

# St. Philip & St. James Church

## Ratby Parish Church Magazine

### December 2025



*St. Philip & St. James Church, Ratby*

*Ratby Parish Church is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our community.*

## **DECEMBER WORSHIP FROM THE BENEFICE OF GROBY AND RATBY**

Please see inside the magazine for details of services and events for December - you're also welcome to join us for our 11.15am Telephone Church every Sunday if getting to church is difficult - do get in touch (Rev'd Ed's contact details are in this magazine) and we'll drop you an order of service and a hymn book to help you join in! Or do join our weekday services, in person at 9am on Mondays for Morning Prayer in Ratby and 9.30am on Wednesdays for Communion in Groby Or do use your own or online resources (our online Compline services also continue every Tuesday at 9pm via Facebook) for your personal worship at home.

Do keep an eye on the magazine, our notice boards and our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/StPandStJ>) and webpages (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/19-074B/>) for details of what is going on.

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Requests for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Communions Call:

**Parish Office:  
Telephone: 0116 239 3768**



## **SAFEGUARDING**

**At Ratby Parish Church we are committed to ensuring the  
care and safety of all.**

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding  
Co-ordinator

Joan Hawkins  
07545 909868

# The Benefice

## December 2025 of Groby and Ratby



*Dear Friends,*

It seems people really like to celebrate! Many "Christmas" parties, concerts and bazaars will start soon (and may have already started). It's tempting to feel worn out even before Advent begins. When Christmas does arrive, we will all be ready for sleep!

Yet, among all these things, our experience of Christmas will be as varied as we all are, with different reasons to celebrate and different ways of celebrating.

Many will be expecting a big gathering and lots of cheer (of the 80° variety, maybe) and some enjoying a quiet time! On the other hand, there may be others who have reasons for not welcoming what our culture has decided is the biggest party of the year commercially and a time .



when everyone is supposed to be happy.

We all, I suspect, know of people who are not looking forward to it. Some will have recently been bereaved and lost a loved one. Then again, I was speaking to a chap the other day who has a drink problem and knows that Christmas, where the family always over-indulges, will bring his brave attempts to become dry to nought. Another said he only remembers childhood family rows and expects that this Christmas will be no different. Then I met a woman who remembered Christmases past where, as a girl, there would be a huge gathering and much merriment. Yet, now, in later years she is facing the prospect of Christmas alone, when she will see no-one.

It's then I wonder whether the expectations that our culture places on this time of year, will obfuscate what the Christian celebration should really be all about.

Now, tradition is a wonderful gift. I would not make light of it. Christmas customs of celebration can be valuable and can create good memories that last forever. However, tradition and custom can also make us feel cut off and it may be there we can feel pain, not anticipation. It all depends on what our "good news" is.

For it's not the coming of our Lord which causes pain, for, should we open our eyes to it, the message of Christmas is good news of great joy for all who will open their ears to hear. If the celebration this year is causing anxiety, as the past squeezes us too forcefully into an unwanted mold, perhaps it's time to consider again the real "reason for the season."

Jesus came to bring the assurance that He is Emmanuel, "God with us." God knows our feelings, not because he has a good imagination (although I'm sure he has), but because he has been here and has 'shared our human condition.' He knew grief and loneliness, pain and victimisation. The Incarnation reminds us that when we cry, God cries, too.

We can sense God's grief at the way the world is. His grief at the way His Son was treated when he came on earth to proclaim God's Kingdom. Yet, through pure love the Son of God, the King who was born in humble circumstances laid down his life for us. If we open our hearts we can sense his love for us, especially when we are "poor in spirit". In fact, when we are at our lowest then maybe our eyes can be opened to the reality of his wonderful gift of life.

The true peace of Christmas is there to be sought in the here and now and not re-manufactured from the past, not to be found in the tinselled trappings of the commercial Christmas. Recognizing grace in the present moment is the key to a real celebration that God really is with us. Then this Christmas will not be the same as other years. The true celebration of Christmas should help us walk into the future, bearing hope in a world seemingly gone mad.

So, we have an opportunity to celebrate Christmas differently this year, discovering again what many of us already know but need to be reminded about. That it's not about stuff. It's not about the past. It's not about a vague "Christmassy feeling" but about the "presence," that sense that the Kingdom of God is close and that we can reach out and grasp it.

At Christmas our Churches in Groby and Ratby will gather to stand as witness to the miracle of the Incarnation, proclaiming again that God is with us. All are invited to join in. Whatever your situation, whoever you are, our doors will be open to all who seek to investigate this truth for themselves.

So, look out for our Christmas cards, as always, showing when and where our services will take place. In particular, there will be in Groby and Ratby parish churches' Open Church afternoons\*, for people who have lost loved ones, or have other things on their hearts, to spend a time of quiet and remembrance, to light a candle and maybe write a prayer.

This year we have the opportunity to make Christmas real again, by understanding the "reason for the season", that Christ came down at Christmas bringing true hope to a world in pain, creating a light which will never Go out....

Have a blessed Christmas.

Keith Wignall  
Associate Minister,  
Benefice of Groby and Ratby.

\*Groby Open Church at Christmas – 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2-4pm  
Groby & Ratby Open Church at Christmas – 20<sup>th</sup> December,  
2-4pm



## ***Services and Events in December***

There is lots going on throughout December for all ages from worship every week, including Christingle services and Carol Services and much else besides, alongside fun events such as the Snowman Festival and the Christmas Bazaar in Ratby Church Rooms and Church, concerts, Carols in pubs and much more – do look in the magazine for the full range of things coming up as we look through Advent towards the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

If you would like to join our choir for the 9 Lessons and Carols in Groby (to be held at 6pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December), there will be rehearsals in Groby Church for that on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, all at 7.30pm – all welcome.

Never forget we also worship when we meet as Tots and Toddlers on Tuesdays at 9am in Ratby, Kids Konnect in Ratby at 3.15pm and CaTCh on Fridays at 9.30am at the URC – and you are always welcome to come and see what is going on and you might even want to volunteer to help as we build these into new ways of being church.

Online worship continues with our Compline services at 9pm on Tuesdays via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StPandStJ>) and we continue our regular 11.15am Telephone Church every Sunday (call 0333 0164 757; then when prompted type in our room number 10336316#; then when prompted our pin 1920#).

For those who struggle to get out, home communion is always available and any of our ministry team would be delighted to come and bring that to you – just contact Rev'd Ed or any of the ministry team (Keith, Joan or Ruth) and we'll arrange that for you.

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





REGISTERED CHARITY 1011147



Christmas Carol Concert  
*with the*  
Ratby Co-operative  
Mid Band

**7PM**

**FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER**

**ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES CHURCH, RATBY, LE6 0JF**

**FREE CONCERT**

WITH REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE & RETIRING COLLECTION



## RATBY PARISH CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

<b><u>Rector</u></b> Rev'd. Dr. Ed Bampton	<b>0116 239 6520</b>	<b>revdredbampton@outlook.com</b>
<b><u>Curate</u></b> Rev'd Riffat Zamurad	<b>07902 422216</b>	<b>revdriffatzamurad@gmail.com</b>
<b><u>Associate Minister</u></b> Joan Hawkins	<b>07545 909868</b>	<b>jvajhawkins@hotmail.co.uk</b>
<b><u>Associate Minister</u></b> Keith Wignall	<b>0116 286 1306</b>	<b>kwignall420@gmail.com</b>
<b><u>Church Warden</u></b> Vacant		
<b><u>Churchyard Liaison</u></b> Stuart Tyler	<b>07966 441639</b>	<b>Stuart_t58@hotmail.com</b>
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b> Mandy Waldram	<b>07876 408773</b>	<b>mjwaldram15@yahoo.com</b>
<b><u>Bell Captain</u></b> Anthony Haywood	<b>0116 239 5546</b>	
<b><u>Church Flowers</u></b> Brenda Willis	<b>0116 2390010</b>	<b>dh_bwillis@btinternet.com</b>
<b><u>Church Cleaning</u></b> Joan Hawkins	<b>07545 909868</b>	<b>jvajhawkins@hotmail.co.uk</b>
<b><u>Church Rooms Treasurer</u></b> Pam Pollard	<b>0116 238 8271</b>	
<b><u>Church Rooms Bookings</u></b> Chris Boothby	<b>07306 390543</b> <b>0116 2912796</b>	<b>chris.boothby@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk</b>
<b><u>Church Magazine Editor</u></b> Rev'd Dr Ed Bampton	<b>0116 239 6520</b>	<b>revdredbampton@outlook.com</b>
<b><u>Church Administrator</u></b> Hayley Moore	<b>0116 239 3768</b>	<b>office@bradgatechurches.org.uk</b>





### ***Open Church at Christmas***

On the two Saturdays, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December, from 2pm to 4pm, the Parish Churches of Ratby and Groby will once again be open for a time of reflection. It will be an opportunity for those who have lost loved ones recently (or a while ago) to remember them at this special time of year.

During the afternoon, there will be an opportunity to place cards with prayers or loving words on a **Tree of Remembrance** (at Groby) and to light a candle in their memory.

While you are there, if you find that you would like to speak to someone about how you feel, members of the Churches' Ministry Teams will also be available, if asked, ready to lend a listening ear.

If you are around at that time, please do drop in. Tea and biscuits will be provided!

Keith Wignall,  
Associate Minister, St Philip and St James Church, Groby.

Groby Open Church at Christmas – 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2-4pm  
Ratby and Groby Open Church at Christmas – 20<sup>th</sup> December,  
2-4pm

Our lovely ex-Curate ***Rev'd Riffat*** will be licensed as Vicar in the Humberstone and Thurnby Lodge Benefice at St Mary's church Humberstone, 7pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. All are welcome to attend, and I know she would appreciate the support.

## ***SUNDAY TELEPHONE SERVICES - DECEMBER***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROBY/RATBY</b>
<b>7th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (RD)
<b>14th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (RS)
<b>21st</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (JH)
<b>28th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (JH)

## ***ON-LINE SERVICES - DECEMBER***

### ***REGULAR WEEKDAY ONLINE SERVICES***

**At 9pm Tuesday - Night Prayer (Compline)**

### **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.

## **MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES December 2025**

<b>GROBY</b>	Wed 9.30am	3rd	10th	17th	24th
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## **GROBY/RATBY *IN-CHURCH SERVICES - DECEMBER***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROBY</b>	<b>RATBY</b>
<b>7th</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30am All Age Service (Team)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	6.00pm Holy Communion (EB)	
<b>14th</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent		8.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	9.30am Holy Communion (EB)	10.00am Morning Worship (RD)
	6.00pm Evensong (RS)	4.00pm Carol Service (EB)
<b>21st</b> 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30am Nativity (Team)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB)
		3.00pm Christingle (EB/AC)
	6.00pm Carol Service (EB)	
<b>28th</b> 1st Sunday of Christmas		
	10.00am Benefice Morning Worship (Team)	

## **GROBY/RATBY *CHRISTMAS SERVICES***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROBY</b>	<b>RATBY</b>
<b>24th</b> Christmas Eve	9.30am Holy Communion (EB)	
	4.00pm Christingle (Team/LB/RS)	3.00pm Crib Service (EB/AC)
	11.00pm Midnight Communion (EB)	11.30pm Midnight Communion (EB/ RD)
<b>25th</b> Christmas Day		
	10.00am Family Christmas (Team)	10.00am Family Communion (EB)

## *December Diary*

1st	Mon	9.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer at Ratby Julian Meeting: <i>Sharing Silence</i> at Groby Library
2nd	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 6.00pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Martinshaw Christmas Concert at Ratby Online Night Prayer
3rd	Wed	9.30am 12.00pm 7.00pm	Holy Communion at Groby Men's Meet up at Stamford Arms, Groby Rev'd Riffat's licensing at St Mary's Hum-berstone
4th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
5th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm 6.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby WI Concert in Ratby
6th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 10.00 - 6.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Christmas Tree Festival at Groby Church
7th	Sun	<b>8.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>11.15am</b> <b>12.00 - 5.00pm</b> <b>12.30pm</b> <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion at Groby</b> <b>All Age Worship at Groby</b> <b>Holy Communion at Ratby</b> <b>Telephone Church</b> <b>Christmas Tree Festival at Groby</b> <b>Lunch Club at Ratby</b> <b>Holy Communion at Groby</b>
8th	Mon	9.00am 3.00 - 5.00pm 6.00pm	Morning Prayer at Ratby Christmas Tree Festival at Groby Church Martinshaw Christmas Concert at Ratby
9th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.00 - 5.00pm 3.15 - 4.30pm 6.00pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Christmas Tree Festival at Groby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Lady Jane Grey Concert at Ratby Online Night Prayer
10th	Wed	9.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Groby Lady Jane Grey Concert at Ratby
11th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm 1.15pm 2.30pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall Preschool Nativity in Ratby Women's Guild meeting
12th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Over 60s Cinema at Ratby Church Ratby Band Carol Concert at Ratby Rock Solid at URC Groby

13th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 10.00 - 12.00pm 2.00 - 4.00pm	Grobby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Coffee Morning, Ratby Church Rooms Open Church at Groby
14th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 4.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm	<b>Holy Communion at Ratby</b> <b>Holy Communion at Groby</b> <b>Morning Worship at Ratby</b> <b>Crossfire at the Village Hall</b> <b>Carols by Candlelight at Ratby</b> <b>Evensong at Groby</b> <b>Taizé Service at Markfield Methodist Church</b>
15th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
16th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 7.00pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Carols Round the Tree at Stamford Arms Online Night Prayer
17th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
18th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa with carols at Groby Village Hall
19th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby
20th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 2.00 - 4.00pm	Grobby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Open Church at Ratby and Groby
21st	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.15am 3.00pm 6.00pm	<b>Holy Communion at Groby</b> <b>Nativity at Groby</b> <b>Holy Communion at Ratby</b> <b>Telephone Church</b> <b>Christingle at Ratby</b> <b>Carol Service at Groby</b>
22nd	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
23rd	Tues	9.00pm	Online Night Prayer
24th	Wed	9.30am 3.00pm 4.00pm 11.00pm 11.30pm	<b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Holy Communion at Groby</b> <b>Crib Service at Ratby</b> <b>Christingle at Groby</b> <b>Midnight Communion at Groby</b> <b>Midnight Communion at Ratby</b>
25th	Thurs	10.00am 10.00am	<b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Family Christmas at Groby</b> <b>Family Communion at Ratby</b>
26th	Fri		
27th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Grobby Tasters hosted at Groby URC

## ***Ratby Christmas Dates 2025***

### **Saturday 29th November**

10am-2pm

**Christmas Bazaar**

Ratby Church Rooms

### **Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th November**

**Ratby Snowman Festival**

St Philip and St James Church and Ratby Village

### **Sunday 7th December**

12.30pm

**Sunday Lunch Club**

Ratby Church Rooms

### **Friday 12th December**

2pm

**Seniors Cinema Club Christmas Special**

St Philip and St James Church

7pm

**Ratby Band Christmas Concert**

St Philip and St James Church

### **Sunday 14th December**

4pm

**Carols by Candlelight**

St Philip and St James Church

### **Monday 15th December**

7pm

**Carols at the Bull's Head**

### **Saturday 20th December**

2-4pm

**Light a Life**

*Open space to light a candle and sit and  
remember those we have loved and lost*

St Philip and St James Church

### **Sunday 21st December**

3pm

#### **Christingle**

St Philip and St James Church

### **Wednesday 24th December**

3pm

#### **Crib Service**

St Philip and St James Church

11.30pm

#### **Midnight Holy Communion**

St Philip and St James Church

### **Thursday 25th December**

10am

#### **Family Christmas Communion**

St Philip and St James Church



28th	Sun	10.00am 11.15am	Benefice Morning Worship at Groby Telephone Church
29h	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
30th	Tues	9.00pm	Online Night Prayer
31st	Weds		<b>No Communion Service</b>

The date was the 4<sup>th</sup> October and we had a weekend booked at Blackwell Adventure Camp. It was planned by the Midlands URC synod and was

generously subsidised by them. As myself and 6 youngsters from our Rock Solid group set off for camp this year I was somewhat concerned with the storm warnings and had packed multiple layers and waterproofs, but these were hardly needed as the manor was cosy and warm and the rain skirted us.



Richard had planned a mixture of events including wide games, archery, zip lining, laser tag and caving. This was a good choice for the weather as they could all go ahead despite the high winds, though it did make it tricky to hit the target in archery – that’s my excuse and I am sticking to it.



Zip lining was once again popular, though the walk back up the hill all 250m of it not so. It was ok for the first 3 or 4 goes but we were definitely flagging toward the end! Or maybe it was just me. Laser tag was initially held in amongst the trees but as the wind worsened was moved to an urban setting, round many huts and camping pods. This showed the care the staff took as a tree did come down during the morning.

These exhausting activities were interspersed with discussions and activities looking at community and how we can welcome everyone to “Church”. One of my highlights was hearing our youngsters planning the perfect village, including social housing, so everyone had a place to live, cycle paths and wind turbines were included as were solar panels on all the main village buildings, the community centre, the church and the library! Another session was trying to devise an intergenerational service. The youngsters were surprisingly staid, but the result was a desire to help with the planning of services expressed by some of our youngsters.



The catering was outstanding with ample meals which filled ever growing teenagers. Who remembers cornflake tart from school days? There were seconds and even thirds available for most meals including supper. And of course there were-vegan and gluten free meals available. Even the marshmallows were vegan round our campfire and yes this year it lit!



The day closed each night with parables from The Book of Belonging and wonderful retellings of the Good Samaritan and the Great Feast, where Jesus emphasised all were welcome.

*Ruth Scott*

**G** Churches together in Groby

**Polar Explorers**  
**Winter Holiday Club**

For Children from  
Foundation Stage to Year 6

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
United Reformed Church, Groby  
£5 per day (concessions available)

To book contact  
[youthworkergroby@gmail.com](mailto:youthworkergroby@gmail.com)

## Activities for children and families in our Benefice in December



Tues 2nd	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 2nd	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 5th	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 5th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 7th	9.30am	All Age Worship	Groby Church	Families
Tues 9th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 9th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 12th	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 12th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 14th	10.30am	Crossfire	Groby Village Hall	Secondary
Tues 16th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 16th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 19th	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 19th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Tues 18th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 18th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Thurs 25th	10.00am	Family Christmas	Groby Church	Families
Thurs 25th	10.00am	Family Communion	Ratby Church	Families

The Children's Society is to have a show garden at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Chelsea Flower show next year, 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026.

Designed to spotlight the urgent issue of teenage wellbeing in the UK, 'The Children's Society Garden' has been created by landscape architect Patrick Clarke. It draws inspiration from the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi – celebrating the beauty in imperfection. This nurturing space will offer a message of hope, safety, and connection for young people facing challenges today.

*Article taken from Parish Pump*

# CHURCH REGISTERS

## BAPTISMS

**Ratby**

**Grobby**

2 November ~ Luna Denham



We welcome her into the church family

## WEDDINGS

**Ratby**

None

**Grobby**

None



## FUNERALS

**Ratby**

**Grobby**

20 October ~ Joyce Knight

7 November ~ Gary Quilter



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends, and pray that they may find peace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can.

*John Wesley*

## ***Rector's Ramblings***

A few years ago, I remember hearing of complaints from some training incumbents (TIs) that they had curates refusing to do certain 'menial' tasks. On being asked to help with simple things they were apparently retorting to their hapless TIs that they hadn't done all this training at theological college 'just to move chairs'. This made me laugh as when I was at Queen's my liturgy tutor, Mark Earey, did indeed train me (and us all!) to do just that. As an engineer prior to ordination he was very particular about the alignment of the chairs in the Chapel, so if we ever moved the chairs for a new arrangement when we were leading worship, they were to be returned to EXACTLY their original position with proper engineering precision. And I remember looking carefully along the line of chairs to ensure they were perfectly aligned, as we all knew Mark would comment if one was so much as a millimetre out of place!

But more than teaching me how to put chairs in place, I learned humility and to do the tasks that might quietly need to be done whether others notice or not. I have been thinking about all the work that goes on 'behind the scenes', as those that have looked at the recent CTG/EXTEND newsletter will have noticed. And our churches are full of those who work behind the scenes in a myriad of ways too numerous to list. But the work of the PCC keeping bills paid, the church building intact and all the other practical and statutory tasks is not to be forgotten. Services and sermons take time to prepare – and that's not just me, but those who also help lead and preach and those who help organise sidespeople, readers, intercessors, refreshments folk and so on. And don't forget the work of the flower arrangers, bell ringers, purificator cleaners/ironers, children's volunteers, Tasters, Fair Cuppa, coffee morning and lunch and cinema club organisers and helpers – and all those who move chairs around and help put up screens to enable so many of these things to happen. Musicians practice, organisers of events spend hours in preparation and many folk make or bake things for the host of things we do. And each of us only sees the outcome of most of this in the things we do in church. But everything is underpinned by the quiet, often unseen and dedicated work, of so many in church. And these pieces of work, as we look towards Christmas, are some of the best gifts you all give – for you give of yourselves, just as Jesus did in becoming one of us.

And I thank Mark Earey for teaching me of the humility I need to reflect the love and humility of Jesus. I move a lot of chairs and, strangely, I do it with joy!

God bless you all.  
*Rev'd Ed*

*St Philip & St James Church, Groby*



## Sudoku for December

	5					3	7	
			2	7	6			
7					1			
2		3		1				
		7				6		
				3		4		5
			1					9
			5	9	4			
	6	2					1	

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### Sunday Lunch Club

Ratby Church Rooms from 12.30 pm



The next lunch will be our Christmas meal  
on:

**Sunday 7th December**

Joan Hawkins (Associate Minister at Ratby Parish Church)

Telephone: 07545 909868

Email: [jvajhawkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jvajhawkins@hotmail.co.uk)

***Gajar ka Halwa (Pakistani Style)***  
***Carrot pudding***

**Ingredients:** 1 kg red carrots (desi gajar) peeled and finely grated,  
1 litre full-fat milk  
4–5 green cardamoms slightly crushed  
½ cup ghee (clarified butter)  
½ to ¾ cup sugar – adjust to your taste  
¼ cup khoya / mawa (optional but gives rich flavour)  
2–3 tbsp condensed milk (optional, for extra richness)  
½ cup mixed nuts sliced almonds, pistachios, cashews Raisins (optional)

***Instructions:***

Prepare the Carrots:

Wash, peel, and grate the carrots using a hand grater or food processor.

*Cook the Carrots in Milk:*

In a large, heavy-bottomed pan or pot, add the grated carrots and the milk., Add the crushed green cardamoms.

Cook on medium heat until the milk starts to boil. Then lower the heat and let the carrots cook slowly in the milk. Stir occasionally to prevent burning.

Continue cooking until all the milk is absorbed. This can take around 30–45 minutes.

*Add Ghee:*

Once the milk is absorbed and the carrots are soft, add ½ cup ghee. Sauté the mixture in ghee for 10–15 minutes on medium heat until it turns a deeper colour and becomes aromatic.

*Add Sugar and Khoya:*

Add sugar and mix. The halwa will become slightly watery again as sugar melts.

Continue cooking until the moisture evaporates and it thickens again. Add khoya (or condensed milk if using), and cook for another 5–10 minutes.

Riffat left two pudding recipes for us to enjoy as Christmas approaches. This is the final one. Thank you Riffat!

## **Saturday Coffee Mornings**

**Ratby Church Rooms**

**10-12pm**

**13 December 2025**



## **Flower Rota**



*7th December ~ Brenda Willis*  
*14th December ~ Christmas Team*  
*21st December ~ Christmas Team*  
*28th December ~ Sandra Slater*

*4th January ~ Brenda Willis*  
*11th January ~ Brenda Willis*  
*18th January ~ Di Porter & J Pullen*  
*25th January ~ Di Porter & J Pullen*

## **Cinema Club**

**At Ratby Church on Fridays**

**For the Over 60's at 2.00pm**



**Friday 12 December**

Details of the films to be shown are available in church (our licence only allows us to advertise the film title in the church building) or for more information on the seniors film please contact  
Joan Hawkins on Tel: 07545 909868



## Groby and Ratby churches' prayer group

### What is the prayer group?

It is a commitment by a group of people who pray for people in the Parishes and further afield as part of their own daily prayers. They do not meet regularly as a prayer group but they are linked, like a chain, to one another so that the needs for prayer can be passed on to all the members of the group.

### Who are we?

We are a group of worshippers from Groby and Ratby who believe in the power of prayer. Our desire is to share in God's work of healing and renewing lives. All requests are in confidence and may be made anonymously. It is a great privilege and joy to see God work in people's lives and so gratifying when we hear that our prayers have been answered or that people being prayed for feel the power of the prayer.

### Who can be prayed for?

Requests are received from anyone at all who feels in need of prayer, or who might have a relative, friend or person they are concerned about, or an issue that they wish to be remembered in prayer. Normally, but not in every circumstance, those being prayed for specifically should know about any request made on their behalf and be in agreement with it going forward.

If you would like us to pray for you or someone you know you can contact **Rev Ed** tel:0116 2396520 or **Joan Hawkins** our Associate Minister 07545909868 or email Joan at [jvajhawkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jvajhawkins@hotmail.co.uk). **Remember all requests are strictly confidential**



## Ratby Parochial Church Council Officers

The Parochial Church Council for the Ratby Parish are elected as follows. Please feel free to contact any of the members of the PCC if you have any questions or concerns about Ratby Church.

### Ratby Church Warden

Vacant

### Representatives on Diocesan Synod

Mrs. Angie Cain

### Representatives on Deanery Synod

Mrs. Pamela Pollard & Dr. Claire Bampton

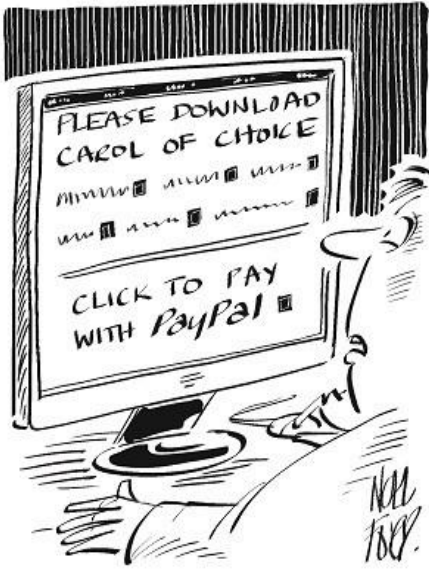
### Parochial Church Council Elected Members

Mrs. Anne Koscielska Miss. Valerie Pears

### Associate Minister

Mrs. Joan Hawkins





We've got online carol-singers again!



## Advertise

in the  
**Ratby Parish  
Church Magazine**

Contact Val Pears  
On  
**0116 239 0554**

## Smile Lines



### True story

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from 'house' to 'house' knocking on the doors and asking it there was any room for them.

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