

# St. Philip & St. James Church Ratby Parish Church Magazine

March 2026



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

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

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

Please see inside the magazine for details of services and events for March - 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

# March 2026 of Groby and Ratby

We are in the season of **Lent**, which traditionally is a season of reflection, repentance in preparation for Easter. It runs from Ash Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup> February) to Maundy Thursday (2<sup>nd</sup> April), and commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. Hopefully this allows us space to strengthen our faith and anticipate the Resurrection.

In church we may talk about mountain top experiences, even if they are not on a mountain, those places where you seem closer to God, where it feels that God is close to you. For me one of those places is Holy Island in Lindisfarne. It's a wonderful place, there is a sense of calm even amongst the tourists. I feel there have been so many Christians praying for so long, more than a thousand years, with monks like St Cuthbert and all the pilgrims after him. Not only at the monastery but in the churches and the modern retreat houses. It's a place where I feel God close to me. There are many such places and I expect you have a favourite place -



a place where you know you can be close to God. It may not be a mountain, it may be at Launde Abbey, it may be at coast or walking in a wood. Barbara Brown Taylor calls them the thin places where God breaks through. Where the door between this world and the next has cracked open for a moment. She talks about the importance of going on pilgrimage to these places and how it is "good for the soul". This Lent we may not be able to go on pilgrimage to find space but hopefully we all find a favourite chair in the corner of a room, somewhere you know you can find peace. In these moments we can read our Bible, spend time in quiet. If you are struggling with where to start I would like to recommend the booklet *Draw*

Near. As its advertising blurb says...

*“It is the official Church of England booklet for Lent 2026. It invites you to develop a rhythm of life that will help you grow as a disciple of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God’s saving love at Easter. Each week a different contributor explores an activity central to Christian discipleship: worship, prayer, Scripture, communion, service to others and sharing the good news. For each day of Lent it offers daily Bible readings, images, short reflections, prayers and practical responses to help you draw near to God this Lent and beyond.”*

There are some at the back of both churches so please feel free to take one. If you can’t make it to church I know that the ministry team would be delighted to drop one off, so do give us a call. Don’t worry that you haven’t started at the beginning of Lent, you can either carry on with it after Easter or just begin on the second week.

Although mountain top experiences are special, they are also few and far between and it is getting into Holy habits, a rhythm and routine of spending time with God that will sustain us in our Christian life. As a mother of three lively children and full time teacher, spending time to sit seemed like an impossible dream, when would I ever have time to sit and just be with God. But now with the children grown it is one of the privileges of retirement.

We also have to leave our mountain tops, I can’t stay on Holy Island, we have to come back to our real lives, to the places where we are challenged to build the kingdom of God. We have to return to busy messy noisy lives where we know we will face struggles. This is why we need our daily habits to maintain that contact with God so we can continue the work Jesus has given us. Hopefully, the habits we build into these 40 days will remain with us even after Lent.

Ruth Scott

*Lay Reader / Associate Minister*



## ***Services and Events in March***

Our regular pattern of worship continues with alternating 8am communions (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in Groby, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Ratby) and then a 9.30am (in Groby) or 10am (in Ratby) service every week, alternating between communion and morning worship.

And if you struggle to make it to church in person for whatever reason, why not give our lovely Telephone Church a go, every Sunday at 11.15am (call 0333 0164 757; room number 10336316#; pin 1920#). And let me know if you'd like to join in and I'll drop you round our simple order of service and a hymn book! Note that as the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday this month is Palm Sunday, we won't be doing a joint Café Church but having services in both churches – Morning Worship in Groby and Communion in Ratby.

During the week we continue to have morning prayer every Monday at 9am in Ratby. As ever 9.30am Wednesday Communion in Groby will be every week. Our online Compline continues every Tuesday at 9pm (<https://www.facebook.com/StPandStJ>).

Don't forget you can join us through Lent for our Lent Course, Tuesdays at the Rectory in Ratby at 12 noon – using the book on Life-Giving Habits for Lent (do let Rev'd Ed know if you would like a copy to use at home and/or to join us at our group).

That brings me neatly on to Holy Week and Easter – do see elsewhere in the magazine for details of everything happening in the build up to Easter and come along and enjoy all we do as we look to the wonderful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! If you haven't been before, why not try something new such as one or more of our Holy Week services or experience the Dawn Service on Easter Sunday as we welcome the resurrection as the sun rises!

*God bless you all. Prayers, as ever,*

*Rev'd Ed*

**Saturday 21st March**  
**10am to 2pm**

**JOIN US  
FOR THE RATBY**

**SPRING FAIR**



**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

**ARTS & CRAFTS | HOMEMADE FOOD | BOUNCY CASTLE  
FOOD STALLS | MARKET STALLS | HISTORIC BUILDING**

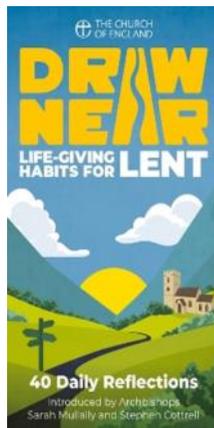
**St Philip and St James Church, Ratby  
and the Church Rooms, Church Lane,  
Ratby LE6 0JF**

## ***Lent Course Feb - March 2026***

Our **Lent Course** this year will use the book of daily reflections on Life Giving Habits and each Tuesday (24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March) at 12 noon all are welcome to the Ratby Rectory to share our thoughts in what we have read through the week with soup and a roll! Please let me know if you'd like to join in as books are still available – for use at home even if you can't come along on Tuesdays.

*Rev'd Ed*

**DRAW  
NEAR**  
**LIFE-GIVING  
HABITS FOR LENT**



### **A Prayer for March 2026**

(based on Jn3:21, Jn 14:6, Jn 8:12, Jn 16:33, Heb 13:5)

Lord, in these weeks leading up to Easter, many of us spend time reflecting on what Jesus has done for us and how he can help us live our lives. But we live in a harsh, confusing world, where traditional values are upended and we can hardly believe some of the things we hear from powerful world leaders. Truth seems to be lost in the darkness.

Lord, your word tells us that, ***whoever lives by the truth comes into the light.***

Jesus says He is ***the Truth***. He also says He is the ***Light of the world***. Help us to hold fast to these facts. Help us to remember that Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble – so we shouldn't be surprised – but that He has overcome the world – so we should be encouraged.

Whatever is going on in the troubled world around us – we can live by the real Truth – and in the real Light – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you so much.

In Jesus name. Amen.

by Daphne Kitching (from Parish Pump)

## 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>Associate Minister</u></b> Joan Hawkins	<b>07545 909868</b>	<b>javjhawks@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>javjhawks@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>

A white Easter bunny on the left holds a colorful Easter egg. On the right, another white bunny holds a bingo card with numbers 1-15. Between them are several bingo balls with numbers 77 and 13. The background is a blue sky with clouds and green foliage.

# EASTER BINGO!

AT RATBY CHURCH ROOMS

➤ 7PM START! ◀

RAISING FUNDS FOR

**LOROS**

Hospice Care for Leicester,  
Leicestershire & Rutland:

**27th March**

**£5 A BOOK!**

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE AND FOR DETAILS OF PAYMENT

[rebekahlorosfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:rebekahlorosfundraiser@gmail.com)

## ***SUNDAY TELEPHONE SERVICES - MARCH***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROBY/RATBY</b>
<b>1st</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (JH)
<b>8th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (EB)
<b>15th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (KW)
<b>22nd</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (RS)
<b>29th</b>	11.15am Telephone Church (RD)

## ***ON-LINE SERVICES - MARCH***

### ***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.



## **GROBY/RATBY *IN-CHURCH SERVICES - MARCH***

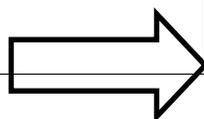
<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROBY</b>	<b>RATBY</b>
<b>1st</b> 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30pm All Age Service (Team)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	6.00pm Holy Communion (EB)	
<b>8th</b> 3rd Sunday of Lent		8.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	9.30am Holy Communion (RS)	10.00am Morning Worship (JH)
	6.00pm Evensong (EB)	
<b>15th</b> Mothering Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30am Morning Worship (RS)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB/JH)
<b>22nd</b> 4th Sunday of Lent		8.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	9.30am Holy Communion (EB)	10.00am Morning Worship (RD)
	6.00pm Evensong (RS)	
<b>29th</b> Palm Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30am Morning Worship (RS)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB)

<b>MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES March 2026</b>						
<b>GROBY</b>	Wed 9.30am	4th	11th	18th	24th	31st

## *March Diary*

1st	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Groby All Age Worship at Groby Holy Communion at Ratby Telephone Church Holy Communion at Groby
2nd	Mon	9.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer at Ratby Julian Meeting: <i>Sharing Silence</i> at Groby Library
3rd	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 12.00pm 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Lent Course at Ratby Rectory Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
4th	Wed	9.30am 12.00pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion at Groby Church men's meeting at The Stamford Arms Deanery Synod at Ratby Church
5th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
6th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 2.00pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Women's World Day of Prayer, Ratby Chapel Rock Solid at URC Groby
7th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Coffee Morning, Ratby Church Rooms
8th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Ratby Holy Communion at Groby Morning Worship at Ratby Crossfire at Groby Village Hall Evensong at Groby
9th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
10th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 12.00pm 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Lent Course at Ratby Rectory Kids Konnect at Ratby Online Night Prayer
11th	Wed	9.30am 2.30pm	Holy Communion at Groby Church Women's Guild meeting
12th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
13th	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
14th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC

<b>15th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>11.15am</b> <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion at Groby</b> <b>Morning Worship at Groby</b> <b>Hol Communion at Ratby</b> <b>Telephone Church</b> <b>Taizé Service at Markfield Methodist Church</b>
16th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
17th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 12.00pm 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Lent Course at Ratby Rectory Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
18th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
19th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
20th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby
21st	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 10.00 - 12.00pm 10.00 - 2.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Coffee Morning, Ratby Church Rooms Spring Fair at Ratby Church & Church Rooms
<b>22nd</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>11.15am</b> <b>12.00pm</b> <b>5.00pm</b> <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion at Ratby</b> <b>Holy Communion at Groby</b> <b>Morning Worship at Ratby</b> <b>Crossfire at Groby Village Hall</b> <b>Telephone Church</b> <b>Baptism of Emi at Groby</b> <b>Magnificat rehearsal before Evensong</b> <b>Evensong at Groby</b>
23rd	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
24th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 12.00pm 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Lent Course at Ratby Rectory Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
25th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
26th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
27th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Loros Easter Bingo, Ratby Church Rms Rock Solid at URC Groby
28th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC
<b>29th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>11.15am</b> <b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion at Groby</b> <b>Morning Worship at Groby</b> <b>Holy Communion at Ratby</b> <b>Telephone Church</b> <b>Ratby Lunch Club</b>



30th	Mon	9.00am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer at Ratby Healing Service in Groby
31st	Tues	7.00pm 9.00pm	Taizé Service in Groby Online Night Prayer



**Deanery Synod  
Wednesday 4 March 2026  
7.30pm, Ratby Church**

Michael Ravuri will be coming to talk to us about the Intercultural Worshipping Communities project, of which Ratby and Groby churches have been a part as partner churches.  
Come and hear what it has all been all about and how it is going forward.

All welcome, not just Deanery Synod representatives.

*Revd Ed*

**Women's World Day of Prayer**

This year's joint service will be held in  
**Ratby Methodist Chapel  
on Friday 6 March at 2pm.**



Everyone Welcome

**Services for Holy Week and Easter 2026**  
**Benefice of Groby and Ratby with Churches Together in Ratby**  
**and Churches Together in Groby**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**7.00pm Healing Service in St Philip and St James, Groby**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**7.00pm Taize Service in St Philip and St James, Groby**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**7.00pm Reflective Service Based on Lent Course, in St Philip and St James Ratby**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**11am Chrism Eucharist at Leicester Cathedral**

**6.30pm Churches Together Maundy Thursday Service and Meal in St Philip and St James, Ratby**

**7pm Churches Together Maundy Thursday Service and Meal at the URC, Groby**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**9.45am-1.30pm Children's Good Friday Activities  
Ratby Parish Rooms and Church**

**3pm Good Friday Meditation at St Philip and St James, Groby**

**4pm Good Friday Meditation at the Methodist Chapel, Ratby**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**2-4pm Open Church at Groby**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Day)**

**Groby**

**8am Dawn Communion Service**

**9.30am All-Age Easter Communion**

**Ratby**

**6am Dawn Communion Service**

**10am Easter Praise Service**

**11.15am Telephone Church**



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



Sun 1st	9.30am	All Age Worship	Groby Church	Families
Tues 3rd	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 3rd	3.15pm	Kids Kconnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 6th	9.30am	CatCh	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 6th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Tues 10th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 10th	3.15pm	Kids Kconnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 13th	9.30am	CatCh	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 13th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 15th	10.30am	Crossfire	Groby Village Hall	Secondary
Tues 17th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 17th	3.15pm	Kids Kconnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 20th	9.30am	CatCh	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 20th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Tues 24th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 24th	3.15pm	Kids Kconnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 27th	9.30am	CatCh	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 27th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 29th	10.30am	Crossfire	Groby Village Hall	Secondary

### Two Donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said:  
“Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and  
the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down  
their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don’t  
even recognise me.”

The other donkey replied: “That is how it is, my friend.  
Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much.”



Join us to practise  
singing the Magnificat  
and eat cake

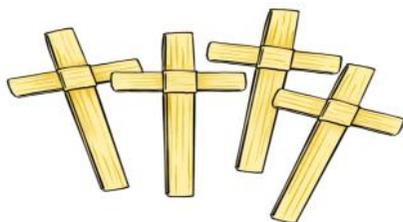
# EVENSONG Rehearsal

Time: 5pm

Place: St Philip and St James Church, Groby

Dates: March 22nd

April 26th, May 10th



# CHURCH REGISTERS

## WEDDINGS

### Ratby

14 February ~ Philip Hall & Eleanor Wingett

### Groby

None



## BAPTISMS

### Ratby

None

### Groby

18 January ~ Theo Clarke

18 January ~ Sienna Wilson

15 February ~ Teddy Hopewell



We welcome them into the church family

## FUNERALS

### Ratby

4 December ~ David Moore

11 December ~ Adline Kiffin

16 December ~ Joan Newman

29 December ~ Kenneth Hunnybun

26 January ~ Sid Hickinbotham

### Groby

22 January ~ Stuart Johnson

16 February ~ Veronica Brudenell



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.



## Rector's Recipes

### **Mexican Three-Bean Chilli Hotpot**

I do like beans and I like spice and so this is a lovely vegan recipe which can be eaten just as it is or with rice if you like.

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 400g tin each of black beans, cannellini beans and pinto beans  
(other bean types can be used of course)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 red peppers, deseeded and diced
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ½ tsp cumin seeds, crushed
- 1 tsp coriander seeds, crushed
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- ½-2 tsp chilli powder (depending on how spicy you like things!)
- 3 tbsp tomato purée
- 800g tinned chopped tomatoes (2 tins!)
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 600ml vegetable stock
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh coriander



#### **Method**

Heat the oil in a heavy based saucepan over a medium heat and cook the onion and peppers for 5 minutes or until soft.

Stir in the garlic, cumin and coriander seeds and oregano. Cook briefly until the garlic is just beginning to colour and then add the chilli powder and tomato purée and cook for a further 1 minute.

Add the stock, chopped tomatoes, sugar, salt and drained beans, stir well and bring to a simmer. Cover and simmer over a low heat for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking.

Stir in the coriander, remove from the heat and serve!

*Rev'd Ed*

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

Last month you may recall me talking of the God who is revealed in the scandalously inclusive love of Jesus Christ. Emerging from this I asked if you might share in my mission to offer offering a caring space and unlimited welcome to all those who love God and want to follow in Christ's inclusive way of love.

I will be honest that this is not always easy. We offer a welcome and love to all, but the world is full of people who may try to take advantage of that love. Discerning the right balance between loving our neighbour and the harsh realities of our society is not easy. But Jesus knew this would be the case – as we read in Matthew 10:16:

*'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.'*

I know I am often too kind-hearted and hope for the best in people – but that is rooted in my faith in a Jesus who I do believe can transform even the hardest of hearts. This is not a vain hope, but something I have been privileged to see in the lives of those I have encountered and the stories I have heard from others. But this could only happen when I or others were willing to do loving part first. But it needs to be a love tempered by realism – Jesus is clear about us navigating a hostile world with kindness while remaining alert to potential threats. In the end, if that reaching out does not lead to a change, we sometimes need to walk away. Jesus lets us know that this can happen and is OK, just before the verse quoted above, in Matthew 10:14:

*'If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.'*

So how do I square this with a call to an unlimited welcome? Let me expand as I reflect more. I do seek, in one way, to live in innocence, still choosing love first. But I seek also wisdom, not confusing love with unlimited access. This balance protects the

space I (we?) try to create because an “unlimited welcome” still needs boundaries if it’s going to remain safe for the vulnerable, not just open to the loud or the harmful.

So let me reframe our mission. It isn’t just about hospitality and welcome, it’s about *holy risk*:

risking love,  
risking disappointment,  
risking hope...

without surrendering our discernment or our dignity.

So yes, let us to build a place with open doors, but with watchful, as well as loving, hearts.

*God bless you all.*

*Rev’d Ed*

## **Earth Hour 2026 – a time to turn off your lights**

The Earth Hour 2026 takes place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, when at 8.30pm in their local time millions of people world-wide will turn off their non-essential lights for one hour.



Organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this global initiative will aim to raise awareness of the earth’s climate crisis, and to encourage environmental action through sustainable, actionable lifestyle changes.

The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia, on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007, and has since become a global movement. The 2025/26 theme is ‘Giving an Hour for Earth’ is encouraging people to adapt sustainable habits in their daily lives.

And while our lights are off for an hour, Earth Hour will encourage us to spend the time in nature, or stargazing, or engaging in environmental, educational, or sustainable activities.

More info at: <https://www.earthhour.org>

*article taken from Parish Pump*

## Sudoku for March

2					3	4	1	
	1		8					5
		6		9				
5							6	
	2	4		7		8	3	
	6							2
				8		6		
6					4		2	
	4	1	9					8

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### Sunday Lunch Club

Ratby Church Rooms from 12.30 pm



The next lunch will be on:

**Sunday 29 March**

**Joan Hawkins (Associate Minister at Ratby Parish Church)**

**Telephone: 07545 909868**

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

# NEWS FROM....



Our community choir, Groby Sings, started rehearsing for the summer concert on on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026** at **The Groby Club** with something to make our mouths water -

## ***Groby Sings a la Carte***

*featuring songs which will be a feast for the ears!* This sounds like a delicious addition to our mid-rehearsal refreshment break of tea, coffee and cake. Whilst we immediately think of *Food, Glorious Food* from *Oliver*, there is an accompanying full menu of songs.

So, if you've been thinking of joining our choir, do come along to get a flavour of the tasty songs to be served!

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. We are an inclusive choir and we always welcome singers with disabilities or memory problems and their friends/carers. Taking part in the end of season concerts is entirely optional for everyone.

All sessions are held at our friendly **Groby Club** (opposite the library) which is fully accessible and has comfortable seating. There is a bar with tea and coffee also available.

**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.

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

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490

## Saturday Coffee Mornings

Ratby Church Rooms

10-12pm

7th & 21st March



## Flower Rota



<i>1st March</i>	~	<i>LENT</i>
<i>8th March</i>	~	<i>LENT</i>
<i>15th March</i>	~	<i>LENT</i>
<i>22nd March</i>	~	<i>LENT</i>
<i>29th March</i>	~	<i>LENT</i>

<i>5th April</i>	~	<i>Easter Team</i>
<i>12th April</i>	~	<i>Easter Team</i>
<i>19th April</i>	~	<i>Brenda Willis</i>
<i>26th April</i>	~	<i>Joan Gordon</i>

## Cinema Club

At Ratby Church on Fridays

For the Over 60's at 2.00pm



Friday 13 March

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

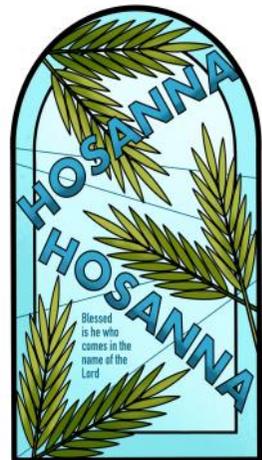
Mrs. Pamela Pollard & Dr. Claire Bampton

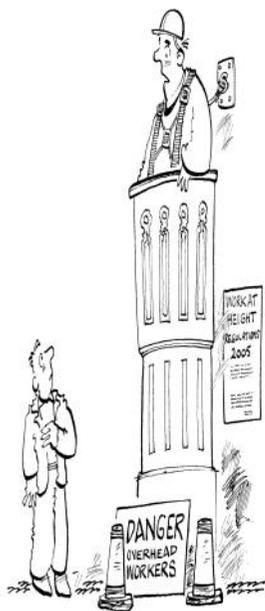
### Parochial Church Council Elected Members

Mrs. Anne Koscielska Miss. Valerie Pears

### Associate Minister

Mrs. Joan Hawkins





*One of my churchwardens is a stickler for 'Health and Safety!'...*

**0800 804 8044**  
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 A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

## **Advertise**

in the  
**Ratby Parish  
 Church Magazine**

Contact Val Pears  
 On  
**0116 239 0554**

## **Smile Lines**



### **On the road**

A teenager was always asking his parents if he could borrow the family car.

Pushed to the limit one day, the father demanded of his son why he thought 'The Almighty' had given him two feet.

Without hesitation, the son replied: "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

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**07557309211**  
**J.Sellstrom@outlook.com**

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