rain*, a lovely song by Adele, but we had to delve a bit deeper into some of the other songs' lyrics to work out the connection. All will become clear by the time we perform in concert in June.

A reminder that our weekly singing sessions are on **Wednesdays** (except during school holidays):

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.

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

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490

June L Ward



Using our Church Car Park (Groby URC)



Please would all drivers note that the surfaced path through our car park heading into the allotments is a public footpath and we are therefore not allowed to park over it.

Also, the roadway the other side of our hedge gives motor vehicles access to our neighbours at no. 41 and 43 Chapel Hill. We need to ensure this also is left clear. At one of our recent events, a car was blocking our neighbour from getting out of her own drive!!!

Disturb Us Lord
(a prayer by Sir Francis Drake)

Disturb us Lord, when
we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us Lord, when
with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us lord, to dare more boldly,
to venture on wider seas,
where storms will show your mastery;
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars

We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
in strength, courage, hope and love.

(from 'Holy Habits' by Andrew Roberts)

Where in the World?



The official language of this country is Spanish.

21 Mayan languages are also spoken.

The currency is the Quetzal, named after the national bird, whose feathers were once used as currency.



The name of this country comes from the Nahuatl word *Cuauhtēmallān*, or "place of many trees"

The population is over 17 million of whom 88% are Christian. 50% live below the poverty line.

This country shares borders with Belize, Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador. It has coastlines with the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Honduras.

Demographically it is one of the youngest countries in the Western hemisphere, with 41% of the population under 15 years old.

The marimba is the national instrument (wooden xylophone).

This country is the focus of **Christian Aid Week 2025**.

Have you worked out where in the world this is? If not you can find the answer in April Contact. If you can't wait until then check out the Christian Aid notice board.

Our Minister and Church Elders



Rev'd Paul Ellis



Margaret



Sue

Mary



Wendy



Phil



DIARY DATES



Prayers for Peace (including prayers for Ukraine):
Wednesday 5th and 19th March - 6.30 pm in church

April 2025 issue

The deadline for April's issue of Contact is **Saturday 22nd March.**

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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janesnips@hotmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Our Sunday morning services start at 10 am and are recorded then broadcast afterwards (see page 2 for details). 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: Lighthouse*. A fun after school club for years 1-5 - 5 - 6.30 pm (term time)

Fri. Rock Solid* 7.30 pm . Games and Grub for children in Years 5 - 11. (term time)

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'.