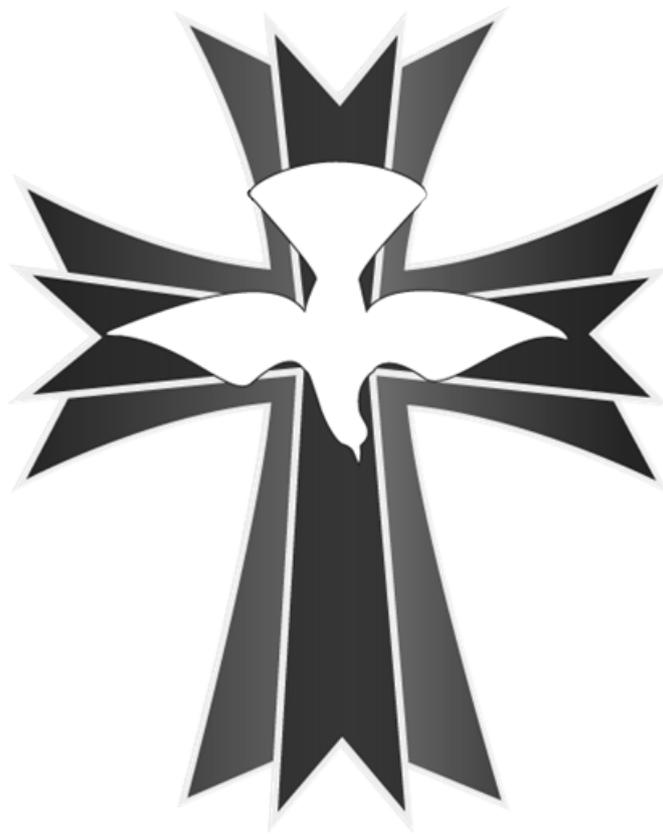


*The*  
United  
Reformed  
Church

JUNE 2020

## South Leicestershire Group URC



SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE GROUP UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
Saffron Lane-Wigston Magna-South Wigston  
Oadby-Whetstone

<http://southleicsgroupurc.org.uk>

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'The best laid schemes o' mice an' men, gang aft a-gley' (Burroughs) or to paraphrase (badly) 'The best laid plans of mice and men, usually come to nothing'.

Will 2020 go down in history as the year that we made lots of plans, for very important events, that didn't come to fruition? Church Anniversary celebrations, book and music festivals, craft exhibitions, special birthday parties, the list seems to be endless and every day we hear of something else that has been cancelled or postponed until next year. At this rate 2021 is going to be a fun-packed, busy year and personally I can't wait.

But perhaps we should be thankful of this time in isolation, a time to regroup, a time to think about how we want to continue with our lives after lockdown has finished. Do we want to go back to how it was before? Mostly, the answer to that, for me, is, yes! But we could do some things differently - take more time to be with our family and friends, read more, listen to birdsong, sit and look at the clouds, ponder on where God is leading us. Jesus went off by himself to be with God, with no distractions to lead him astray, perhaps we could do the same. Take more time to be with God, asking for his blessings as we go into the future. And give thanks, for the opportunities that all of this free time has given to us.

I hope that you have found a time to be quiet, to slow down, to talk to God and to decide what you would like to continue to do and what you need to do differently.

Wishing you all God's blessings

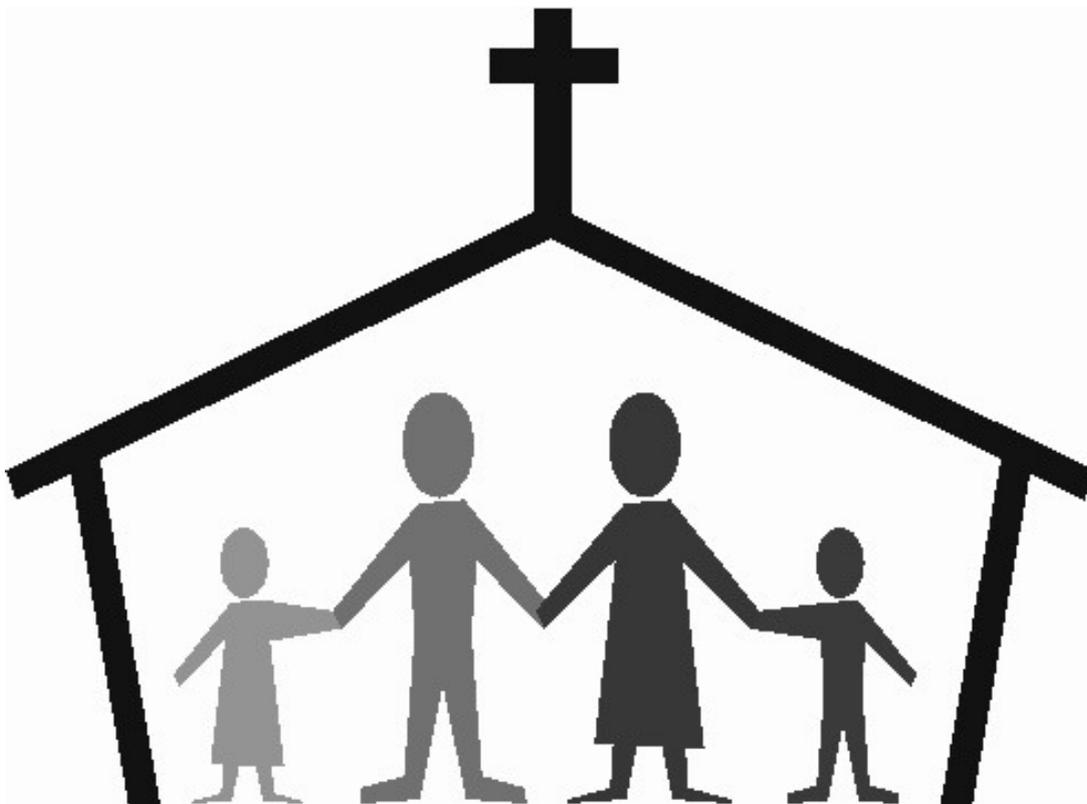
Eileen

## SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SERVICES HAVE BEEN  
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Whetstone URC	10.00 am
Oadby URC	10.15 am
South Wigston URC	10.30 am
Wigston Magna	10.30 am
Saffron Lane	11.00 am





## Notice to all South Leicestershire Group Members

Following a recent Strategy and Ministry Meeting, it was decided to cancel the forthcoming Group Elders and Group Church meeting scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> June. This is a postponement; these meetings will take place at another time when the restrictions are lifted.

Individual Churches will have to review how Elders and Church Meetings are to be held. Two churches are planning to hold their Elders meeting via ZOOM, it is suggested that Church meetings be held when it is feasible to do so and that the Elders Meeting takes care of any urgent business. Churches will have to canvas their members to obtain approval for this proposal.

Elderships should read the discussion document 'The New Norm' and decide on a restart plan for their church, taking note of social distancing and one way systems in their church. Congregation and Worship Leaders over the age of seventy should be discouraged from coming to our churches until such time when it is deemed safe (or as far as we can make it) to do so.

Until then we continue to worship on line, by email, Zoom and any other means to connect with the wider church.

Peace and Blessings

Richard.

## Message from Revd Richard Eastman

Hello all

Please accept my thanks for all the cards and greetings I received for my birthday at the beginning of May. Normally I would ask that the thanks be included in the Sunday notices at each church, but in the current situation this is the first opportunity I have had to pass on my thanks to everybody.

I had a quiet day, some work in the morning then a very lazy afternoon spending some quality time with Shirley and Stephen.

Another year older,

Thanks again

Richard



## Birthdays for June

15 Evelyn Judd

19 Pauline Pagett

Please remember these people on their birthday even though you are unable to see them in person



## Wigston Magna News

### All I ever need to know I learned from Noah -

1. Don't miss the boat
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old someone may ask you to do something really big
5. Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done
6. Build your future on high ground
7. Speed isn't everything, the snails were on board with the cheetahs
8. When you're stressed, float awhile
9. Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals
10. No matter what the storm, when you are with God there's always a rainbow waiting

\* \* \* \* \*

*Always be a listener if someone needs your ear,  
Assist with others burdens and if you can give cheer.  
But when you've sat and listened don't tell what you've been told,  
For a friend who never gossips is a friend of purest gold*

### RECIPE - June: Cherry & Almond Scones (Makes 10).

450g S.R. flour  
Half a teaspoon baking powder  
100g butter, cubed  
75g caster sugar  
175g glace cherries, roughly chopped,  
1 egg, beaten plus extra to glaze  
A few drops of almond essence  
150 - 180mls milk  
2 - 3 tablespoons flaked almonds

- 1) Preheat oven to 190 C. Grease a large baking sheet.
- 2) Sift the flour and baking powder into a bowl, rub in the butter until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
- 3) Add the sugar, cherries, egg, almond essence and enough milk to make a soft dough. Knead lightly until smooth.
- 4) Turn on to a lightly floured surface and roll to about 3cm thick.
- 5) Stamp out using a 7 cm round cutter & place on the baking sheet.
- 6) Brush the tops with beaten egg & sprinkle with flaked almonds.
- 7) Bake for about 20 minutes until risen and golden.
- 8) Cool on a wire rack.
- 9) Serve with butter or clotted cream & jam.



## GARDENING NOTES - June

- 1) Sow spinach, beet and chicory.
- 2) Cover fruit with netting to guard against birds.
- 3) Support tall-growing annuals.
- 4) Cut down early-flowering perennials to 3 inches from the ground after flowering.
- 5) Divide primroses for re-planting.
- 6) Remove algae from ponds before large masses form.



## DIARY - June

10 Elders' Meeting 10.00am. (Zoom)

Thought for the month ahead.  
*One day or day one. You decide.*

# South Wigston News

## PRAYER LIST - June

Please pray for:

- 1 All those key workers working for the NHS.
- 2 All who are suffering from the corona virus.
- 3 Those who have suffered a bereavement due to the corona virus.
- 4 All who are having to go out to work but do not feel safe.
- 5 Children everywhere, especially those starting back to school.
- 6 All whose businesses have suffered through the present crisis.
- 7 All the charities needing to build up their resources again.
- 8 Those who have become unemployed.
- 9 The Government doing a very difficult job while trying to please everyone
- 10 Our Minister, Richard, working to give us services online.
- 11 Young people trying to apply for jobs and university having been unable to take their exams.
- 12 The farmers who grow our food.
- 13 All who are sick.
- 14 Especially at this time, all who are homeless.
- 15 Parents, especially those trying to home-school, that they may have wisdom and patience.
- 16 Families living in poverty.
- 17 Give thanks for our emergency services.
- 18 All who are suffering from a terminal illness.
- 19 The congregations of our churches, unable to meet at the moment.
- 20 All troubled nations, that they may live in harmony.
- 21 Our friends in the other churches in our localities.
- 22 Give thanks for the opportunities each day brings.
- 23 A greater understanding of people of other races, languages and customs.
- 24 On Midsummer Day, give thanks for the beauty of our world.
- 25 All who suffer for their beliefs, that their faith may remain firm.
- 26 The residents and all who work in our Care Homes.
- 27 All who are disabled.
- 28 All those engaged in scientific research, especially those looking for a vaccine for the corona virus.
- 29 All those responsible for keeping law and order in our society.
- 30 Give thanks for all those who love and care for us.

## South Wigston News

Spread a little kindness  
Along life's stony way  
For God is kind and blesses us  
Each and every day.

Show a little patience  
Take time to help a friend  
For God is very patient  
As my struggles he unbends

If we gossip we are judging  
The actions of another  
Jesus died to forgive my sins  
So how can I blame my brother.

Be generous with all you have  
Spread it all around  
For all we have comes from God  
Our richness knows no bounds.

Lauren Fretter



## South Wigston News

### Cycling or Re-Cycling

People have accused me of being tight fisted, but I think that is most unfair.

I'm just careful, and don't like waste.

After all, I was born in 1908 and lived through two world wars.

That teaches you how to make do and mend!

I have had my moments though.

When I was in my twenties, I bought a sleek black motor bike; went like the wind.

I did have fun, uphill and down dale; even getting as far as Cornwall one year.

I don't remember the make, but I do remember how much I paid.

Twenty pounds, and not those flimsy paper things, but real gold!

Just think how much those twenty gold sovereigns would be worth now whereas the bike, long gone.

Now just a pushbike!

Re-cycling!

That is all the rage now, but me I was the original re-cycler.

Nothing wasted!

Not like those fools up at Atkinsons Dye Works, just throwing stuff away.

I tell you, those stockings they throw out are just the thing for repairing bike tyres when you have a puncture.

Roll them up real tight, put inside the tyre and you don't even have to pump it up.

I think I should patent that.

If the outer tube ever wears out, I have a use for that as well.

I keep an old last under my joiner's bench, and when my shoes need repair, all I do is cut a few strips off the old bike tyre and fix onto the soles.

Gives real grip in the snow and ice!

## South Wigston News

Cont.....

But I do have a problem with the brakes on my bike.

Don't like buying brake blocks when I can use offcuts of wood.

I must admit that I am still experimenting, so sometimes I have to put my foot on the front wheel to help out.

I did come a bit unstuck when I had to do a job up at Cap'n Blunts.

He is long gone mind, now there is just the old lady, the gardener and the housekeeper.

Anyways, I had gone to repair a broken window at the big house.

Easier I thought to take it back to the yard for repair.

Bit of a struggle getting to the job, I had forgotten about that there hill, but all downhill on the way back.

I sets off back at a nice easy pace, no point in rushing, but halfway down, oh dear!

Have you ever tried cycling downhill, one hand on the handlebars squeezing the brake, a tool bag hanging on the other side, a window under your arm, and one foot jammed onto the front wheel?

I tell you, it can't be done, something had to go!

And it was the window!

By the time I managed to stop, I was at the bottom of the hill, but the window wasn't.

The boss was not best pleased I can tell you!

I think that perhaps the elm from that coffin was just a bit too hard for the brake blocks.

There is perhaps a bit of beech left over from those old school desks that might be a bit softer.

Do you think that would work better?

## Saffron Lane News

### Planned Preachers and Readers list for June 2020

	OT	NT	SERV	COLL	Preacher	
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	36	35	36	13	R Eastman	Communion
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	3	4	3	13	D Todd	Communion
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	5	6	5	13	R Green	Communion
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	7	8	#	14	R Eastman	Family Service
Jul 5 <sup>th</sup>	11	10	11	13	D Howlett	Communion
Jul 12 <sup>th</sup>	30	12	30	13	J Slatford	Communion
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	35	36	35	13	E Williams	Communion
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	4	3	#	14	P Tiplady	Family Service

3 Kath T	7. Angela S	12. Elizabeth R	# no server
4. Maureen F	8. Brian S	13. Darren C	30 Sandra
5. Sue B	10. Molly B	14. Mackenzie	35 Anne
6. Pat S	11. Richard B		36 Dec B

### Birthdays in June

15<sup>th</sup> Anne Goss

28<sup>th</sup> Sandra Clay

### Birthdays in July

None

## Saffron Lane News

### Lockdown Update From Sandra

Sorry not much to report this time. I have been busy at home cleaning windows, washing curtains, putting up new nets, and doing all the jobs which get missed when we are able to get out and about.

One piece of good news - all the bits that I meant to sort out for the Church Bazaar have now been sorted. Hopefully my work will not be wasted and we will be able to hold the Bazaar.

On VE Day (8 May) we celebrated the event in my street. We all sat in our front gardens at 4.00pm and had a drink and cakes. Later on some of the neighbours met up together with music, but the Clay family left them all to it and celebrated inside.

Darren has been very good and has stayed at home as good as gold. He has missed going into town for his daily trip on the bus, but we all sit together on a Sunday morning listening to the service on BBC television, and sing along.

Kath and I go up to the Church to check that all is well. While the building has been closed we have had the Church hall and vestry floor sanded and varnished. We were panicking because the shop where we had ordered the varnish from closed but we managed to get it from somewhere else. The job has now been completed and it all looks very nice ready for our return.

Sadly at the moment we have no news yet about the Church's reopening. But we have received some guidance about things that we will need to consider when the time is right for reopening.

## Saffron Lane News

### No Wonder He Wags His Tail

When God had made the earth and sky  
The flowers and the trees,  
He then made all the animals  
And all the birds and bees.  
And when His work was finished  
Not one was quite the same.  
He said "I'll walk this earth of mine  
And give each one a name".  
And so He travelled land and sea  
And everywhere He went  
A little creature followed Him  
Until its strength was spent.  
When all were named upon the earth  
And in the sky and sea,  
The creature said "Dear Lord,  
There's not one left for me".  
The Father smiled and softly said  
"I've left you to the end.  
I've turned my own name back to front  
And called you **DOG**, my friend".



## Saffron Lane News

This picture which tells a story of the most beautiful Karma at this difficult time in all our lives

**Irish people have helped raise 1.8mil dollars for Native American tribe badly affected by COVID-19 as payback for a \$150 donation by the Choctaw tribe to Ireland in 1847 during the Great Hunger**



Received from Elizabeth Richardson

## Whetstone News

Although we are not able to open our doors for worship, some work in and around the Church continues. Richard Thompson has kept the gardens in good condition and mowed the lawns. He's tended to the plants, both inside and out and is cultivating potatoes at the rear of the Church.

Bernard is playing his own service on Sunday mornings. How lovely to hear familiar hymns drifting out across the car park!

Kevin is also keeping the organ going by opening all the stops and blowing away the cobwebs. Pipe organs don't like being left unplayed!

All in all, we're keeping things "ticking over" until we can meet again.

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The following poem/prayer uses words from the Psalms to spell out "Coronavirus". This type of poem is called an "acrostic".

Come and save me Lord

Our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble

Rise, Lord God Almighty and come to my aid

O Lord, have pity on me! Give me strength

Nations are terrified, kingdoms are shaken

As I lie in my bed, I remember you; you have always been my help

Victory comes from the Lord - may he bless His people

I pray to you, O Lord. I offer my prayer and wait for an answer

Reveal your wonderful love

Until the raging storms are over, I will find protection in the shadow  
of your wings

Spare my life, O God, and save me and I will gladly proclaim your  
Righteousness

## Whetstone News

A Coronavirus Song - set to the tune "We Plough The Fields And Scatter". (Please sing up loudly !!)

We thank you all key workers for everything you do.  
The NHS and teachers, Royal Mail and bin men too.  
The staff at Supermarkets who see that we are fed.  
The farmers and producers of food and daily bread.

Refrain:

In these times of Covid we pray to God above.  
And thank all those, we thank all those who show such love.

We clap for you on Thursdays in places near and far.  
Our message is sent clearly: to us, you are all stars!  
You give your help regardless of all the risks you take,  
We humbly give our thanks for the difference you make.

Refrain

In these times of Covid we pray to God above.  
And thank all those, we thank all those who show such love.

We thank you then O Father for all the work that's done  
Which shows the love you taught us through Jesus, your own son.  
And so we seek your blessing on all of us, and pray  
We will defeat the virus that threatens life each day.

Refrain:

In these times of Covid we pray to God above.  
And thank the Lord, we thank the Lord for all His love.

# Whetstone News

## The Wisdom of Children

The Minister asked the Sunday School children:

'If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?'

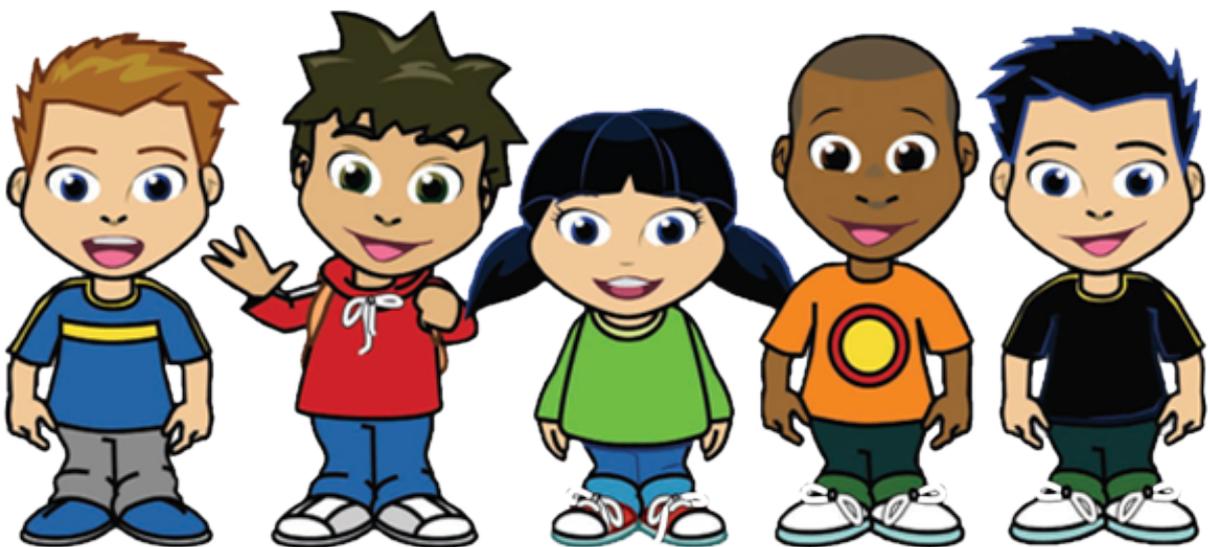
'NO!' all the children answered.

'If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the lawn and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?'

Again the answer was, 'NO!'

'Well,' the Minister asked, 'then how can I get to heaven?'

A five-year-old boy shouted, 'You've got to be dead!'



## Oadby News

It is with great sadness that we have to report that Revd Jim Garrow passed away in his sleep on 24 May.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Shirley, David and Katie at this sad time.

We are asked not to contact the family at the moment.



## Lectionary Readings

### June 7th

Genesis 1:1-2:4a.

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13.

Matthew 28:16-20.

### June 14<sup>th</sup>

Exodus 19:2-8a.

Psalm 100.

Romans 5: 1-8.

Matthew 9: 35 -10: 8

### June 21st

Genesis 21:8-21.

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17.

Romans 6:1b-11.

Matthew 10:24-39.

### June 28<sup>th</sup>

Genesis 22: 1-14.

Psalm 13

Romans 6: 12-23

Matthew 10: 40-42