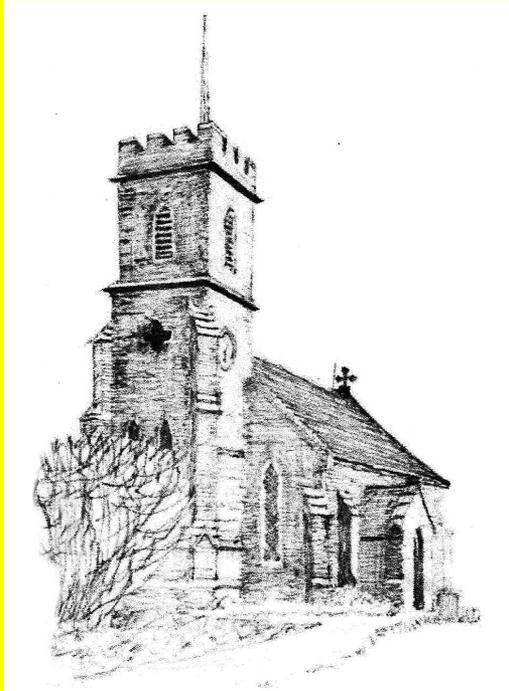


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PARISH MAGAZINE**



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March 2023

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The Benefice of Groby & Ratby

March 2023



*Dear brothers and sisters
in Christ,*

Unbelievably, we have raced through January and February and we are in March – in Lent, in fact. A few days ago we began the wonderful season of Lent. All our readings look forward to Easter. All of us, from the youngest in the faith, those in the various stages of Christian growth, to those who have been around for a while and who can look back on a life-time of Christian experience. We are all in the same boat. Lent brings us to the very heart of our Christian Faith, pondering Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, and our life as members of His Body, the Church. It is a time for renewal of heart and mind, a time when we are called to take a closer look at ourselves in that relationship with the Lord who has given Himself for us. I'm not sure where chocolate comes into this (and I won't mention Easter eggs already in the stores) but fasting is good for us!

As we renew our openness to Jesus' love for us, recognising that nothing can hold a candle

to this, may we be enabled to grow ever closer to him and, through being

His people, also being closer to others around us.

I have to say that we're very fortunate to know where we are going. Our future is all good news.

1Peter 1:3-11 makes it very clear as Paul states clearly, where our hope is founded:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer

grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Season of Lent is a gift to us. It is a season of reminders, that the Lord has saved us through his passion, his death and his resurrection. Let us use this gift of Lent wisely, recognising afresh that our response to all that the Lord has done for us must be one of worship, faithfulness, the service of our brothers and sisters and lives lived ever closer to Him. St. Bernard, writing on the love of God, points out that the love that God has shown us in the person of His Son calls for response: love for Him and our brothers and sisters. It is this love that motivates our sharing in fellowship Sunday by Sunday.

There is a sense of excitement and purpose in all this – the praise of God comes before all else and we are called to drop what we are doing and hasten to be with our brothers and sisters as the Body of Christ – simply out of love for Him and them.

Jesus loves us unconditionally. As one minister of our experience often said: “He knows all about us, but loves us all the same”. Our love for Jesus means, or should do, that we share Jesus’ love with others, unconditionally.

The word ‘unconditionally’ is challenging. There are many life questions which we have to wrestle with. The recent debate in the General Synod was about a key question of the moment: the question of the multivariety of relationships. There is the question of love between those of the same gender and how transgender folk fit in the picture we have of the world and the church, posing questions which we of longer membership of the churches have not been willing to face before (even if we should have done). But the questions are there and need to be answered.

In our relationship with the Lord there is a common thread – ‘agape’, the deep love in which we are urged to treat all people with the same love with which Jesus treats us. The love modelled on the love of the Christian God for each person, the love of each person for God and the Godly love of each person for others. It's the love which is given

whether or not it's returned. It's the love which asks no reward. These are hard questions for those longer in the tooth, especially, but we are faced always with the answer Jesus would give to us – love one another... without condition.

As Paul says: there is faith, hope and love – and the greatest of these is love. And love knows no bounds. Love is the key.

Blessings of the season,
Keith Wignall, Associate Minister (new title for Reader)

Services and Events in March

First a reminder that our regular pattern of worship will continue with alternating 8am communions (1st and 3rd Sundays in Groby, 2nd and 4th Sundays in Ratby) and then a 9.30am (in Groby) or 10am (in Ratby) service every week, alternating between communion and morning worship. Note that in Ratby we are having a special service to bring people of all ages together on Sunday 12th March at 10am. The aim of this service is to celebrate the long lives of our more elderly people by introducing our young people to them. The worship will be very interactive with both young and not so young participating. We aim to give each group an opportunity to talk to each other, compare life experiences and most important to worship together, sharing our favourite songs and more. At the end of the worship together we will be serving refreshments, as always! Come and join us to help us to be a more connected community.

We also continue our regular 11.15am Telephone Church every Sunday (call 0333 0164 757; room number 10336316#; pin 1920#). During the week we continue to have morning prayer every Monday at 9am in Ratby alongside morning prayer by Zoom Thursdays at 9am (with occasional breaks when we are doing Open the Book!). As ever 9.30am Wednesday Communion in Groby will be every week as well as our online Compline every Tuesday at 9pm (<https://www.facebook.com/StPandStJ>).

We are also in Lent from 22nd February and there will be a Lent Course to which all are welcome from any village, running in the Methodist Chapel at 7.30pm on Thursdays, from Thursday 2nd March until Thursday 30th March. More details about that in the magazine.

God bless you all. Prayers, as ever,
Rev'd Ed

SUNDAY TELEPHONE SERVICES - MARCH

DATE	GROBY/RATBY
5th MAR	11.15am Telephone Church (JH)
12th MAR	11.15 Telephone Church (KW)
19th MAR	11.15am Telephone Church (RZ)
26th MAR	11.15am Telephone Church (RS)

ON-LINE SERVICES - MARCH

REGULAR WEEKDAY ONLINE SERVICES

At **9pm Tuesday** - night prayer

9am Thursday morning on-line prayers

NATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES ON-LINE

There are usually national church services being streamed on Sundays that can be accessed via:

<https://www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland>

and if that is not possible there is Sunday worship on Radio 4.

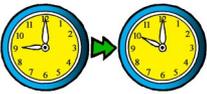
FACE MASKS IN CHURCH

The wearing of masks in church is no longer mandatory, but there will be some people who feel safer with a mask. Please respect their wishes, and allow social distancing.



GROBY/RATBY *IN-CHURCH SERVICES - MARCH*

DATE	GROBY	RATBY
5th 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.00am Holy Communion (EB/RZ)	
	9.30am Morning Worship (All Age Team)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	6.00pm Holy Communion (EB/RZ)	
12th 3rd Sunday of Lent		8.00am Holy Communion (EB/RZ)
	9.30am Holy Communion (PH)	10.00am Intergenerational Worship (JH/EB/RZ)
	6.00pm Evensong (RZ)	
19th Mothering Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (EB/RZ)	
	9.30am Morning Worship (RZ)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB)
26th 5th Sunday Of Lent		8.00am Holy Communion (EB/RZ)
	9.30am Holy Communion (EB)	10.00am Morning Worship (RZ)
	6.00pm Evensong (RS)	



Note: PH = Revd Pam Harvey

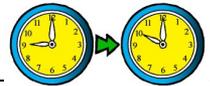


MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES March 2023						
GROBY	Wed 9.30am	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th

March Diary

1st	Wed	9.30am 1.30pm	Holy Communion at Groby Groby Sings - 1st practice sessions
2nd	Thurs	9.00am 10.30 - 12.00 pm	Online Morning Prayer CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
3rd	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am	CTG CatCh at the URC
4th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at the URC
5th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.15am 12.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Groby Morning Worship at Groby Holy Communion at Ratby Telephone Church Baptism at Groby (Nia) Holy Communion at Groby
6th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
7th	Tues	9.15 - 10,30am 9.00pm	Young Families at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
8th	Wed	9.30am 2.30pm 3.15 - 4.30pm	Holy Communion at Groby Church Women's Guild meeting Wacky Wednesdays at Ratby Church
9th	Thurs	9.00am 10.30 - 12.00 pm	Online Morning Prayer CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
10th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 2.00pm 6.00pm	CTG CatCh at the URC Seniors' cinema at Ratby Church Family cinema at Ratby Church
11th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at the URC
12th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Ratby Holy Communion at Groby Intergenerational Worship at Ratby Crossfire at Groby Vicarage Telephone Church Evensong at Groby
13th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
14th	Tues	9.15 - 10,30am 9.00pm	Young Families at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer

15th	Wed	9.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm	Holy Communion at Groby Wacky Wednesdays at Ratby Church
16th	Thurs	9.00am 10.30 - 12.00pm	Online Morning Prayer CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
17th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at the URC Rock Solid at the URC
18th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at the URC
19th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.15am	Holy Communion at Groby Morning Worship at Groby Holy Communion at Ratby Telephone Church
20th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
21st	Tues	9.00pm	Online Night Prayer
22nd	Wed	9.30am 12.30pm	Holy Communion at Groby Ratby Band concert in Ratby church
23rd	Thurs	9.00am 10.30 - 12.00pm	Online Morning Prayer CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
24th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am	CTG CatCh at the URC
25th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at the URC
26th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 11.15am 12.30pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Ratby Holy Communion at Groby Morning Worship at Ratby Crossfire at Groby Vicarage Telephone Church Ratby Lunch Club Evensong at Groby
27th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
28th	Tues	9.15 - 10,30am 9.00pm	Young Families at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
29th	Wed	9.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm	Holy Communion at Groby Wacky Wednesdays at Ratby Church
30th	Thurs	9.00am 10.30 - 12.00pm	Online Morning Prayer CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
31st	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at the URC Rock Solid at the URC



Rector's Ramblings

There are two words which are so important to say, but which all too often are underused – and you may remember me mentioning them in my Ramblings towards the end of last year. And those words are 'thank you'. In those earlier Ramblings I thanked Jesus for loving me, indeed all of us, enough to live as one of us and even die for us. But in our acceptance of this, we choose to give of what we have in turn for the work of the church. So I want to say thank you to all of you.

In the midst of a cost of living crisis I want to say a massive thank you to all our givers. Thank you to those who give by the Parish Giving Scheme or by envelopes. Thank you to those who leave their collection whenever they visit church. Thank you if you give every week, every month or even just once a year. Thank you for all who volunteer in so many ways, giving of their time and talents. For it is only by your generosity that we are able to do all we can, for it only through donations of money and yourselves that the church exists.

And it is important to know what your money and efforts do. So thank you that you contribute to the costs of ministry – my own, our curate's and all our lay ministers with their training and so forth. Thank you that we can keep our buildings and churchyards in good order. Thank you that we can run our children and youth groups – Catch, Young Families, Wacky Wednesdays, Rock Solid and Crossfire. Thank you that we can hold coffee mornings, lunch clubs and cinema clubs. Thank you that we can host events in our churches and support our communities in huge variety of ways. And above all, thank you that we can, in all of this, show the love of God and hopefully help those around us know that love and come to know that love in Jesus Christ for themselves.

So thank you for all you give to God and the work of his church – I hope it brings you joy doing so and that God blesses you in turn as you bless us, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Bless you all and thank you from the bottom of my heart.
Yours in Christ,
Rev'd Ed.



THE RATBY DAYTIME BRASS BAND

Brass Band Concert

Conductor Ian Bartram

**St Philip and St James Church,
Church Lane,
Ratby, LE6 0JF**

Wednesday 22nd March

Free Admission
including a cup of soup and roll

All Welcome

**Doors open at 11.30am and
concert begins at 12.30-1.30pm**

Voluntary donations welcome



RATBY
co-operative
BRASS BAND





At the Movies

REMINDER: Wednesday 1st March is St David's Day and also the first day of the new season for our community choir, *Groby Sings*. The trees and shrubs are springing into life and the days are starting to lengthen so we should all be in the mood to enjoy singing together again 'At the Movies'.

WHERE? The Groby Club, Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester LE6 0DJ (ramps and disabled facilities available)

WHEN? Wednesdays, term time only.

1.30pm – 3.00pm Adult singers (pre-school children welcome in the care of their adult with a crèche area available)

3.40 - 4.40pm Youth and Children's Choir (7 years and over)

7.30pm – 9.00pm Adult singers

Adult singers are welcome at either or both sessions so feel free to vary attendance each week as the same programme of singing will be covered by our Musical Director, Simon Lubkowski.

Remember, *Groby Sings welcomes everyone* and this season we are actively encouraging people who have been diagnosed with memory loss or dementia, as well as their friends and carers, to come along and experience the enjoyment of singing together. Home bakers are also especially welcome as we like to enjoy a drink and a cake during a short break in the singing. If you would like to contribute by occasionally supplying a few baked goodies, there will be an opportunity to sign up for a future session.

Enquiries via our [website www.grobysings.org](http://www.grobysings.org).

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490

Remember 19th March
Mothering Sunday



A New Church Prayer Team.

As you might remember, pre-covid, we had a regular group of our brothers and sisters who were prepared to pray for (and with) others at the end of our morning services.

Ed has signalled his wish that we resurrect this group as it has been so effective in the past.

It is not an onerous task, just being willing to listen to someone who has things on their hearts (worries, celebrations, concern for loved ones, etc), but very rewarding. Some training would be available if needed and desired.

If you would be interested in hearing what our proposed, resurrected Prayer Team would be all about, please chat to Ed, Riffat or me.

Blessings,
Keith Wignall

Churches Together in Ratby



**invite you to a special service across
all ages**

Sunday 12th March at 10am

Ratby Parish Church

This special service is aimed at connecting families and young people with older people in our community and to share our experiences.

Come and join us to help us to be a more
connected community.

God in the Sciences by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz
Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute
for Science and Religion in Cambridge.



When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old self. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, we are made in Gods image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a Theology of Science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

New Area Dean of Sparkenhoe East

It may come as no surprise to many of you, as I have been acting as Assistant Area Dean these last three years, but the following announcement was made in church on Sunday 19th February:

The Bishop is pleased to announce the appointment of The Revd Ed Bampton, Rector in the Benefice of Groby and Ratby in the Diocese of Leicester, also as The Area Dean of Sparkenhoe East.

The details of Ed's licensing service will be announced in due course.

I will continue to serve everyone in the wonderful parishes of Groby and Ratby as I have always tried to do. Now, alongside this, it is my honour to fulfil this new role to the best of my ability and to support my colleagues in the deanery as well. In this time of transition we look to be Shaped by God Together, and not merely as a Diocesan vision, but as a heartfelt call upon us all as disciples of Jesus Christ. I believe we can do this best when we work together across boundaries, as we already do in many ways in our deanery.

I ask most especially for your prayers in this new role, which I do feel God has called me to, but which I can only do in His strength.

In His name,
Rev'd Ed



CatCh

Coffee and Chat at the Chapel



Time: 9.30 – 11.00

When: Fridays from 13th January

Where: URC Chapel Hill, Groby

Cost: £1 per family

Toys, stories and crafts for Babies and Toddlers

Tea or Coffee and Chat for their carers.

Please bring your own drinks for little ones.

Queries: rscott1037@yahoo.co.uk

Wacky Wednesdays After School Club

Every Wednesday

In term time

3.15pm to 4.30pm

**St Philip and St James Church,
Ratby**

**All Welcome, Come join us
for stories, singing, adventures
and most of all fun!**

**We recommend facemasks for adults
while moving round the**

Suggested donation:

£1 per child

Children's drinks free

Tea/coffee 50p

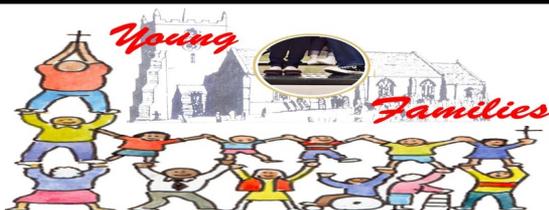
suggested donation



Activities for children and families in our Benefice in March



Wed 1st Mar	3.15pm	Wacky Wednesdays	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 3rd Mar	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 3rd Mar	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Tues 7th Mar	9.15am	Young Families	Ratby Church	under 5s
Wed 8th Mar	3.15pm	Wacky Wednesdays	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 10th Mar	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Sun 12th Mar	10.30am	Crossfire	Groby Vicarage	Secondary
Tues 14th Mar	9.15am	Young Families	Ratby Church	under 5s
Wed 15th Mar	3.15pm	Wacky Wednesdays	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 17th Mar	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 17th Mar	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Tues 21st Mar	9.15am	Young Families	Ratby Church	under 5s
Wed 22nd Mar	3.15pm	Wacky Wednesdays	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 24th Mar	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Tues 28th Mar	9.15am	Young Families	Ratby Church	under 5s
Wed 29th Mar	3.15pm	Wacky Wednesdays	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 31st Mar	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 31st Mar	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15



Young Families

Every Tuesday
(term time)

9.15am to 10.30am
St Philip and St James
Church, Ratby

Come join us for stories, singing,
adventures and most of all fun!

We recommend wearing facemasks for adults
while moving round the building

Children's drinks free
Suggested Donation Tea/Coffee 50p

Suggested Donation
£1 per child



Ratby Telephone Befriending Service

Are you lonely or isolated and would like a
telephone friend?

What is our telephone befriending service?



It is a service for people living in and around Ratby and has been developed by Ratby Parish Church

The aim of the Telephone Befriending service is to provide some support to people who may be suffering from the debilitating effects of loneliness and/or social isolation.

We will offer you a friendly volunteer who will ring you each week for a chat. All you need to do is to phone 07545909868

Just tell us a bit about yourself or the person you would like us to call, and we'll do the rest.

This is a completely confidential service

CHURCH WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT FOR MARCH 2023

Hello again.

Yet another month has gone by. Hope you are all keeping well!

Particularly in the freezing cold weather we have had, and keeping in touch with each other.

Our next Meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH, 2023 at the home of ELIZABETH JARVIS, 41 FLAXFIELD CLOSE, GROBY at 2.30 pm, for friendship, cake and tea and chat about what we would like to do in the future. Hope to see you all there.

Why not come and join us 2nd Wednesday each month at 2.30pm.

*For more information please contact **Annette Fowler (2873169)***



FAIR CUPPA

Thursdays at the Village Hall
10.30 to 12.00 noon



Please come along for a chat and a cuppa!

For further information contact Elizabeth Jarvis 0116 287 6110

FAIR CUPPA ROTA - MARCH	
2 Mar	Peter & Enid
9 Mar	Connie & Beryl
16 Mar	Linda S & Pat
23 Mar	Elizabeth & Hilary
30 Mar	P K Earring & Janet

Rector's Recipes - Sweet Thai Chilli Chicken Stir Fry

A new favourite in our household as the children's tastes develop – and if you have children that aren't so keen on the sweet chilli sauce, then the coated chicken by itself is very nice! The chicken can of course be replaced by king prawns or tofu. If you want more veggies than the basics here (and I often do), add in some mushrooms, carrot sticks, sugar snap peas, tenderstem broccoli or other things that take your fancy!

Ingredients

- 700g chicken breasts cut into cubes
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp ground black pepper
- ½ tsp paprika (optional)
- 3 tbsp cornflour
- 3 tbsp olive oil divided
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 peppers red and yellow , thinly sliced
- 12-15 fresh green beans cut into halves
- 250 ml sweet chilli sauce
- 1 teaspoon crushed red chilli flakes
- 2 teaspoon sesame seeds
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives



Method

- Mix the salt, pepper and paprika (if using) into the cornflour and add in the chicken and stir until the chicken is coated.
- Heat a deep skillet or wok on a medium flame, add 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Once the oil is heated add in the chicken pieces. Cook for 5 minutes or so until the chicken is cooked through. Remove the chicken pieces and set aside.
- To the same skillet/wok add the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil and add the minced garlic. Cook for a minute.
- Add in the veggies; bell peppers and green beans. Sauté for 6-8 minutes until the veggies are slightly cooked.
- Stir the chicken back into the skillet along with the sweet chili sauce and cook for 3-4 minutes until the chicken is coated with the sauce.
- Finally add the crushed chili flakes and sesame seeds and stir.
- Garnish the chicken stir fry with chives and serve it on a bed of rice – or you can also use noodles if you prefer.

Rev'd Ed

***Do you want to make a difference in your community
by volunteering as a school governor?***



**Martinshaw Primary School, Groby is
looking for a School Governor**

School governors play an important role in leading our school

They set the strategic vision and direction, approve the budget and hold the senior leadership team to account.

The benefits of being a governor are immense but:

Can you bring to the School your professional skills and experience in strategic planning, chairing, financial planning, and team working?

Do you like building relationships and networks in your locality and supporting children and young people in your community?

Our school Governing Body is made up of Governors from all walks of life and come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the School and are the link between the School and the community it serves and anyone over the age of 18 can be a governor and you don't need to be a parent.

Are you what are we are looking for?

Why not look at our website: www.martinshaw.leics.sch.uk

Find out more about the role by contacting:

Chair of Governors Peter Griffin on 07970251417 or
pgriffin.gov@martinshaw.leics.sch.uk

UPDATE:

Mixed bag of weather: more 40C days, rainy mist in 28C, gale force winds and the spectacular views on many evenings of 1000+ House Martins high above gorging on insects swarming in the stormy conditions.

The asbestos pipes have been removed, the trench alongside the road filled in with sand (seaside on our front garden!). Steve was able to repair the drive with all the stones and gravel washed away and he has a pile spare for winter. The damage to the floor of the car getting out of our drive was minimal.

Load shedding continues 3 or 4 times a day; that's our normal.

Your prayers please for **Ruth and Jean:**

there are so many after school events, evenings and preparations that they are stressed and tired and recovering from illness. They are at the school fun sports Obstacle challenge as I write. Ruth is substitute teacher for this term (Computer Science and History) and has retained three students for Maths & Science tutoring. She is accepted for Unisa Post Graduate Teacher Training. Ruth is slowly recovering from a nasty bout of Tonsillitis and also finds herself quite allergic to a particular biting insect at this farming area school. Jean seems immune but both suffer from the hot dusty air. He is doing well, next check up mid March. He had a school camp for two nights but his own tent! Unfortunately, he has been ill and diagnosed with Covid-19.



VALENTINES' DAY

We used the Father loving his prodigal son as our verse and message, with red-jewelled ring attached in a bag with a heart-shaped biscuit. The day was an excuse to bless the homeless and hopefully help them feel more included in the community.

Worcester News

A friend in UK had sent money to bless/treat the guys so we could purchase the heart shaped biscuits, hash browns and ingredients for fricata to go with baked beans and a homemade BBQ chutney: a Valentines Day Breakfast served with bread and coffee. Each of the 80 breakfasts were served in individual containers. It was a lovely atmosphere. Some guys smiled, others looked bewildered: why they should have; but each thoroughly enjoyed the meal. We looked around half way through service and saw so many men and women, all ages sitting down together eating and chatting; a lovely sight. Thank You, Lord. I know it sounds frivolous but such a meal is not the norm! But the day itself is so hyped up; so many people wear red and white to work, schools have events etc It was good to be a little inclusive: homeless are special too and loved!

Please pray for Hannah:

She has assignments including re-taking Afrikaans Literature. All her books have arrived, her Teaching Practice arranged and accepted by Unisa.

She had a Church Youth Camp last weekend, as one of the leaders/helpers. The girls' Dorm was praised because Hannah took a plug-in Mosquito repellent which was sorely needed! She had just started Confirmation classes; not with the school age candidates but in a young adult small group. Hannah will help us in Ministry preparations and clean-up along with attending Ywam meetings.

Steve and I are getting used to the routine: checking load shedding details and planning meals accordingly. For example, power was off on Friday morning 4am-6am. So rather than get up and cook porridge before 3am, we made 8 flasks of boiling water the night before and whisked instant porridge at 5am. We are getting better at handling work load!!! *Mondays:* we make 80 sandwich ++packets; *Tuesday* a cooked meal, this week will be curry; *Wednesday* is a simple coffee and bread (there are always coffee and bread but on Wednesdays there is another venue serving at 9am so we encourage the homeless to go there too); *Thursday* Carel and helper cook; *Friday* is always porridge day, together we cook copious amounts because the bread will have run out by then and seconds (&thirds!) can be enjoyed with homemade syrups, jams or stewed fruit.

STOP PRESS: KEYS TO WORCESTER STATION HANDED OVER TO MORETHAN ON APRIL 1ST Not an April Fools!

Thank You Lord

CHURCH REGISTERS

WEDDINGS

Ratby
None

Groby
None



BAPTISMS

Ratby
None

Groby
None



FUNERALS

Ratby

Groby



REGISTERS NOT AVAILABLE THIS MONTH

ALTAR FLOWERS - March		
	Altar	Memorial Vase
5 Mar		
12 Mar		
19 Mar	Mothering Sunday	
26 mar		

LENT, NO FLOWERS

Church Cleaning - March	
20 Feb - 5 Mar	Elizabeth & Christine
6 Mar - 19 Mar	Chris D & Julie
20 Mar - 2 Apr	Gill & Alan



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**April Magazine Deadline
Saturday 18th March**

Please send all items to
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Items for the
weekly news sheet
to:
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**Do you receive the magazine
on a regular basis?**

If not and you would like to have a copy each month, please contact a member of the clergy or one of the church wardens.

You will find their details on the contact list overleaf.

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