

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

May 2026



St. Philip & St. James Church, Ratby

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

MAY WORSHIP FROM THE BENEFICE OF GROBY AND RATBY

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

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

May 2026
of Groby and Ratby

Testimonies of Simple Men

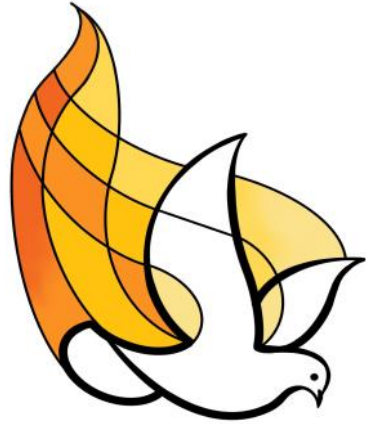
Eddie Askew¹, whom many will remember as a Christian poet and artist, recounts the time when he and his wife visited a small country church.

The church was one of those with one minister to cover seven churches. On this particular Sunday the service was being taken by an old man who showed in his face the many years he had worked outside on the farm. He wasn't a polished speaker. In fact his sermon was anything but. No glib phrases. No smooth storytelling. He was just an elderly man who loved the Lord. He talked quietly and intimately, with flashes of humour as he talked about his faith and his life.

Eddie writes that he reminded him of the first disciples, men, just like him. No formal education, no sophistication, just honest, straightforward men.

It reminded me of a couple of similar men Ann and I had met over the years (lots of years!) who, in their plain and simple way, had helped change the world, like the first disciples.

The first, Len, a dumper truck driver at the local gravel pits, was a man of no education. But one evening he



came to talk to our young people. These youngsters were a mixed bunch, most of whom hadn't experience of what the church called 'good behaviour' and weren't about to pretend to listen to this old man.

Yet, Len was unabashed and gave his simple testimony. He got to a point when he said, simply, "It's good to know the Lord." And the room full of young people fell silent as they digested the import of what they had just heard.

The second, called Sam, worked in town as a sock knitter on Kom-et machines. He, and his wife Philippa, had a deep faith which stood out. They were highly respected.

On one occasion, Sam told a story about when he was a young man – “only saved a fortnight”, he said simply, when he was asked to be a Sunday school teacher. He admits he hadn’t a clue how to do it and the class he had was very unruly! He persisted and over the years he started to get the hang of it, but never comfortable, he said.

He thought he had been a failure, and that he had achieved nothing. This was before the second world war.

During the war, a young British airman was shot down in France and was in a shell crater, dying. A young American soldier found him and comforted him as best he could, but, before he died, the airman made him promise to contact a man called Sam in Leicester, and simply tell him “he was right”. Sam was a lovely Christian man and was never a failure. It’s just that sometimes we don’t know what effect we can have through a simple testimony.

In his letter to the Corinthian Church, St Paul reminds us that not many of us are wise or influential. But God chose the foolish to shame the wise.

As Eddie Askew wrote: “God’s wisdom clothes us with a dignity that many can’t see, but which is there, nevertheless. A dignity that doesn’t depend on accent or education, but springs unbidden out of devotion.

Something to treasure when we see it”.

Something we see, maybe, in a Len or a Sam, and we thank God for it.

*I turn to you.
And here I see
No show of strength
Coercing me to faith.
Rather a quiet patience,
Loving me to surrender.
Your weakness strengthened
By a core of love,
Resilient as life.
Lord, if it’s the weak you want,
The foolish,
Then I’m the one.*

*Blessings,
Keith Wignall*

Services and Events in May

Although our underlying pattern of worship continues it is Christian Aid week this month, so as we always do, there will be joint services in both villages. This year in Groby we will be joining our friends at the URC on 10th May with an inter-generational service – let us enjoy being all ages worshipping together. In Ratby we will join our Methodist friends on 10th May to mark the start of CA Week and then on 17th May the Methodists will be coming to join us as we finish CA Week. Come and join us as we celebrate our unity of faith and purpose in the Gospel!

As many of you know I am going on Sabbatical (more on that elsewhere) and so the last services I will be taking for a few months will be on 24th May – so do come along as I will miss being with you. But it is perhaps fitting to be doing this on Pentecost when the Spirit of God came upon so many to be sent out to proclaim the Gospel – and I hope and pray everyone will be inspired to continue to tell the good news, as it is a calling for us all, not just me!

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!

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>).

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

RATBY YARD SALES 2026

**REGISTER YOUR ADDRESS!
HOST A YARD SALE!**

Sell your unwanted treasures from the
comfort of your drive or garden
on spring bank holiday

**MONDAY 4th MAY 2026
10AM - 2PM**

**ANYWHERE IN RATBY?
GET ON THE MAP!**
Pay £4 to be listed on village map.

**SCAN TO
SIGN UP!**

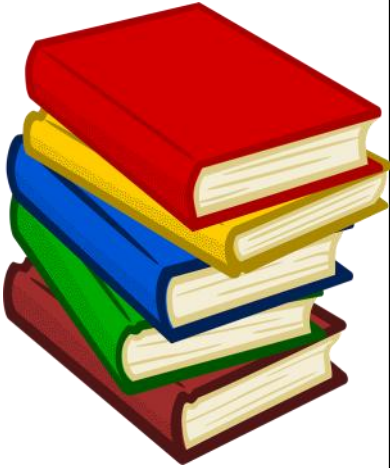
<https://form.jotform.com/230746646066352>

Call 07768 235585
Leave your
Name, Email,
Address &
Phone Number

EVERYONE WELCOME!
We welcome stalls from within the village
and visitors from elsewhere to join the fun!

Printed maps, bacon rolls & snacks
available at Ratby Church Rooms
on the day in aid of Church funds.

Bank Holiday weekend



Alan & Gill Tyler invite you to a
SECOND HAND BOOK SALE
and
Afternoon Tea

(In support of National Trust &
St Philip & St James Church, Groby)

**At 21 Highfield Road, Groby LE6
0GU**

On

**Saturday 2nd May 2.00 pm to 5.00
pm**

**& Sunday 3rd May 10.00am to 3.00
pm**

& Monday 4th May 11.00am to 4.00

Unmissable Event! The return of the.....

Come and join us for Full English
9.00am Holiday Monday 4th May



SPEAKER: Nataliya Yelizarova
Re her experiences of escaping
Ukraine as the war loomed

No charge but donations welcome

**Groby United Reformed Church,
Chapel Hill, Groby, LE6 OFE**

RATBY PARISH CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

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

A family is a mobile strung together with invisible
threats – delicate, easily broken at first, growing stronger
through the years, in danger of being worn thin at times,
but strengthened again with special care.... continuity! –

Edith Schaeffer



Bhangra Supper
Saturday
16th May 2026
At St Philip and St James
Church, Ratby

6:00 PM start—dinner
served at 6.30pm

Ticket cost: £10.00 per adult (60 available)
£5.00 per child (10 available) - payable in advance

Tickets are available from Hayley in the church office,
Church Lane, Ratby LE6 0JF

This will be a **ticket only event** and need to be purchased in advance as we need to know numbers for catering purposes for the evening. Meals need to be booked when purchasing tickets (choice of Chicken or Vegetable Curry (both served with rice)). You can bring your own drinks and there will be a supply of refreshments during the evening. Any queries please contact Angie Cain at childrensministryratby@gmail.com



SUNDAY TELEPHONE SERVICES - MAY

DATE	GROBY/RATBY
3rd	11.15am Telephone Church (JH)
10th	11.15am Telephone Church (RD)
17th	11.15am Telephone Church (KW)
24th	11.15am Telephone Church (EB)
31st	11.15am Telephone Church (JH)

ON-LINE SERVICES - MAY

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 - MAY*

DATE	GROBY	RATBY
3rd 5th Sunday of Easter	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30pm All Age Service (Team)	10.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	6.00pm Holy Communion (EB)	
10th 6th Sunday of Easter		8.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	10.00am CA Service at URC (Paul E)	10.00am CA Service at Methodist (Rev Jimi)
	6.00pm Evensong (RD)	
17th 7th Sunday of Easter	8.00am Holy Communion (EB)	
	9.30am Morning Worship (RD)	10.00am CA Week Service, Ratby (EB)
24th Pentecost		8.00am Holy Communion (EB)
	9.30am Holy Communion (EB)	10.00am Morning Worship (JH/AK)
	6.00pm Evensong (RS)	
31st Trinity Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (Sue Willetts)	
	10.00am Joint Café Church at Ratby (AC/Team)	

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICES May 2026				
GROBY	6th	13th	20th	27th

May Diary

1st	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby
2nd	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 10.00 - 12.00pm 2.00 - 5.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Coffee Morning, Ratby Church Rooms Book Sale at Tyler's
3rd	Sun	8.00am 10.00am 10.00am 10.00 - 3.00pm 11.15am 6.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Groby All Age Worship at Groby Holy Communion at Ratby Book Sale at Tyler's Telephone Church Holy Communion at Groby Taizé Service at Markfield Methodist Church
4th	Mon	9.00am 10.00 - 2pm 11.00 - 4.00pm 7.30pm	No Morning Prayer at Ratby Yard Sale in Ratby Book Sale at Tyler's (see p 15) Julian Meeting: <i>Sharing Silence</i> at Groby Library
5th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 12.00pm 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Church Women's Guild lunch at the Bull's Head Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
6th	Wed	9.30am 12pm	Holy Communion at Groby Men's Meet up at Stamford Arms, Groby
7th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
8th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 2.00pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Over 60s Cinema at Ratby Rock Solid at URC Groby
9th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC
10th	Sun	8.00am 10.00am 10.00am 11.15am 12.00pm 5.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Ratby CA Week service at Groby URC CA Week service at Ratby Methodist Church Telephone Church Baptism at Groby Magnificat rehearsal before Evensong Evensong at Groby
11th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
12th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Online Night Prayer
13th	Wed	9.30am 12.00pm	Holy Communion at Groby Ratby Band concert at Ratby Church

14th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
15th	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby
16th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 10.00 - 12.00pm 6.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Coffee Morning, Ratby Church Rooms Bhangra Supper at Ratby
17th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.15am 11.15am	Holy Communion at Groby Morning Worship at Groby Joint CA Week service at Ratby APCM at Ratby Telephone Church
18th	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Ratby
19th	Tues	9.15 - 10.30am 3.15 - 4.30pm 9.00pm	Tots & Toddlers at Ratby Church Kids Konnect at Ratby Church Online Night Prayer
20th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
21st	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
22nd	Fri	9.30 - 11.00am 7.30 - 9.00pm	CTG CatCh at Groby URC Rock Solid at URC Groby
23rd	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC <i>Magazine Deadline</i>
24th	Sun	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion at Ratby Holy Communion at Groby Morning Worship at Ratby Crossfire at Groby Village Hall Telephone Church Evensong at Groby
25th	Mon	9.00am	<i>Schools half term</i> No Morning Prayer at Ratby
26th	Tues	9.00pm	Online Night Prayer
27th	Wed	9.30am	Holy Communion at Groby
28th	Thurs	10.30 - 12.00pm	CTG Fair Cuppa at Groby Village Hall
29th	Fri		
30th	Sat	10.00 - 12.00pm 10.00 - 12.00pm	Groby Tasters hosted at Groby URC Coffee Morning, Ratby Church Rooms
31st	Sun	8.00am 10.00am 11.15am 12.30pm	Holy Communion at Groby Joint Café Church at Ratby Telephone Church Ratby Lunch Club

Notice of Call for Nominations: Churchwardens, PCC Members and Deanery Synod Representatives

Nominations are now open for the office of Churchwarden. Nominations are also open for PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives. Candidates must be nominated in writing by two persons on the church electoral roll, and the nominee must indicate their willingness to stand. Nomination forms are available from the church and church office and must be submitted prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which will be held in church on Sunday 17th May after the morning service at 11.15am, at which the election will be held.

We encourage all eligible parishioners to participate in these important aspects of parish governance and wider church governance. Role descriptions are below, but please do ask Rev'd Ed if you have any questions.

Churchwardens

Role Title:	Churchwarden.
Role Purpose:	The Churchwarden is a legal position within the Church, they are the Bishops Officer. The main purposes of the role are to work alongside the parish priest to ensure the smooth running of the church and to represent the laity.
Support:	Churchwardens are supported by the Bishop, the Archdeacon, Area Dean and are encouraged to utilise the various support teams working for the Diocese.

Role Duties:

- To work with the parish priest to promote and lead the mission of the church.
- To care for the congregation; to encourage its members in the Christian faith.
- Ensure that Sunday worship happens and everything is in place for worship.
- Ensure that worshippers at Sunday services, especially visitors, are welcomed (this is often delegated to sidespeople)
- Financial leadership; If the position of Treasurer becomes vacant then the churchwarden by default becomes responsible for this until the vacancy is filled.
- Ensure collections are taken during services and processes in place for banking the money.
- Ensure service registers are completed.
- Ensure that structures are in place for monitoring building maintenance.

To keep records up to date regarding the building and moveable goods.

Keep the administration of the church up to date.

Attend the Archdeacons Visitation (annually) and at least one relevant training session

To attend Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meetings.

To provide a written report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
Being aware of, and work in accordance to, the church health and safety and safeguarding policies.

Much of this work can be delegated and there are already many people within the church carrying out a variety of duties. However, the church-warden oversees this work and helps to ensure that there are other people available to carry out the various tasks.

PCC Member

Purpose of role:

Be a fully participating member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) which is the governing body of a parish, a team, made up of clergy and lay members of the parish. Together they are responsible for the finances of the parish and the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of their worship communities, their members and buildings. The PCC also has a duty to promote the mission of the church within the wider community. All PCC members are Charity Trustees of the legal charity that is 'the parish'.

Responsibilities:

The responsibilities of the PCC are defined by law, for example the *Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956* section 2 states 'It shall be the duty of the minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish'. Members of the PCC have the right to be consulted, to know what is proposed, and to have the opportunity to express an opinion on it.

General

- Take your own journey with God seriously.
- Take responsibility for your own health and safety.
- Comply with Diocesan safeguarding policy.
- Comply with General Data Protection Regulations.
- Undertake any training as required.

Specific

- Demonstrate openness and ensure the people of the worship communities reach out to all who live in their surrounding communities, whether members of the church/worship communities or not.
- Support leaders (clergy and lay), prayerfully and personally.
- Prepare for and attend PCC meetings, review minutes and agree them, be an active part of the decision-making process. PCC members should also attend major activities in the Diocese and Deanery, so that they feel part of the wider church family.
- Be punctual, send apologies promptly when you are unable to attend.
- Suggest strategic and/or creative agenda items, put forward questions, tabled in good time and offer solutions, options and choices in the way ahead.
- Listen to others attentively, speak kindly, clearly and succinctly.
- Vote and make decisions for the good of the Diocese as a whole.
- Communicate with members of the worship communities to keep them informed and take their questions/issue/feedback to PCC meetings.
- Be aware of and work to fulfil the responsibilities of the PCC which include:
 - * Public Worship where people of all ages can meet for prayer and worship
 - * Identifying and prioritising mission opportunities
 - * Manage the PCC's finances to ensure accounting for all funds, maintenance of accounts, annual accounts audit
 - * Safeguarding, implementing the House of Bishops' policies on Safeguarding and a Parish Policy on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults which is reviewed at least annually
 - * Insurance cover for all parish activities
 - * Church buildings, ancillary buildings (e.g. Hall) and churchyard, complying with Health & Safety, heritage requirements and maintenance work

PCC members report to the PCC Chair

Commitment required:

To be elected to the PCC, a person needs to have been on the Electoral Roll for at least 6 months, if 18 years old or over, consent to being appointed and

should also have received communion at least three times in the previous year. (If aged 16 or 17 years on the day of their election, the 6 month Electoral Roll membership requirement does not apply).

PCC members should aim to attend all PCC meetings. PCC members are usually elected for a 3 year term. However, the post holder should always feel free to talk to the PCC Chair at any point to discuss continuing in the role, or seeking a more suitable alternative for current circumstances.

This role is voluntary. Each PCC member must be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Deanery Synod Members

The word “synod” comes from a Greek word meaning “assembly” or “meeting. St Philip and St James Ratby is a church in the Diocese of Leicester. A Diocese is the area under the supervision of a bishop which is in turn divided into Deaneries, or groups of parishes. We are part of the Deanery of Sparkenhoe East. Every Deanery is required to have a Synod. This is chaired by the Area Dean and an elected Lay Chair, who work closely with the Archdeacon. The Deanery Synod consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice/parish within the Deanery, plus elected lay members.

The Deanery Synod makes decisions at a deanery level. It acts as an intermediary between the parochial church councils of each parish and the synod of the diocese as a whole. Our deanery meets to reflect on missional aspects of our common life that affect us all. Deaneries also have the power to bring proposals and motions to Diocesan Synod for debate. Deanery Synod lay members also elect the deanery’s lay representatives to the Diocesan Synod and the Diocese’s members of the House of Laity in the General Synod of the Church of England.

Each parish is allocated a number of places on the Deanery Synod based on the size of their electoral roll, which for us is 2. Deanery Synod members are invited to attend four Deanery Synod meetings per year. These are held at various locations in the Deanery, and are generally 7.30pm-9.00pm. The agenda and papers about matters to be discussed are circulated to members in advance. Some decisions are put to the vote. Deanery Synod members are also automatically members of their parish’s Parochial Church Council (PCC), and so attend those meetings as well. (See separate info on Duties of PCC Members for more details).

Rector's Recipes – Kedgerree

Looking through the various recipes I have given you, I was surprised to realise I have never given you my kedgerree recipe – it is something I have eaten since a child and learned to make from my own mother. I do a very simple one, but there are then plenty of flavour variations you can try (and which I have over the years, but with fussy folk in my family, I stick to the basic one at the moment!)

Ingredients:

- 475g smoked haddock (I usually use frozen)
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 free range eggs
- 200g basmati rice
- ½ tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp ground cardamon
- 50g butter
- Salt and pepper

Optional extras:

- ½ lemon – juice only
- 1 tbsp medium curry powder
- 3tbsp chopped fresh flat leaf parsley




Method :

1. Cook the fish in boiling water with the bay leaves for 10-15 minutes (for frozen – 8-10 mins if using fresh) until it is just done and flakes easily. Remove the skin.
2. Hard boil the eggs (put into cold water, bring to the boil and then cook for 8 minutes). Drain in a sieve under cold running water and, when cool enough to handle, peel them carefully and set aside.
3. Cook the rice very gently for 10-12 minutes in salted water with the turmeric and cardamon until cooked – drain and excess water and return to the pan.
4. Flake the fish into chunky pieces and add these to the pan.
5. Roughly chop the eggs and add to the pan.
6. Add the butter and stir all together over a gentle heat for 1-2 minutes. Serve and enjoy or see below for additions.....

If you want to add additional flavours, stir in the lemon juice, curry powder and parsley and cook over a low heat for a further 3 minutes, stirring to stop it catching on the bottom of the pan. Now you can serve and enjoy this version! Also, if you prefer it, you can omit the curry powder – the additional lemony flavour alone is lovely along with the parsley (and if you hate parsley, you can skip that too!)

Rev'd Ed



THE
RATBY
DAYTIME
BRASS
BAND

Brass Band Concert
Conductor Kevin Holdgate

*Ratby St Philip &
St James Church*

*Church Lane, Ratby
LE6 0JF*

*Wednesday
13th May 2026
Concert at 12 noon*

*Free Admission
Soup & Roll*

*Raffle and
retiring collection towards
Church & Band Funds*



RATBY
co-operative
BRASS BAND



LOROS
Hospice Care for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland
*Being there for you
and your family*

**QUIZ
NIGHT!**

STARTS AT 7PM

ON 23RD MAY

AT RATBY CHURCH ROOMS

£3 PER PERSON

**FUN,
FRIENDS &
FANTASTIC
QUESTIONS!**

To find out more, contact:
rebekahlorosfundraiser@gmail.com

♥ All proceeds in aid of LOROS Hospice Care ♥

Rector's Ramblings

I suspect I have mentioned it enough for many of you to realise that I am going on Sabbatical, and, as I am taking a little holiday either side of that time, I will be away from 25th May to 6th September inclusive. Don't worry, I have arranged cover for services while I am away and we have wonderful folk in both parishes who will make sure everything continues in my absence!

What is a Sabbatical and perhaps you're wondering why we clergy get such a long time away? Well first what it is! It is a gift from the Bishop, usually granted around about every 10 years, and is a time for rest, renewal and reflection away from regular parish duties. But secondly, why such an apparently long period away? Quite simply it is designed to prevent us clergy from burning out and ensuring our long-term ministerial health. Ministry is not a job, but a calling, and so our living and our ministry are integrally linked and loving you all so much takes its toll. I have become aware, as I prepare for this time, just how much I need it – I will be honest and admit I am struggling to do all want to, because I am just so very tired and drained.

That said, it has been poignant for me in Open the Book running up to Easter to be speaking the following words as Jesus at the last supper:

'I have to go away tomorrow, and I will miss you very much'

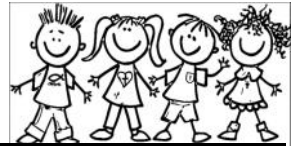
It has felt strangely real to be saying those words as I know the time for my being away from you all comes closer. Because I will miss seeing everyone regularly – because I love you all. But fortunately, like Jesus, I will be coming back (and even more fortunately for me, I'm just going on Sabbatical, not being crucified and then rising from the dead!)

What will I actually be doing during my Sabbatical? Well, the other thing a Sabbatical provides us with is the opportunity to do something for ourselves, connected with our ministry, that we never otherwise find the time for. I will have time of just rest and family time, but my project over my sabbatical is to do little research project on science, sexuality and scripture. As a research scientist turned priest, I am looking forward to combining my scientific understandings with my theological ones in an area that remains so contentious in the church. It will be an interesting intellectual journey, elements of which you may have already heard me preach or speak about.

But practically speaking, this means I will spend some time away and some time still at home. So, you may still see me and wonder what you should do! You can still talk to me – you don't have to cross the street and avoid me just because I'm on a Sabbatical break from ministry. But talk to me about the usual things of life and don't tell me about what is going on in church – the good or the bad. And I won't answer any phone calls, messages or emails and there will be no exceptions, as for the Sabbatical to work and do what it needs to for me, my head needs to be able to leave parish ministry aside fully for this season. All this is so that, I hope and pray, I come back refreshed and ready to tackle together with you all that God is asking of us. Even while I am away, I will still be praying for you all – that is simply woven into my very DNA – and I hope you will pray for me in turn.

*God bless you all.
Rev'd Ed*

Activities for children and families in our Benefice in May



Fri 1st	9.30am	CatCh	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 1st	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 3rd	7.30pm	All Age Worship	Groby Church	Families
Tues 5th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 5th	3.15pm	Kids Kconnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 8th	9.30am	CatCh	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 8th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 10th	10.30am	Crossfire	Groby Village Hall	Secondary
Tues 12th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 12th	3.15pm	Kids Kconnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 15th	9.30am	CatCh	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 15th	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Tues 19th	9.15am	Tots & Toddlers	Ratby Church	under 5s
Tues 19th	3.15pm	Kids Kconnect	Ratby Church	Primary
Fri 22nd	9.30am	CatCh	URC Groby	under 5s
Fri 22nd	7.30pm	Rock Solid	URC Groby	Age 10 to 15
Sun 24th	10.30am	Crossfire	Groby Village Hall	Secondary
Mon 25th		Schools Half Term		

Sudoku for May

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

Sunday Lunch Club

Ratby Church Rooms from 12.30 pm



The next lunch will be on:

Sunday 31 May 2026

Joan Hawkins (Associate Minister at Ratby Parish Church)

Telephone: 07545 909868

Email: jvajhawkins@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Ratby

None

Grobby

18 January ~ Theo Clarke

18 January ~ Sienna Wilson

15 February ~ Teddy Hopewell



We welcome them into the church family

WEDDINGS

Ratby

14 February ~ Philip Hall & Eleanor Wingett

Grobby

None



FUNERALS

Ratby

4 December ~ David Moore

Grobby

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.



Easter Flowers

The Easter flowers in church looked absolutely stunning so a huge thank you to our tireless and talented flower arrangers for their wonderful work - but not just for Easter but for all they do throughout the year!

Saturday Coffee Mornings

Ratby Church Rooms

10-12pm

2nd, 16th (*Christian Aid*)
& 30th May



Flower Rota



<i>3rd May</i>	~	<i>Joan Gordon</i>
<i>10th May</i>	~	<i>Elaine Root</i>
<i>17th May</i>	~	<i>Elaine Root</i>
<i>24th May</i>	~	<i>Lily Walton (BW)</i>
<i>31st May</i>	~	<i>Lily Walton (BW)</i>
<i>7th June</i>	~	<i>Tony Hawkins</i>
<i>14th June</i>	~	<i>Tony Hawkins</i>
<i>21st June</i>	~	<i>Pam Hodson</i>
<i>28th June</i>	~	<i>Pam Hodson</i>

Cinema Club

At Ratby Church on Fridays

For the Over 60's at 2.00pm



Friday 8 May 2026

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. **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

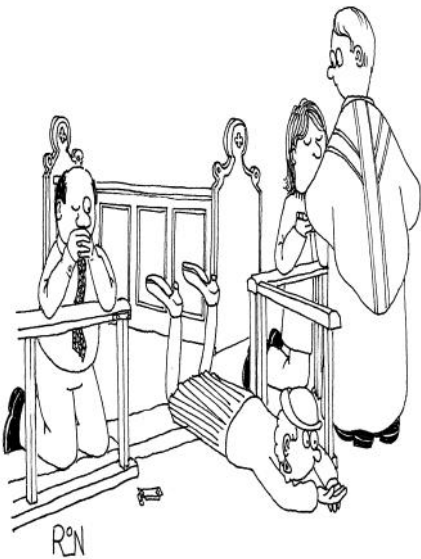
Parochial Church Council Elected Members

Mrs. Anne Koscielska Miss. Valerie Pears

Associate Minister

Mrs. Joan Hawkins





Terry made a note to fix the bolt

0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
 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



What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means, Daddy."

His father smiled "Okay. What does the Bible mean?"

"It's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

**YOUR
 EXPERT
 LOCAL
 PERSONAL
 TRAINER**

- ✓ Strength & Conditioning
- ✓ Weight loss & Toning
- ✓ 1-1 Personal Training
- ✓ Virtual Coaching
- ✓ Online Gym Programs
- ✓ Fully Equipped Gyms

For more info contact Jack on
07557309211
J.Sellstrom@outlook.com

**Ratby Church
Rooms
are Available For
Hire
Most Weekends!
Also Available Friday
evenings for one off
or regular hire!**

Families

Parties



Meetings



Keep Fit

Dancing

Prices & Bookings

**Call: Chris Boothby
On : 07306 390543
or 0116 2912796**



Wills - Trusts
Estate Planning
Lasting Power of Attorney
Funeral Plans

Have You Made Your Will
Yet? Is Your Will Up To
Date?

We come to you!

Please Contact
Mrs Christine Thomas
or Mrs Clare Cooper

Office: 08450 568571
Mobile: 07889 335743 or 07866 415251

Email:
chris@tclegalservices.co.uk
clare@tclegalservices.co.uk

www.tclegalservices.co.uk

Member of the Society of Will Writers/
Supporting the work of Rainbows Hospice



Here for you

Our Funeral Directors are available
24 hours a day, 365 days a year

131 Humberstone Road, Leicester LE5 3AD
0116 473 1900

The co-operative funeralcare
Central England Co-operative

www.centralengland.coop/funeralcare



Moores of Ratby
88 Station Road

General Grocery
Free Off Licence
Coal - Paraffin - Gas
Pet Food - Gardening - Hardware

Opening Times:
Mon - Sat 7.00am - 1.00pm - 3.00pm - 8.00pm
Sun 7.00am - 1.00pm

Telephone: 0116 239 3674

Cathy Stephens
Jewellery Ltd

Valuations
Watch Repairs
Jewellery Cleaning
Jewellery Repairs
Jewellery Design

Monday to Saturday 10.00am - 5.30pm

19 Ratby Road, Groby, Leicester

0116 287 0041

Anstey & District
Funeral Service

Independent Family-Run
Funeral Directors

We take care of every detail, advise and
help you every step of the way.

Traditional Hearse

Memorial Showroom

Car Parking Available

Catering Suite

Private Chapels of Rest

Funeral Arrangements can
be made
in the comfort of your own home
if preferred.

Talbot House, Leicester Road,
Anstey, Leicester, LE7 7AT

0116 234 0548
www.ansteyfunerals.com

