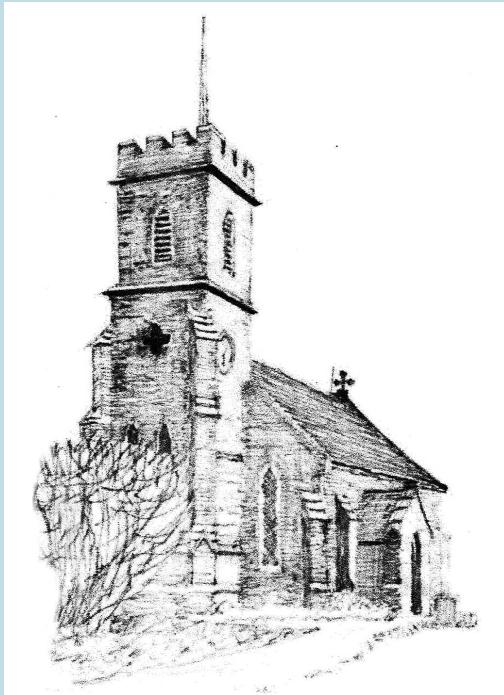


# ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES CHURCH

## GROBY

### PARISH MAGAZINE



**Building the body of Christ, equipping the  
Church for mission**



**January 2026**



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# The Benefice of Groby & Ratby

**January 2026**



This month we celebrate Epiphany, the occasion on which we remember the Magi from the East following a star to find the baby Jesus: '*Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews?*' (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, in an uncertain world, we can be asking the same question. The gifts the Magi offered point us to how Jesus can answer our concerns and worries: '*they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*' (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift

reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this coming year?

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face challenges in the future, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him in everything?

*'Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice!  
Heav'n sings Hallelujah:  
Hallelujah the earth replies.'  
(‘We Three Kings’).*

**On 6<sup>th</sup> January** we celebrate **Epiphany** - the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. But who were these Wise Men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the 8th century, the Magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

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### ***Magazine cost donations***

Your donations towards the cost of producing this magazine over the past year have been much appreciated. The cost of paper and printing continues to rise so that the cost of the 11 copies you receive each year now is approaching £6.

The February magazine will carry a small envelope for you to make a donation towards this cost if you are able to. The envelope can be given to the person who delivers your magazine, or brought to a church service, or given to any member of Groby church. If you prefer to make a bank transfer, use sort code 20-61-51 and account 53764478 with the reference 'magazine'.

If you no longer wish to have the magazine delivered, please tell your deliverer or send a message to the parish office by telephone 0116 239 3768 or email [office@bradgatechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@bradgatechurches.org.uk)

*Happy New Year*  
The editorial team

## ***Services and Events in January***

As we come into Epiphany season, our regular pattern of worship will continue, but with some specials added in! Thus in Ratby on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January we will worship together with our Methodist friends at the Chapel for their Covenant service. This is a beautiful service in which we commit ourselves to God and if you've never experienced it, do go as it is lovely – and if you have been before, go and enjoy it again! Then, later in the month, it is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and so on 18<sup>th</sup> January our Methodist friends will join us in Ratby and then on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January our URC friends will join us in Groby and we celebrate being the one body of Christ together.

Never forget we also worship when we meet as Tots and Toddlers on Tuesdays at 9.00am and Kids Konnect after school club at 3.35pm in Ratby Church and CaTCh on Fridays at 9.30am at the URC in Groby. 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#).

As always, 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 and we'll arrange that for you.

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

## ***SUNDAY TELEPHONE SERVICES - JANUARY***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROBY/RATBY</b>
<b>4th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (JH)
<b>11th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (EB)
<b>18th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (KW)
<b>25th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (RS)

## ***ON-LINE SERVICES - JANUARY***

### ***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 SUNDAY SERVICES - JANUARY**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROBY</b>	<b>RATBY</b>
<b>4th</b> Epiphany	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30am All Age Service (Team)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	6.00pm Holy Communion (EB)	
<b>11th</b> 1st Sunday of Epiphany		8.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	9.30am Holy Communion (EB)	10.00am Joint Covenant at Methodists (Rev'd Jimi)
	6.00pm Evensong (EB/RD)	
<b>18th</b> 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30am Morning Worship (RS)	10.00am Christian Unity Service with Methodists (EB)
<b>25th</b> 3rd Sunday of Epiphany		8.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	9.30am Christian Unity Service with URC (EB)	10.00am Morning Worship (RD)
	6.00pm Evensong (RS)	

### **MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES January 2026**

<b>GROBY</b>	Wed 9.30am	7th	14th	21st	28th
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## ***January Diary***

1st	Thurs		
2nd	Fri		
3rd	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC
<b>4th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.15am 6.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion at Groby All Age Worship at Groby Holy Communion at Ratby Telephone Church Holy Communion at Groby</b>
5th	Mon	9.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer at Ratby Julian Meeting: <i>Sharing Silence</i> at Groby Library
6th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
7th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
8th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
9th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby
10th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC
<b>11th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 6.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion at Ratby Holy Communion at Groby Joint Covenant at Ratby Methodists Crossfire at the Village Hall Evensong at Groby</b>
12th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
13th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
14th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
15th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall

16th	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
17th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 2.00 - 4.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Open Church at Groby
<b>18th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.15am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at Groby Morning Worship at Groby Christian Unity Service at Ratby Telephone Church</b>
19th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
20th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
21st	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
22nd	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
23rd	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby
24th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC
<b>25th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.15am 6.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion at Ratby Christian Unity Service with URC Morning Worship at Ratby Telephone Church Evensong at Groby</b>
26h	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
27th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
28th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
29th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
30th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby
31st	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC

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

I remember on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1989, at the age of 14, being confirmed by the then Bishop of Crediton, Peter Coleman. If I am honest, I remember the exact date as one of my Godfathers gave me a copy of the Alternative Service Book (which dates me – now superseded by Common Worship!) with the date inscribed. But my Godfather also referred me to the Collect on p59, which is this:

*O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

What is Confirmation in the Church of England? In a nutshell, it is a service where a person publicly affirms the promises made at their baptism and is prayed for by the bishop to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit. More importantly it is a personal profession of Christian faith, marking a conscious choice to live as a disciple of Christ, strengthened by the Church and the Holy Spirit. But even more importantly it marks accepting your place in the family of God and so knowing all the benefits of the Collect quoted above and much more besides.

I remember my confirmation, because it was a profound experience. Interestingly, for me, the sense of the Holy Spirit came at the rehearsal beforehand – the service itself literally confirmed what was already there! I also remember some of what the Bishop said – and how many of us remember much of a sermon from over quarter of a century ago?! But that was the impact of the experience on me.

If you are not confirmed and would like to explore this important step of faith, do come and talk to me (Rev'd Ed) and we will arrange times to meet and talk about it all – and prepare to be confirmed for those that might want to make this commitment. For those that want to make this commitment as an adult (or an older child/teenager), but are worried they haven't been baptised, don't worry you can be baptised and confirmed at the same time!

Writing this for the January magazine, I cannot help but wonder if this might not be the best New Years Resolution you could ever make! So do come and talk to me and let's explore together what committing ourselves to Christ really looks like, in confirming that we are, and want to be, part of God's amazing family!

*God bless you all.  
Rev'd Ed*

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### Advent Prayers

*These prayers were used by David Willis as intercessions recently and I thought they were a beautiful series of prayers rooted in the ancient tradition of the 'O' Antiphons, a series of short verses which count down the days to Christmas Eve. David kindly shared these prayers and I used them myself in Groby, but, as the magazine is written and comes out still in the season of Advent, I thought it would be lovely to share these even more widely:*

**O Wisdom**, mysterious Word of God, coming forth from the Father and filling all creation with your life-giving power: Come and show us the way of truth.

**O Lord of Israel**, ruler of your ancient people, you appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave the law on Mount Sinai: Come, and reach out your hand to save us.

**O Flower of Jesse's Line**, Son of David, you have been lifted up as a sign of peace, drawing all kings and people to stand silent in your presence: Come quickly and help us, we beseech you.

**O Key of David**, and sceptre of the house of Israel, you have opened to us the way of hope, and shut the door on the powers of evil: Come and free us from our prisons of darkness.

**O Morning Star**, radiance of the Father's love, you are the brightness that disperses the shadows of our hearts: Come, cleanse and renew us in your glory.

**O King of the Nations**, you alone bring joy when you reign in our hearts, and you are the cornerstone of our lives: Come and strengthen us, who were formed by you.

**O Emmanuel**, God with us, hope of the world, and Saviour of all, come and live in us, now and for ever.

Amen.

# Christmas Tree Festival

**Thank You** to all who supported our *Christmas Tree Festival* in December, whether by providing a tree, visiting, donating, or helping. 20 trees were on show from local groups, schools and individuals, and they brought some very imaginative and thoughtful displays, with well over 300 children and adults creating items to add to the displays.

Although the number of visitors was fewer than previous years, those who did attend were most appreciative, with many staying for hot drinks, homemade cakes, and conversation. A few of the trees are shown below.

The event raised a net total including Gift Aid of about £885 for our church.



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



Sun 4th	9.30am	All Age Worship	Groby Church	Families
Tues 6th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 6th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 9th	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 9th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 11th	9.30am	All Age Worship	Groby Church	Families
Tues 13th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 13th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 16th	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 16th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 18th	10.30am	Crossfire	Groby Village Hall	Secondary
Tues 20th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 20th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 23rd	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 23rd	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Tues 27th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 27th	3.15pm	Kids Konnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 30th	9.30am	Catch	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 30th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15



## CHURCH WOMEN'S GUILD, JANUARY 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !!

NOTE THAT WE DO NOT MEET DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

More information from Annette Fowler (2873169)



### ***FAIR CUPPA***

FAIR CUPPA ROTA - JANUARY	
<b>8th</b>	Connie & Beryl
<b>15th</b>	Elizabeth & Pat
<b>22nd</b>	Elizabeth & Janet
<b>29th</b>	Sandra & Hilary



**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



# 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)

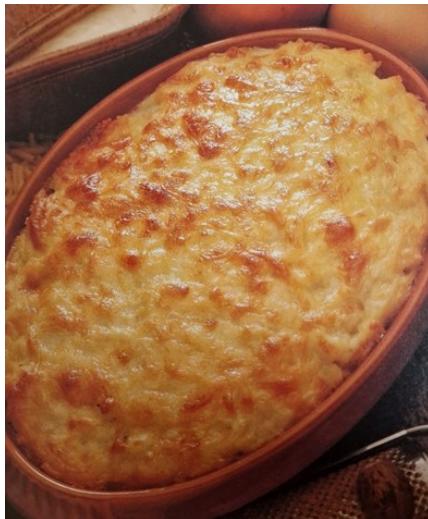
To book contact  
[youthworker@groby.com](mailto:youthworker@groby.com)

### **Pastitsio**

Well, it's back to me again for your culinary delights! Having been in Italy for my holidays, I have been revisiting some of my old Italian recipes and here is one I have made for many years – a sort of Italian equivalent of our cottage pie!

#### **Ingredients**

225g/8oz macaroni  
90g/3oz butter or margarine  
60g/2 oz Parmesan cheese, grated  
Pinch of grated nutmeg  
2 eggs, beaten  
1 medium onion, peeled and chopped  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
450/1lb mince beef  
2 tbsp tomato puree  
60ml/2fl oz red wine  
90ml/3 fl oz beef stock  
2 tbsp chopped parsley  
2 tbsp plain flour  
280ml/½ pint milk  
Salt and pepper



#### **Method**

Preheat oven to 190°C/Gas mark 5.

Cook macaroni in plenty of boiling salted water for 10 minutes or until tender but still firm. Rinse under hot water and drain.

Put one third of the butter or margarine into the pan and return the macaroni to it. Add half the cheese, nutmeg and salt and pepper to taste. Leave to cool and then mix in half the beaten egg.

Melt half the remaining butter or margarine in a pan and fry the onion and garlic gently until the onion is soft. Then increase the temperature and add the mince beef and fry until browned.

Add the tomato puree, beef stock, red wine and parsley and season with salt and pepper. Simmer for 20 minutes

In a small pan melt the remaining butter or margarine. Stir in the flour and cook for 30 seconds. Remove from the heat and stir in the milk, then return to the heat and bring to the boil, stirring continuously until the sauce thickens. Beat in the remaining egg and season to taste.

Spoon half the macaroni into an oven proof dish, then cover with the meat sauce. Put on another layer of macaroni and then pour over the white sauce. Sprinkle with the remaining cheese and bake in the oven for 30 minutes until golden brown. Serve and enjoy – lovely with salad and/or garlic bread.

*Rev'd Ed*

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### ***Church Cleaning - Could You Help?***

Before Covid, our church was cleaned every week by members of our congregation who belonged to some of the different groups that were active in the church. Many of those groups are no longer active, and so once Lockdown was over we managed to find four pairs of people willing to clean the church once every two months, therefore cleaning now occurs at two-week intervals.

Some of the people involved have been doing this for many years, and advancing years will soon cause retirements. So we really need to increase the number of people who are willing to do cleaning.

Regular church cleaning consists of:

- Dusting as required
- Removal of spider webs as required
- Sweeping, especially in between pews
- Hoovering the carpets
- Cleaning toilet
- Any other appropriate task

It would be a great service to the church if you could help. Please let Chris Davies know.





We're a dementia-friendly choir! For more information please get in touch with our dementia coordinator. Louise. at lou\_ross@yahoo.com



*Featuring songs which  
are a feast for the ears*

**Rehearsals at Groby Club from 25th February**

**Wednesday afternoon choir: 1.30 - 3pm**  
Creche area available

**Children's choir 3.40pm - 4.40pm**  
for children aged 7 years old and over

**Wednesday evening choir: 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Performances take place on  
**Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th June**

[www.grobysings.org](http://www.grobysings.org) for more information      Registered Charity no. 1180490

What a wonderful season of singing we had in the autumn of 2025 with ***Groby Sings a Menagerie***, ending with two concerts at the end of November. (see pictures below). At the after-concert party, Simon, our Musical Director and Conductor, said how thrilled he was with how well the choir managed the new arrangements of songs that he and Paul Cox, our keyboard maestro, prepared and, most importantly, that there was always time to enjoy the experience and have fun. After all, who could resist singing along to *The Hippopotamus* song, *Hound Dog* and *Karma Chameleon*? Our audiences certainly showed their appreciation by joining in too!



The theme for the spring/summer session of singing was revealed at the concerts as ***Groby Sings a la Carte***. (See poster on opposite page) We don't yet know the songs but it will apparently be '*featuring songs which will be a feast for the ears*'. We can only speculate, although the obvious *Food, Glorious Food* from *Oliver* sounds like a distinct possibility. This was one of Groby Sings very first songs back when the choir was formed in 2013 so it would great to revive it.

Singing resumes after the school half-term on **25<sup>th</sup> Feb** at **The Groby Club** which so generously provides the warm and comfortable facilities which enable the choir to meet. Our heartfelt thanks must go to the Club for its unwavering support over the last 12 years. We couldn't carry on without it.

As always, we would love anyone and everyone, whatever their singing ability, to come along and experience the joy of coming together to make music. If you want to know more, you will usually find a few choir members meeting in Groby Library from about 2-3pm on Wednesdays so do go along and have a chat.



## **TASTERS CAROLS**



Trevor Pringle leading the carol singing at Groby Tasters

## **Taizé Prayer**

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15th March**

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[karensilverwood@googlemail.com](mailto:karensilverwood@googlemail.com) [www.taize.fr/en](http://www.taize.fr/en)

FLOWERS January		
	Altar	Memorial Vase
4th	Mary Page	
11th		
18th	Gillian	
25th	Mary Page	

### Church Cleaning January

22 Dec - 3 Jan	Linda & John
4 Jan - 17 Jan	Gill & Alan
18 Jan - 31 Jan	Chris D & Julie



### February Magazine Deadline Saturday 18th January

Please send all items to  
[stpandjmagazine@googlemail.com](mailto:stpandjmagazine@googlemail.com)

Items for the  
**weekly news sheet**  
 to:  
[office@bradgatechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@bradgatechurches.org.uk)

### 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.

**Parish Office hours:**  
 9.30 - 11.30, Mon to Fri

### PARISH OFFICE

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## GROBY CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector	Revd Dr Ed Bampton	23 Ferndale Drive, Ratby	239 6520
	email: <a href="mailto:RevDrEdBampton@outlook.com">RevDrEdBampton@outlook.com</a>		
Associate Ministers	Keith Wignall	12 Beacon Close, Groby	231 1439
Churchwardens	Ruth Scott	30 Greys Drive, Groby	232 1175
	Valerie Doig	10 Elm Close, Groby	291 6923
	Christine Davies	12 Sycamore Grove, Groby	231 2070
Youth Worker	Louise Brown	<a href="mailto:youthworker@youthgroby@gmail.com">youthworker@youthgroby@gmail.com</a>	07450 688217

*New email address for Andrew Scott: [ascott1037@gmail.com](mailto:ascott1037@gmail.com)*

Verger	Andrew Scott	232 1175
PCC Minute Sec.	Ruth Matthews	<a href="mailto:ruthmatthews@ntlworld.com">ruthmatthews@ntlworld.com</a>
Treasurer	Andrew Scott	232 1175
Gift Aid Secretary	Ruth Scott	232 1175
Bell-ringers	Sue Scott	01530 249324
Organist & Choir	Paul Cox	07850 960172
Sunday School	Mike Matthews	287 6179
Women's Guild	Annette Fowler	287 3169
Flowers	Ruth Scott	232 1175
News sheet	Hayley Moore	239 3768
Verger Emeritus	Marjorie Thomas	287 0330
	Owen Lawrence	01530 243179
Magazine	C Davies / J Newnham	231 2070 / 287 7871
Website	<a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com">www.achurchnearyou.com</a>	

Magazine email address [stpandjmagazine@googlemail.com](mailto:stpandjmagazine@googlemail.com)

Parish Office 239 3768 [office@bradgatechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@bradgatechurches.org.uk)



Please note that **Paul and Jane Cox** no longer have a landline phone number.  
Paul's number is 07850 960172.

# Cathy Stephens

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