

The Benefice of Groby & Ratby

October 2025

Autumn, Harvest and Generosity Week

Autumn is well and truly with us now. The summer heat has faded, youngsters are back in school, the deer are roaming around Bradgate searching for acorns and the squashes and pumpkins are ready on the allotment. In church the Harvest festivals are underway. There are numerous school harvests that need attending by our ministry team alongside those held in church.

At Harvest time we think about all that we have to be thankful for and living in this country our list is endless. There's the wonderful water board who despite the dry year still provide fresh clean drinking water at the turn of the tap; or the NHS providing care when we need it without having to prove we can pay for it; there are schools that teach our children, grandchildren or even great grandchildren free of charge and don't forget those dustbin lorries that prowl the streets in our village every Monday. The list goes on. We have so much to be thankful for in this country.

But harvest is not just about saying thank you to God, but also about what God wants us to do with the things he has given us. Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, points out that *"Our faith starts with the most generous gift of all – God's gift to us of life itself and new life and new hope in Jesus Christ. What we call*

'generosity' is just our response to these great gifts... This is what Generosity Week is all about." In our benefice we are thinking about Generosity during the first 2 weeks of October.

Jesus talked about what it meant to give generously. In the Bible, there is a story about how Jesus was standing outside the Temple with his friends, watching people come and give money...

Many rich people donated large sums to the Temple. Then a poor widow came and put in two coins that weren't worth very much. Jesus told his friends that her contribution, even though it was less money, was worth more than what all the rich people gave. They could afford to give large amounts, but she gave almost all she had to live on. For her, it was like giving everything Luke 21:1 - 4

Not everyone has a lot of money to spare. Jesus' story about the poor widow is a reminder that how much we give is less important than our attitude about giving. Money isn't the only thing to give either. We can give to God, and each other, in three ways: our time, our talents, and our treasure (money).

Time

There are lots of ways we can spend time helping others, whether with our young people or helping with Fair Cuppa, whether at Groby Sings or at Tasters. Generosity also matters to the people we love. Small rituals of spending time together within families are important – going for a walk, praying together at bedtime, listening to what was good and bad about each day – are ways of being generous to each other. Also, who among our friends and family might need us to spend special time with them? Is there someone who's lonely or sad? How can we help them?

Talent

We all have talents whether as accountant, baker or carpenter. Whatever it is, that talent could be used to help others. Tasters need another regular baker just once a month. If you're good at making people feel welcome, maybe you can help by being one of the welcomers and sides people occasionally. Sunday school need a regular person who will sit in just to listen, and I am sure we all have a talent to sit!

Treasure

Harvest is a time when we can reassess how much we can give to the church. As gift aid secretary I am always amazed by the generosity that is seen in this benefice, and I thank all of you who prayerfully think about your giving to your church. However, I also realise it is easy to set up direct debits and then forget about them. The last few years inflation rates have increased our bills and our giving hasn't kept pace with them. So consider this a gentle reminder to look at your giving, does it need to increase?

Many of us wish we could give more but cannot currently afford to. A legacy is a no risk way of giving because it doesn't take effect until after death. Some of us may find ourselves in the situation where the next generation is no longer relying on us for financial support. In those cases I would like to encourage you to think about including a bequest to St Philip and St James church whether Groby or Ratby in your Will. If you would like to explore this further please speak to any of the ministry team and they will support you in this.

To pass on a legacy is to pass on the faith of the church and the faith that is within us. We have received a treasured place from previous generations, and are responsible for handing it on to the next. The church, like the world it serves, is not just for us now – we are given the privilege of being responsible for a sacred place where God has been found, and which we then hand on to others.

If you would like to continue thinking about generosity, and how it enables us to serve our communities, I encourage you to look at the Generosity Week's Connected Disciples resource. You can find the resource here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/generosity-week>

Ruth Scott
Associate Minister for Groby and Ratby

Services and Events in October

Mostly our usual pattern will continue and don't forget about our lovely evening services on Sundays at 6pm on Groby. Notably for the evensong 12th October we will have a rehearsal of the Magnificat (sung version) with Paul at 5pm followed by tea and cake before the service at 6pm, where we will try singing it in the service. Anyone who would like to join in with the rehearsal is more than welcome!!! We are aiming to work to a sung evensong at least monthly.

One big thing to note though this month is that Sunday 5th October will be a bit different! This will be a special joint service at Ratby at the different time of **11am** with lunch afterwards (this will be a Ploughman's at a cost of £4). This is both a Harvest Celebration, where we hope to raise money for Christian Aid, but will also be our Leaving Service for Rev'd Riffat Zamurad, our curate who goes on to pastures new (see elsewhere in the magazine for details). Do join us for the service (lunch tickets are sold out) – all are welcome. Don't worry, we will be doing harvest in Groby too – that will be at 9.30am on Sunday 12th October. See in the magazine about donations for food as we support the work of Braunstone Foodshare, as well as holding stocks in church for any people we know are in urgent need locally.

Never forget all our other regular services will continue – our lovely Telephone Church, every Sunday at 11.15am (call 0333 0164 757; room number 10336316#; pin 1920#) and during the week we continue to have morning prayer every Monday at 9am in Ratby and 9.30am Wednesday Communion in Groby every week. Our online Compline will be every Tuesday at 9pm (<https://www.facebook.com/StPandStJ>).

There is one more special service this month – in Groby on Sunday 26th October at 3pm will be our Service of Loving Remembrance for those we have loved and lost. There will be an equivalent service in Ratby the following month (3pm on Sunday 2nd November). All welcome and do let us know if there are names of those you would like us to remember which we will read out during the service.

SUNDAY TELEPHONE SERVICES - OCTOBER

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

ON-LINE SERVICES - OCTOBER

REGULAR WEEKDAY ONLINE SERVICES

At 9pm Tuesday - night prayer

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.

GROBY/RATBY *IN-CHURCH SERVICES - OCTOBER*

DATE	GROBY	RATBY
5th 16th Sunday after Trinity	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	11am Special Service at Ratby	11.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	6.00pm Holy Communion (EB)	
12th 17th Sunday after Trinity		8.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	9.30am Holy Communion (EB)	10.00am Morning Worship (RD/AC)
	6.00pm Evensong (RS)	
19th 18th Sunday after Trinity	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30am Morning Worship (RD/AC)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB)
26th 19th Sunday after Trinity		8.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	9.30am Holy Communion (EB)	10.00am Morning Worship (RD)
	3.00pm Service of Loving Remembrance (EB)	

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES October 2025						
GROBY	Wed 9.30am	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th

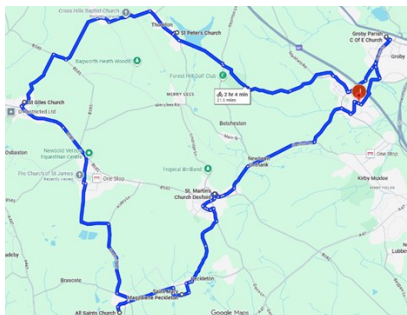
October Diary

1st	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
2nd	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
3rd	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am	CTG CatCh at Groby URC
4th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC
5th	Sun	8.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Groby Harvest Service at Ratby Holy Communion at Groby
6th	Mon	9.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer at Ratby Julian Meeting: <i>Sharing Silence</i> at Groby Library
7th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
8th	Wed	9.30am 2.30pm	Holy Communion at Groby Women's Guild meeting
9th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
10th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 2.00pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Over 60s Cinema at Ratby Church Rock Solid at URC Groby
11th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC
12th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 11.15am 6.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Ratby Holy Communion at Groby (Harvest) Morning Worship at Ratby Crossfire at the Village Hall Telephone Church Evensong at Groby Taizé Service at Markfield Methodist Church
13th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
14th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer

15th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
16th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
17th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby
18th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 2.00 - 4.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Open Church at Groby
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	<i>Schools half term</i> Morning Prayer at Ratby
21st	Tues	9.00pm	Online Night Prayer
22nd	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
23rd	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
24th	Fri		
25th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC
26th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 11.15am 12.30pm 3.00pm	Holy Communion at Ratby Holy Communion at Groby Morning Worship at Ratby Crossfire at the Village Hall Telephone Church Lunch Club at Ratby Service of Loving Remembrance at Groby
27th	Mon	9.00am 9.30 - 3.30pm	Morning Prayer at Ratby Quiet day in Ratby church (see P10)
28th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
29th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
30th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
31st	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby

Ride and Stride 2025

Can I say a huge thank you to everyone who supported Ride and Stride this year. Thank you to all those who rode and strides. Thank you to all those who opened up our churches to welcome visitors. And thank you to all of you for sponsoring our riders and welcomers.



Despite a cold, with wonderful support from Paul Cox I managed 22.78 miles on an occasionally damp afternoon. Together we visited Ratby, Desford, Peckleton, Kirkby Mallory, Newbold Verdon, Barlestone (both the Baptist Chapel and the Parish Church), Thornton and Groby - and met lots of lovely people and had some great conversations. Thanks to all we met for wonderful hospitality. Paul had already been out and about in the morning, so he covered over 50 miles in total and managed to visit all the churches in our prospective Minster Community, a brilliant feat!



If you still want to sponsor us, as we raise money for both our own churches and also the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust (from whom both our churches have received grants towards repairs), then there is box in Ratby or a pot in Groby where you can still make donations. I'll let you all know the final totals when I put it all together in October.

*Bless you all.
Ed*

Activities for children and families in our Benefice in October



Fri 3rd	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Tues 7th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 7th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 10th	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 10th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 12th	10.30am	Crossfire	Groby Village Hall	Secondary
Tues 14th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 14th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 17th	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 17th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
		<i>Schools Half Term</i>		
Sun 26th	10.30am	Crossfire	Groby Village Hall	Secondary
Tues 28th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 28th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 31st	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 31st	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15

The following announcement was made by the Leicester Diocese on
Monday 8th September:

We are pleased to announce the appointment of The Revd Riffat Zamurad, currently Curate in the Groby and Ratby Benefice, as Vicar in the Humberstone and Thurnby Lodge Benefice. Riffat's licensing date will be announced in due course.

Though we are sorry to lose Riffat, we give our best wishes for a happy and successful new appointment

Rector's Ramblings

I am indebted to the person who shared on Facebook their sermon for Holy Cross Day, which we celebrated on Sunday 14th September, on which I base this rambling as I reflect on what I see around the country and the questions and comments I have heard. For, ironically, the the cross has been everywhere of late. Painted on zebra crossings and miniroundabouts, hung from houses and carried in streets by thousands upon thousands in demonstrations organised by particular people who we call the far-right. This cross is of course the cross on the national flag of England, the cross of St George, but alongside this wooden crosses have been carried in demonstrations. All this to appropriate the cross as a symbol of power and sadly, in the current climate, thereby to inflame racial tensions and create division.

But for me this is to misuse and misunderstand the cross. Some of you may remember me using, a number of years ago, the poem 'High and Lifted Up', by Studdart Kennedy, one of my favourites to which the Facebook sermon also alluded. It is a good reminder of the real meaning of the cross when we look towards the end of the poem:

*God, the God I love and worship, reigns in sorrow on the Tree,
Broken, bleeding, but unconquered, very God of God to me.
All that showy pomp of splendour, all that sheen of angel wings,
Was but borrowed from the baubles that surround our earthly kings.
Thought is weak and speech is weaker, and the vision that He sees
Strikes with dumbness any preacher, brings him humbly to his knees.
But the word that Thou hast spoken borrows nought from kings and thrones,
Vain to rack a royal palace for the echo of Thy tones.
In a manger, in a cottage, in an honest workman's shed,
In the homes of humble peasants, and the simple lives they led,
In the life of one an outcast and a vagabond on earth,
In the common things He valued, and proclaimed of priceless worth,
And above all in the horror of the cruel death He died,
Thou hast bid us seek Thy glory, in a criminal crucified.
And we find it - for Thy glory is the glory of Love's loss,
And Thou hast no other splendour but the splendour of the Cross.
For in Christ I see the martyrs and the beauty of their pain,*

*And in Him I hear the promise that my dead shall rise again.
High and lifted up, I see Him on the eternal Calvary,
And two pierced hands are stretching east and west o'er land and sea.
On my knees I fall and worship that great Cross that shines above,
For the very God of Heaven is not Power, but Power of Love.*

This is the cross we as Christians need to reappropriate. As Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 1:18 'the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God' – and the power of God is in Christ crucified for love of us all. This cross is not one of power or exclusion. This is the cross of sacrifice and love. Let us remind everyone that *'the very God of Heaven is not Power, but Power of Love'* and seek always to conquer hatred with Love that we may be the truly Christian country we are proud of.

God bless you all.

Ed



Christmas Tree Festival 2025
6th - 9th December

After a break last year we are again planning this popular village activity on these dates. Several of our regular participants have already agreed to bring along a decorated tree, however more are always welcome. If you can think of anyone, individual, family, group or business who might be interested, do encourage them to take part. Pass their contact details to Chris Davies who will send further information.

The Theme is "It's Christmas!" giving a wide range of opportunity for decorations.

Next month a poster will be available and requests for help before and during the weekend will feature. Watch this space!

Riffat's Recipe

Palak Paneer (Pakistani Style)

Ingredients:

For the Spinach (Palak):

500g spinach (palak), washed and chopped
1 green chili (adjust to taste)
2 cloves garlic
Water (for blanching)

For the Gravy:

2–3 tbsp oil or ghee
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 tomatoes, finely chopped
1–2 green chilies (slit or chopped)
1 tbsp ginger garlic paste
½ tsp cumin seeds
½ tsp coriander powder
½ tsp red chili powder (adjust to taste)
¼ tsp turmeric
Salt to taste
¼ tsp garam masala (optional)

Paneer:

200–250g paneer (cubed; you can fry them lightly if preferred)

Optional: 2–3 tbsp cream or 1 tbsp yogurt (for richness), Fresh coriander for garnish

Instructions:

Blanch the Spinach:

Boil water in a pot, add spinach leaves and 1 green chili.

Blanch for 2–3 minutes until wilted, then strain and immediately transfer to cold water (to retain green colour).

Blend into a smooth puree with 2 cloves of garlic. Set aside.

Now prepare the Masala:

Heat oil or ghee in a pan. Add cumin seeds and let them sizzle.

Add chopped onions and sauté until golden brown.

Add ginger garlic paste and cook for 1–2 minutes until the raw smell disappears.

Add tomatoes, green chilies, salt, and powdered spices (red chili, coriander powder, turmeric). Cook until oil separates and masala is well-cooked.

Add Spinach Puree:

Add the blended spinach to the cooked masala.

Mix well and simmer for 5–7 minutes on medium heat. Add a splash of water if needed.

Add cream or yogurt at this stage for a richer taste (optional).



Add Paneer:

Add paneer cubes and let them simmer in the spinach for 5 minutes. Sprinkle garam masala and stir gently.

Final Touch:

Garnish with fresh coriander or a drizzle of cream. Serve hot with naan, roti, or jeera rice.

Tips: You can lightly fry the paneer in oil or ghee for a firmer texture.

This is the twelfth recipe that Riffat has written for our magazine, but because she has taken a new post, it is also sadly the last. She has added two pudding recipes for November and December.

For future months , maybe one of the magazine readers would like to submit something, not necessarily a recipe, but perhaps a piece of local history, or a local walk, something that our readers might find interesting?



CHURCH WOMEN'S GUILD, OCTOBER 2025

On Wednesday 10th SEPTEMBER we met at the home of ANNETTE FOWLER where we had a lesson on OPEN THE BOOK from ED. He explained how a group of adults go round the schools in the area, explain stories from the bible and dress up in clothes from the time. A great experience for us all

A lovely afternoon. (Before I told my grandchildren, who live in the village, they told me all about it. Just shows it is all worth doing by the team of adults, the children do all take it in).

Our next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2025, venue and speaker, information later. We were so busy chatting, eating cake and drinking tea no time to organise meeting.

More information from Annette Fowler (2873169)



FAIR CUPPA

FAIR CUPPA ROTA - OCTOBER	
2nd	Sandra & Hilary
9th	Peter & Enid
16th	Connie & Beryl
23rd	Linda S & Pat
30th	Elizabeth & Janet



**Thursdays at
Groby Village Hall
10.30 to 12.00 noon**

Please come along for a chat and a cuppa!

For further information contact Elizabeth Jarvis 0116 431 9990

Thomas Herbert Smith Trust Fund

If you are a resident living in Groby, Thomas Herbert Smith Trust Fund would welcome applicants for grant funding for individuals and organisations whose members are mostly Groby residents.

The trust would also welcome new trustees. If you would like to be involved with the charity as a trustee or as an applicant for grant funding either as an individual or on behalf of a group, please get in touch with Jim Munton, clerk to the trustees by phone on 07365 947330 or by e-mailing thsmithstf@gmail.com or by post to 52 Westbury Road, Nuneaton, Warks CV10 8HG.

The aims of the trust fund are to assist Groby residents by providing facilities for those experiencing hardship or distress through health problems. It is also happy to consider applications involving recreation and other leisure time activities. If you think the trust can help you or your group activity please get in touch. The next meeting of the trustees is 9 October.

Taizé Prayer with songs and silence

inspired by the international
monastic community of Taizé, France



12th October
9th November
14th December

At 6pm Trinity Methodist Church
Main St, Markfield LE67 9UU

For more information: Karen 07739 555015

karensilverwood@googlemail.com www.taize.fr/en

NEWS FROM....



This season's theme is ***Groby Sings a Menagerie*** which has given us plenty of scope to explore songs about 'birds and beasts'. There is something for everyone with some fun songs and lovely melodies, including numbers by Lennon & McCartney, the Carpenters, Flanders & Swann (those of a certain generation will surely remember *The Hippotamus* song?), Disney and even a little opera. I'm sure our audiences won't be able to help singing along at the end-of-season concerts at **English Martyrs School** on **29th and 30th November**. Tickets priced at **£6** will be on sale from the end of October.

Why not come along and share the enjoyment of singing together on Wednesdays (term time only) at The Groby Club?

Adult singers: 1.30-3.00pm **and/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.

No experience is needed and taking part in the concerts is purely optional (but fun!). Singers experiencing dementia or memory problems or those with any kind of disability are encouraged to come along together with their friends and carers. The Groby Club is very accessible with ramps and disabled toilet facilities. We also like to enjoy simple home-baked goodies in our break so contributions of cake or biscuits, sweet or savoury are very welcome, after all Groby Singers love to 'Sing, socialise and eat cake!'

Enquiries via our website

www.grobysings.org

and check out our Facebook page too.

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490

Congratulations to Rev'd Riffat Zamurad



It is always a bittersweet moment for any training incumbent when all that training you try to instil into your hapless curate comes to fruition and they get their first post-curacy post. And that is just what has happened as we congratulate Riffat on being appointed as as Vicar of Humberstone and Thurnby Lodge.

As you may have noted elsewhere in the magazine, Riffat's final service with us will be on 5th October, a joint service at the different time of 11am as we also celebrate Harvest Festival – made extra special by having the wonderful 'Little Big Band' helping us in leading the music. This will be followed by a Ploughman's Lunch afterwards and all are welcome, though lunch tickets are now sold out. The money we raise will support both Christian Aid and Action for Children. Any food donations will go to the Braunstone Foodshare project – see poster elsewhere in the magazine.

The date of Riffat's licensing is yet to be officially confirmed, but we will let you know once the announcement is made and I know all will be welcome to that service in her new benefice.

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



Open Church on Saturdays

On each third Saturday of the month, from 2pm to 4pm, the Parish Church in Groby will be open for a time of quiet. It will be a time of remembrance and also a time for quiet reflection about your life in general.

There will be an opportunity to write prayer cards and to light a candle of remembrance. Whether you are a church regular or have never been inside before, if you are around at that time, you will be very welcome to enjoy our quiet space. Light refreshments will be available and someone to talk to if you would find it helpful!

The next Open Church is on Saturday, 18th October.

Keith Wignall



Harvest Festival Donations

Braunstone Foodshare are currently in need of the following items...

- **Rice pudding / custard**
- **Tins: potatoes, meat, sweetcorn, fruit, soup**
- **Coffee / tea**
- **Sugar**
- **UHT milk**
- **Biscuits**
- **Cooking sauces**
- **Cereal**
- **Cooking oil**
- **Juice / squash**

Items can be dropped off at:

**Neighbourhood Support Base,
Gallards Hill, LE3 1QR**

Alternatively, collection can be arranged.

✉ support@b-inspired.org.uk

☎ 0116 279 5020

BLUE THURSDAYS



Starts
25th Sept
2pm-4pm



Have you been
bereaved?



stbartskm.org

About

Beginning in September, Blue Thursdays, a place to share, find comfort and connect with other people, whether you are recently bereaved or have been bereaved a while ago.

Contact Us

Chris | 0116 2393642

Location: St Bart's Church Hall
Every 4th Thursday - 2pm to 4pm

*And God is able to bless you abundantly,
so that in all things at all times, having all that you need,
you will abound in every good work
2Corinthians 9:8*

Unexpectedly, Steve and I were asked to speak at Church about what we do. Consequently, there is a notice each week outlining basic needs and times for anyone to help. Kert, a new member has helped a couple of times. And now Alta, our Sunday school Leader comes each morning; strangely enough, she drops off her son at 6am to serve coffees at a pancake stall situated inside the Mother Church grounds, while we three then serve the homeless at the kerb outside!

The Ywam team continued to come every Thursday, finishing at the end of September. The Birthday celebration was a lovely joyful time with the extra help, plenty of birthday cake and balloons. Individuals could pluck gold and yellow balloons from the transformed bush next to our table; the group of homeless at the railway station now display 'BIRTHDAY' balloons and those at the White House 'HAPPY'! I made a savoury rice dish which was transformed by the trimmings and spare vegetables from a Church fundraising of 600 chicken braai and salad. Hannah made the birthday cards.

The Lord 'multiplied' other meals. Tuesday was planned to serve apple & cinnamon porridge and sandwiches with the coffee. But Innovation for The Blind donated a bucket each of cooked beef bredie (stew) and chicken in sauce. Although it meant an earlier start, we cooked rice, added vegetables. And although porridge had all the added vitamins etc, a meaty meal was much more appreciated on such a stormy rainy cold morning. there was plenty for those arriving to enjoy. And the rain stopped for the duration of service!

On the Thursday, a hearty meal of 'Cowboy beans' was made with 20kg of roast and boiled potatoes, 5 kg fried onions, BBQ spiced cabbage (3), sweet potatoes, 3 kg polony cubed, 20 tins of beans, and a tomato sauce I made to bind all together. It was to be served with slices of bread and coffee. Then, the evening before, 180 Burger King bread rolls were donated. I decided to use these amazing sesame seeded rolls by making polony and chutney/salad rolls (lettuce had also been donated). The meal was good before but now on Thursday morning the guys were excited by the Burger King rolls. 85 rolls and meals were served. The rest of the rolls were used for breakfast the next day Friday when Steve and I drove around with a car full of men and women's clothes and shoes. We found the people where they slept.

Jean's mum has moved her second-hand shop into Worcester and decided she wasn't going to sell clothes anymore. She donated 17+ sacks to us. They were truly 'good as new'. Unused and over-sized items were passed onto Innovation's charity shop; baby clothes to Mother Church and Emergency foster care; home wear for the church bazaar and fancy dresses for a charity that provides for Matric Balls etc so those in need have a choice.

Provision and Praise.

It was a multiplication of 'more' and 'extra'; cherry on the cake! Thank you Lord.

There have also been donations of cans of peaches and a farmer filled a bakkie with tubs of Blueberries for Ywam to use. The porridge will be purple and fruity and I now have peaches to accompany jelly for a summer celebration!
'more' and 'extra'.

On the 10th September, we hosted Intercessions at Ywam, displaying prayer stations about our work. we highlighted themes we pray each morning when going into Town:

Holy Ground, appointed place

Loving kindness, tender loving care

Sharing gospel, life style and discipleship

Provision, nutrition & praise

Protection & praise

The Word, bibles and verses in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa

Mourning

Who am I? birthdays

These are themes for the people we serve as well as for ourselves as 'servants' and as a family.

In the middle of The Glory Hall, we stood the large wooden cross and chairs encircling. On each chair was a board, pen and a Prayer request or message from a homeless person. Ywam students and staff could read and reply with prayers or verses or whatever. 'The Word' table had verses, crafts, pens etc to make cards or whatever for the homeless. The day before I had told them about the Ywam meeting and asked if anyone wanted those attending to pray or send a message to them.

At Breakfast the next day, 50 people either received their replies or a card, message or verse.

Cherry on the cake!

The local newspaper has been highlighting those living on the streets in a series of articles of differing opinions. It's been three years since we began looking for premises or land for a Night shelter or somewhere off the streets to serve meals.

*We still need to hope and trust as we wait and serve;
not forgetting the thanks and praise.*

XXX Steve, Val, Hannah, Ruth and JeanXXX

PS

Ruth has received her Spousal Visa! Thank You Lord!

It is for Two Years.

She has to immediately apply for the next level Spousal Visa.

But...in October they will be married 5 years...and Ruth can apply for Permanent Residence. She needs professional advice as to what to do and when!

Ruth and Jean are thinking about when they can visit UK and Jean can meet the Grandmas (and everyone else!)

CHURCH REGISTERS

WEDDINGS

Ratby

Groby



BAPTISMS

Ratby

Groby

Not available this month



FUNERALS

Ratby

Groby





FLOWERS October		
	Altar	Memorial Vase
5th		
12th	Chris D	
19th		
26th	Gillian	

Church Cleaning October

29 Sep - 12 Oct	Chris D & Julie
13 Oct - 26 Oct	Elizabeth & Christine
27 Oct - 9 Nov	Linda & John

November Magazine Deadline Saturday **18th October**

Please send all items to
stpandjmagazine@googlemail.com

Items for the
weekly news sheet
to:

office@bradgatechurches.org.uk

Parish Office hours:

9.30 - 11.30, Mon to Fri

PARISH OFFICE

Hayley Moore
0116 239 3768

office@bradgatechurches.org.uk



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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You will find their details on the
contact list overleaf.

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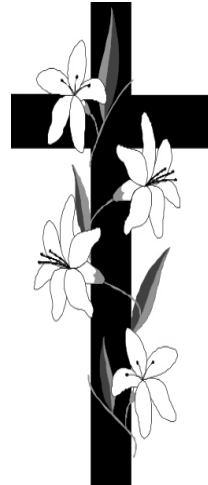


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Sunday School	Mike Matthews	287 6179
Women's Guild	Annette Fowler	287 3169
Flowers	Ruth Scott	232 1175
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