

The
United
Reformed
Church

DECEMBER 2020 /
JANUARY 2021

South Leicestershire Group URC



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

<http://southleicsgroupurc.org.uk>

Contact us:

Reverend Richard Eastman 0116 2714751
South Leicestershire Group Minister

Mrs Eileen Williams 0116 2478929
Local Church Leader

Revd Martin Ferris 0116 2419357
Resource Minister South and East Leicestershire Area

South Wigston

Di Statham Secretary 0116 2810053

Noel Oldershaw Treasurer 0116 2813398

Marion Bartholomew Magazine 0116 2717755

Wigston Magna

Eileen Williams Secretary 0116 2478929

Ray Green Acting Treasurer 0116 2887774

Ray Green Room Lettings 0116 2887774 /
07518 214144

Mary Childs Brigades Contact 07946093786

Sheila Stephens Magazine 0116 4315206

Church Office answerphone 0116 2882666

Saffron Lane

Sandra Clay Secretary/Finance/Magazine 0116 2835375

Elizabeth Richardson Treasurer 0116 2993176

Oadby

Pauline Hudson Secretary 0116 2712913

Tony Hudson Treasurer 0116 2712913

Whetstone

Janet Statham Correspondence Secretary 0116 2863335

Glenis Chapman Treasurer

Jean Warner Room Lettings 0116 2752405

Kevin West Magazine 0116 2779402

Dear Friends,

As I write, the wind is howling down the chimney and the rain is lashing at the windows but inside it's warm and snug. At this time of the year when the weather is as can be expected we have to spare a thought for those who are not as fortunate as we are - those who can't afford to turn the heating on or to cook a hot meal; those who have no roof over their head and have to rely on our generosity to keep them safe. It's at Christmastime that we remember to give more generously, if we are able, to feed the hungry and house the homeless; charities are always seeking funds and if we can give a little then we have to remember that every little helps. It's like prayer - we can pray alone but the prayer becomes stronger when we pray together in the name of Jesus.

As we light our homes at this dark time of the year and ponder on times gone by we must look with hope for the future because didn't God send his Son to live as we do, to suffer as we do, to spread God's love to all those who will listen? Jesus, an unconditional gift to the world and one that shows us each and every day that God so loves us that he only wants what is best for us. We can read his story again in the pages of the Bible and remember God's promise to us of mercy and strength to face tomorrow.

We have a lot to be thankful for and we may not be able to do the things that we would normally do but we can rejoice that the world keeps on turning and that nature continues to do what nature does - winter bleakness will become springtime fruitfulness.

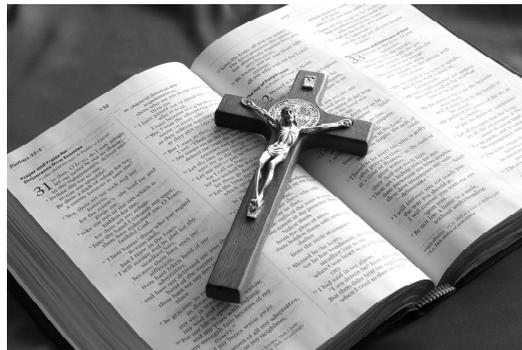
Wishing you all God's blessings during this Christmas and in 2021

Eileen

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

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

Please check with the relevant Church Secretaries to confirm if and when services are taking place at any of the Group Churches.



Your Giving is Still Needed

Please remember that the expenses of the church continue even if the building is closed. While we are unable to attend worship please put your weekly offering to one side and then bring it along when we start to meet again.

If you would like to set up a weekly payment arrangement direct to your church account please speak to the Church Treasurer.

Christmas Services

The following services are planned for the Christmas period. Changes in Covid-19 regulations may mean that they are not able to go ahead, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH SECRETARY TO MAKE SURE A SERVICE IS GOING AHEAD AND TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE.

Wigston Magna

Sunday 20 December 4.00 pm Carol Service

Saffron Lane

Sunday 13 December 4.00 pm Carol Service

Thursday 24 December 11.30 pm Midnight Service & Communion

Whetstone

Sunday 20 December 5.00 pm Candle Lit Carols

Friday 25 December 10.00 am Christmas Morning Worship

Oadby Details to be confirmed

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2021 MAGAZINE

Sunday 24 January 2021

Send your items to your church representative or direct to
di.statham@btinternet.com

If you do not have a computer a hand written copy can be accepted.
Contact Di Statham 0116 2810053 for information

Regular Group Church Events

MEETINGS / EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

For any more information / advice please contact the Church Secretary

South Wigston

Di Statham Secretary 0116 2810053

Wigston Magna

Eileen Williams Secretary 0116 2478929

Saffron Lane

Sandra Clay Secretary 0116 2835375

Oadby

Pauline Hudson Secretary 0116 2712913

Whetstone

Janet Statham Correspondence Secretary 0116 2863335

Jean Warner Room Lettings 0116 2752405

Christian Womens Fellowship 2021

Sadly the CWF Conference planned for 2021 has been CANCELLED.
The Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick will not be able to open
until after April 2021.

Hopefully we will be able to meet again in 2022.

Christmas and New Year Greetings from The Eastman Household

As I write this I am conscious that this will be the last opportunity for me as a Minister of the South Leicestershire Group, to wish everyone in the Group a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. That last bit of the wish won't be hard to achieve given the awful year that will be coming to an end shortly.

2021 will see the beating of the pandemic through good scientific research and the development of numerous vaccines, we have gotten this far through the hard work of many within our health service but we should not expect it to be an instant fix, it will take time and we need to be very patient. Life will get back to a 'new normal' and we will once again be able to sing God's praises in collective worship and view each other in completeness and not be obscured by Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)! It may take some time but we will get there.

2021 is also a significant year in the Eastman Household, we will be leaving the Group after eighteen years of varied responsibility across the Group churches. We will be very sad to say 'Good-bye', as we have met many fine people and we have known some who are no longer with us, but our lives have been enriched by journeying with them through this life.

There have been highs and lows in our time in the Group. One of the lows was the closure of Kilby URC. A lovely Chapel, in a very rural location. We had received so much support from the Group and other Grant making bodies but in the end the cost of the building and the decline in the number of people attending made it impossible to continue. One of the Highs was the successful move from a costly Victorian Building into a modern low cost facility where we can gather for worship.

Cont.....

Buildings aside, we will miss the routine of fitting in with the Preaching plan, the social events, the routine weekly events such as 3T's and Whetstone's Coffee and Cake Mornings, Oadby's Monday Morning Coffee and Chat and the Eleven o'Clock Group on Thursdays; the Thursday Lunch, the Lent Groups, the Advent meditations, the showing of films associated with Lent and Advent, Saffron Lane's puddings evening, even though it always happened in Lent! In fact all the stuff that goes to make up Church life within the community we know as the South Leicestershire Group. We will miss everyone as we head off into the sunset! (but not for a while yet)

There are new challenges ahead, not just for us as a family, new house, new routine, but for the Group too. New opportunities for the Elders to lead the churches without the encumbrance of a Minister! Maybe now is the time to review and reassess how each of the churches can be the witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ which is the Primary task of all the churches. It is going to take a lot of prayer and careful thought as the Group moves from being a Pastorate with a Minister to a Pastorate that is resourced from another Church in the area. I hope that you will give Martin the support he will need to help the Group move forward.

We wish everyone the very best for the future in terms of health and happiness, (I was going to put wealth, but wealth doesn't always guarantee happiness)

With all best wishes

Richard, Shirley and Stephen.

Wigston Magna News

Providing restrictions are lifted we will be holding services during December and January and our preachers will be -

December

- 6 Ray Green
- 13 Richard Eastman This will be a Communion Service
- 20 Les Gill (am)
 Carol Service (4pm)
- 27 David Coxhead

January

- 3 Worship Group
- 10 Ray Green
- 17 Les Gill This will be a Communion Service
- 24 Shirley Eastman
- 31 Richard Eastman

FLOWER ROTA

December

- 6 Gill Standley
- 13 Joan Smith
- 20 Wilf & Dora Ashton Memorial
- 27

January

- 3 Ray Green
- 10 Ida Austin Memorial
- 17
- 24 Grace & Lynda Fisher
- 31

If you would like to provide flowers on any occasion, or give towards the cost, please speak to Malcolm

BIRTHDAYS

December

3 Clare Allen

January

5 Leon Williams-Pratt

10 Barry Chamberlain

17 Frankie Page (14)

18 Emilia Evans (10)

Joanne Evans

25 Graham Wiggins

CONGRATULATIONS

to Mary Childs who recently received her Officers 20 year service badge and certificate from Girls' Brigade. Mary started in the Brigade at the age of 4 so it was wonderful that she was presented with her award by the Brigades Chaplain, Eileen Williams, at our Morning Worship on Sunday November 1.

WELL DONE!!



JUST A THOUGHT

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves; they will have endless amusement.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill; they will be spared a lot of trouble.

Blessed are those who can go to bed and fall asleep without looking for excuses; they will become wise.

Blessed are those who know when to shut up and listen; they will learn new things thereby.

Blessed are those who are intelligent enough not to take themselves seriously; they will be appreciated by those around.

Blessed are those who are attentive to the call of others without thinking themselves indispensable; they will be sowers of joy.

HAPPY are you if you know how to take small things seriously and large things peacefully; you will go far in life.

HAPPY are you if you can admire a smile and forge a frown; your path will be sunlit.



Wigston Magna News

Thoughts from Charlie

As I write the sky is leaden grey and it is drizzling steadily on the red and gold leaves that are scattered generously over the garden. The miserable weather has not deterred the squirrels who have been busy burying their winter store of walnuts and hazelnuts in the lawn. They are unaware that magpies are watching them and digging them up again for their own winter pantry.

In the field beyond the garden fence crows and gulls are scouring the recently ploughed earth for worms and grubs and calling with that raucous sound that is redolent of Autumn.

During the Covid restrictions we have spent a lot of time at home and in the garden and have been able to spend some time observing nature and the turning of the seasons. Springtime brought nesting birds to the garden. Woodpigeons, magpies, blackbirds, sparrows and dunnocks raised families in our back yard. We noticed that this year the house martins that have nested under our eaves for many years did not arrive. We missed their twittering waking us up early in the morning. We are used to seeing buzzards soaring above the garden but this year we have had regular visits from a Red Kite quartering the ground for prey.



Wigston Magna News

Cont....

Outside the kitchen window our bird feeding station has been busy. We have seen blue tits, great tits, long tailed tits and coal tits all feeding at the same time on the nuts and seeds. A family of great spotted woodpeckers came to feed on the peanuts and on the lawn a green woodpecker preferred to raid the ants' nests.

The fish pond attracted the attention of a kingfisher who perched jewel-like on a branch over the water and dived to pinch this years' tiddlers. In the margins of the pond lurked a big grass snake hunting for frogs and small fish - I think that he hibernates in the compost heap during the colder months.



One summer evening I saw a Roe Deer browsing in the garden under the walnut tree. He saw me watching and with a flick of his white tail flash he bounded over the fence into the field and was gone.

Twilights saw bats flitting around the garden, mainly common Pipistrelle but also some larger, possibly horseshoe bats, all very fast and agile as they hunted for moths and other insects over the pond. During the night foxes and badgers come into the garden to feed on the snacks which I leave for them and to dig holes in the lawn!

It's good to think that even in these challenging times God's wonderful creation continues to thrive, even in our back gardens.

Charles Williams

RECIPE - December: Christmas Gingerbread.

125g unsalted butter

100g dark brown muscovado sugar

325g plain flour

4 tablespoons golden syrup

1 teaspoon bicarbonate soda

2 teaspoons ground ginger

5 tablespoons icing sugar

Any choice of decoration: sprinkles; white chocolate stars; silver balls; pearly 100s and 1000s; etc.

1 Preheat oven to 170 C, gas mark 3.

2 Line 2 baking trays with baking parchment.

3 Melt butter, sugar and syrup in a saucepan, stirring occasionally, then remove from the heat.

4 Sieve the flour, bi-carb and ginger into a bowl.

5 Stir in the melted ingredients to make a stiff dough.

6 Turn on to a lightly floured surface & roll to a thickness of 5 mm.

7 Cut out using Christmas shaped cutters and place on to lined baking trays in batches.

8 Bake for 9 - 10 minutes.

9 Remove from the oven.

10 While still warm, use a skewer to make any holes you may need if you wish to hang the biscuits on the tree.

11 Leave to cool completely on a wire rack.

12 Mix icing sugar and water to make thick icing.

13 Drizzle or pipe over biscuits and decorate as you wish.

These can be stored in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

South Wigston News

GARDENING TIPS - December

- 1) Order seeds, bulbs and plants for the coming year.
- 2) Remove the last of the fallen leaves from the lawn.
- 3) Install a pond de-icer, or float a ball in the water to stop the pond freezing over
- 4) Harvest winter vegetables, and check on those you have stored.
- 5) Pick Brussels sprouts.
- 6) Grow herbs, such as cress and parsley on the window sill.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9th Noel Oldershaw

16th Glynis Coltman

FREUDIAN SLIP

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST", written in large letters outside a High Street church, was spoilt when vandals knocked out the "E". When considering replacement, one person said, "Why not leave it as it is?"

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGH ST".

THOUGHT FOR DECEMBER

Life always offers you a second chance.
It's called tomorrow.

DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

Please pray for:

- 1 The world, still struggling with the problems of the pandemic.
- 2 Give thanks for all those who are helping us through these dark days.
- 3 The homeless, especially at this time of year.
- 4 The people of America, and their new President.
- 5 The bereaved.
- 6 On the second Sunday in Advent, give thanks for the coming of the Christ Child.
- 7 Those who are lonely.
- 8 Those who are victims of domestic violence.
- 9 All who are suffering from Covid 19, and its after-effects.
- 10 Give thanks for the medical services we have access to.
- 11 All those connected with the South Leicestershire Group of the URC.
- 12 Scientists searching for a vaccine for this virus.
- 13 All who are listening today to services online.
- 14 Those who are working from home.
- 15 For all Christians who are persecuted.
- 16 All who are suffering from depression.
- 17 Those who work for our emergency services.
- 18 Teachers and students as they reach the end of a difficult term.
- 19 Those suffering from a terminal illness.
- 20 All for whom Christmas brings sad memories, and those who are spending Christmas alone.
- 21 Those facing financial difficulties this Christmas, especially parents with young children.
- 22 All those spending Christmas in hospital, whether patients or staff.
- 23 Those who cannot be with their families this Christmas.
- 24 Excited children everywhere.
- 25 **CHRIST IS BORN! HALLELUJAH!**
Happy Christmas everyone!
- 26 Give thanks for family and friends.
- 27 Families who are not at peace with one another.
- 28 The residents and staff of Care Homes.
- 29 Peace throughout the world.
- 30 Give thanks for the blessings of the past year.
- 31 Ask for God's guidance as we enter the New Year.

RECIPE - January: Mincemeat Oat Cookies. (makes 10)

100g soft butter
50g light brown soft sugar
50g plain flour
100g porridge oats
2 - 3 tablespoons mincemeat
1 tablespoon demerara sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon mixed ground spice

- 1 Preheat oven to 190 C, fan 170 C gas 5.
- 2 Beat butter, sugar and flour until combined, then stir in the oats and mincemeat.
- 3 Bring the dough together with hands, take walnut sized pieces and roll into balls.
- 4 Arrange, spaced apart, on oiled baking trays, pressing the top of each ball slightly to flatten it.
- 5 Mix the demerara sugar with the mixed ground spice, and sprinkle on top of the cookies.
- 6 Bake for 18 minutes, or until golden; cool on the trays for 10 minutes before transferring to wire racks to cool.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

18th Thelma Rudd

30th Shirley Eastman & Sue Siddon



GARDENING TIPS - January

- 1) Continue pruning fruit trees - burn prunings.
- 2) Order seeds, gladioli, onion sets and shallots.
- 3) Order weed killer and fertilizers.
- 4) Harvest winter cabbage, leeks and Jerusalem artichokes.
- 5) Shake wet snow from evergreens to prevent leaf damage.
- 6) Sow seeds for annuals from now until March under glass.

A Thought for the Month Ahead

Yesterday is not ours to recover,
but tomorrow is ours to win or lose.

Lyndon.B. Johnson

JANUARY PRAYER LIST

Please pray for:

- 1 The peoples of our world, that this will be a better year for everyone.
- 2 All those still struggling with Covid.
- 3 Give thanks to all who worked over Christmas to keep us safe.
- 4 The bereaved.
- 5 All who work in our hospitals, medical centres and Care Homes.
- 6 At Epiphany, think what gifts we can offer Christ.
- 7 Our friends in the other churches in our localities.
- 8 Our Ministerial team, working for us for the coming year.
- 9 Those who are living far away from their families.
- 10 All who are preaching the Word of God today, whether in churches or online.
- 11 Children and teachers starting school after the Christmas holiday.
- 12 The volunteers who continue to work for charities.
- 13 Those for whom the wintry weather causes problems.
- 14 Our Queen and the Royal family.
- 15 All who are lonely.
- 16 The unemployed.
- 17 Those who are training for the Ministry.
- 18 That we grow closer as we start the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- 19 New babies and their parents.
- 20 All who have recently been released from prison, that they may find peace and acceptance.
- 21 All who serve as missionaries.
- 22 All for whom every day is a struggle with pain.
- 23 The homeless.
- 24 Give thanks that we can pick up a Bible any time we need comfort and reassurance.
- 25 Those who are housebound.
- 26 Drivers coping with difficult conditions on the roads.
- 27 Children everywhere, especially those living with abuse.
- 28 All who work for racial harmony.
- 29 The Elders in all our churches.
- 30 Counsellors and the people they seek to help.
- 31 Ask for God's guidance in 2021.

Angel Chorus

Did you know we've got to sing
To announce the birth of the king ?
He's to be born in a cattle shed
His parents could find no other bed.
His mother, Mary, will give birth
And we're to sing "Peace on Earth".
God's will is done, The Saviour's come.
His promise now is surely done.
The shepherds in the fields will fear
When our exultation voices they hear.
The sages long have prophesied
Now journey on long, on camels ride
To check the omens they have seen.
And come and share the lowly scene
"Glory to God and to the new King"
"The Saviours come" with joy we'll sing.
Jesus born so lowly and poor
Is the Saviour we should all adore.
Because for us he died, that we may live.
Our lives, our hearts to him we give.

Amen

Lauren Fretter



Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for December 2020-January 2021

	OT	NT	SERV	COLL	Preacher	If the CHURCH is open
Dec 6	5	3	5	13	J Slatford	Communion
Dec 13	30	12	30	13	E Williams	Carol service 4.0pm only
Dec 20	35	36	35	13	K Drinkwater	Communion
Dec 24	4	30	#	13	E Williams	Midnight Communion 11.30pm
Dec 27	3	5	#	14	S Clay	Family Service
Jan 3	3	4	3	13	D Todd	Communion
Jan 10	5	6	5	13	R Eastman	Communion
Jan 17	7	8	7	13	E Williams	Communion
Jan 24	12	30	#	14	G Clarke	Family Service
Jan 31	35	36	#	13	R Eastman	5 th Sunday
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	

Church Birthdays

December 2020

11th Terry Storton

20th Steve Bloxham

January 2021

6th Brian Slater

16th Decima Bieronski

30th Shirley Eastman

Saffron Lane News

Reopening the Church

The Church is opening 27th September **whoopee !!!**

We had been waiting to get back to Church and I think we were all a bit nervous that we would be struck down with the virus.

People were asked to use gel on their hands before entering the Church, then I used a thermometer gun on them to check that the reading was alright for them to come in. The next thing was to sign in with name, address and telephone number, then everyone had to collect their personal wine and bread which was in a plastic bag all sealed up. Then each person had to find the seat which had their name on and also the hymn book which had been labelled with their name. These will remain labelled for the time of the virus.

My seat was at the front of Church. I had to shout out of my mask to give the notices so people could hear. We had decided to sit through the hymns and prayers so the service was very restful. The only one who moved in the service was Darren who went around with the collection.

How would we feel about not singing, about muttering behind our masks? We had a CD for our music, and the Minister did all the readings so we did not mix at the Lords table.

We now have nearly all our members back at Church, and on November 1st we had two friends come from Lutterworth Church to join us as their Church has not opened yet.

LOCKDOWN came again from November 5th for another month. So back to being closed but lets hope we are soon able to open again. I hope all is going well at the other Churches in our group.

Let us all pray for the families who have lost family members to this virus. And give thanks for the doctors and nurses and all the people working for the NHS, for working above and beyond their duty to keep us safe.

Sandra Clay

Saffron Lane News

The First Christmas Day by Doreen Storton

A tiny babe laying in the hay,
Born to Mary on Christmas day:
He was sent by God, with love renowned,
The peace of the world he was to found.

Shepard's and Kings knelt down in prayer,
And honoured him with gifts most rare;
While angels sang their sweet refrain,
A new-born King was here to reign.

The cattle lowed near his flaxen head,
No sound did he make in that stable bed,
Unaware was he of the praises sung,
On the morn of the day his life begun.

And the brightest star that ever shone,
Was poised in the sky o'er the little one;
A sign from heaven to show the way
To where the baby Jesus lay.

And Mary gazed on her little son
With a gentle smile; her task was done;
His Father would show him the way of life,
And how to overcome each strife.

Blessings were given throughout the land,
And the angel choir at God's right hand
In harmony sang their Alleluia lay
For the King who was born on Christmas day.

Saffron Lane News

New Year's Eve by Doreen Storton

Goodbye to the old year, it's memories we'll store;
To look back and remember through time's open door.

There were many surprises, some gay, cheerful times;
Sorrow too we recall, as we hear the chimes,

We welcome the New Year, as the old one dies;
With a touch of nostalgia, and tears in our eyes.

Now into the future down a pathway unknown;
Whatever awaits us we'll tread not alone?

Only God knows the answer, he'll help us along;
A friend and Companion when things go wrong



**The 26 letters of the
English alphabet are so
intelligently arranged...They
show you the way of life...**

"A" lways **"B"** e **"C"** ool. **"D"** on't have
"E" go with **"F"** riends n Family.
"G" ive up **"H"** urting **"I"** ndividuals.
"J" ust **"K"** eep **"L"** oving
"M" ankind. **"N"** ever **"O"** mit
"P" rayers. **"Q"** uietly **"R"** emember
God. **"S"** peak **"T"** ruth. **"U"** se **"V"** alid
"W" ords. **"X"** press **"Y"** our **"Z"** eal.

USEFUL GEN

Found by Elizabeth Richardson

Whetstone News

This year, it was not possible for us to hold our normal Service of Remembrance at our Church. Nor were we able to meet with the other Churches and villagers at the War Memorial for our usual collective act of Remembrance. Nevertheless, just before 11am, a few of us gathered at the Memorial, observing Social Distancing, to lay a wreath on behalf of Whetstone URC. Our thanks to Bernard who placed the wreath for us.



We look forward to our Candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 5pm. Also, our service on Christmas morning at 10am, which will be led by Richard.

Thank You

We send a message of huge gratitude to Richard Thompson, who has kept our garden in excellent condition throughout the year, even producing a delicious crop of potatoes! You are greatly appreciated, Richard!

Whetstone News

Our planned Services for December and January (Covid restrictions permitting) are:

December

6th - Rev. Richard Eastman (Holy Communion)

13th - Rev. Les Gill

20th - NO AM SERVICE. Candlelit Carols at 5pm

25th - Rev. Richard Eastman (Christmas Day 10.00 am)

27th - Mr. Paul Baxter

January

3rd - Rev. Richard Eastman (Holy Communion)

10th - Mrs. Eileen Williams

17th - Mr. Kevin West

24th - Rev. Martin Ferris

31st - Mrs. Julie Slatford



After a very difficult year for our Church, the Churches of the South Leicestershire Group and indeed everyone, we look forward to better times ahead, when we will all be able to see each other again.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
Stay safe and God bless!

Whetstone News

Have you been good this year ???

A small boy was writing a letter to God about the Christmas presents he badly wanted. "I've been good for six months now," he wrote. But after a moment's reflection, he crossed out "six months" and wrote "three months." After a pause that was crossed out and he put "two weeks." There was another pause and that was crossed out too.

He got up from the table and went over to the nativity scene that had the figures of Mary and Joseph. He picked up the figure of Mary, wrapped it gently in a cloth, and put it in a drawer in his room. He then went back to his writing and started again:

"Dear God, if ever you want to see your mother..."



Oadby News

Oadby Food Bank

Oadby had a box in the Coffee Lounge for donations for the Oadby Food bank. Below is an update from Lesley Green about some of the help that the Food Bank has been able to give.

I'd like to give you an idea of some of the people Oadby Food Bank helped recently. I have renamed and slightly changed the circumstances of each person I describe so as not to breach their confidentiality.

John and Grant are two friends who struggle with addiction; this affects their general health and all aspects of life. They usually have a joke with us, and touchingly show each other a lot of support, arriving together at the food bank, sometimes a little worse for wear. Mr and Mrs Mistry found out about us from the local school. They are grandparents who are not well off and have suddenly found themselves unexpectedly caring for their three grandchildren. Annette came to pick up food for her daughter and grandchild. Her daughter is a single parent who works, but has had her working hours very much reduced.

Beverley has chronic and serious physical health problems which prevent her from working. She lives with her teenage daughters. A good friend took her daughters in whilst Beverley was admitted to hospital. We delivered a food parcel to her friend's house as a way of supporting them, as neither she nor her friend has much money to spare.

Nick rang us in the early evening when he only had a packet of crisps to eat. He is a young man who had suddenly found he needed to self-isolate for fourteen days in his small flat. He wouldn't receive any money for two weeks, so we temporarily supported him with food deliveries.

Oadby News

Cont.....

Oadby food bank volunteers are not all Christians, but our local churches have been very supportive. The familiar bible story of the feeding of the five thousand shows that by working together and sharing our resources we can operate in a way that blesses our community.

Jesus asked "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?" And Andrew found a boy with a picnic, Jesus blessed it, and food was distributed to all.

Oadby food bank works because the church gives us space; local people and organisations fund us; our volunteers and committee give their time and energy; and because you and others like you give us gifts of food and money.

So I want to say "thank you". Also, especially, to ask you to continue to remember the food bank clients and volunteers in your prayers. Then, as long as we are needed, we can continue to feed our neighbours.

Lesley Green (Chair, Oadby Food Bank)



OADBY URC - CHARITY EFFORT

We are delighted to announce that Oadby URC has collected £1,067.00 for our charity for 2020 "Motor Neurone Disease". This is a fabulous amount for such a small congregation. We are very pleased to support this charity as a lady who attends our church's Ladies Group suffers with this complaint.

Thank you everybody

Kay Brutnall

The logo for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDa) features the lowercase letters 'm', 'n', 'd', and 'a' in a bold, rounded, sans-serif font. The 'm', 'n', and 'd' are black, while the 'a' is a light grey color.

motor neurone disease
association

Stuart King - Mission Aviation Fellowship Founder



Saturday 29 August 2020 marked the end of an era for the MAF family. At the grand age of 98, Stuart King went to glory. In commemorating our dear brother and co-founder, BBC Radio 4's *Last Word* replayed one of MAF's earliest pleas for support:

'I want to tell you more about the problems of the missionaries. They're battling through mud, swamp and jungle to reach into these remote places with God's word. We're convinced a plane will help.'

Stuart and his fellow founders were the first in a long, unbroken line of Christians seeking to overcome the 'swamp and jungle' which had slowed the centuries-long spread of the Gospel to a crawl. Stuart was an engineer, a pilot and - above all - a pioneer who delighted in the potential for technical innovation to serve God better. In the words of his eldest daughter Rebecca, pictured above as a baby with Phyllis and Stuart: **'He was all about the future!'**

Since 1945, thousands of MAF staff have followed in his footsteps, speeding the Good News through the power of flight. Like Stuart, every one of those men and women has had three things in common:

1. **Faith in the God who called them to mission.**
2. **Passion for the isolated people in need of His love.**
3. **Training.**

World-class technical training has been MAF's bedrock for 75 years and, to this day, enables our uniquely skilled staff to keep our fleet safe, serviced and second-to-none. You can help ensure that this work continues as a lasting legacy to Stuart's memory you can donate via the MAF website

RE

GRANDPARENTS' ANSWERING MACHINE !

Good Morning !

At present, we are not at home so please leave your message after you hear the beep.

(Beep....!)

- If you are one of our children, dial 1 and then select the option from 1 to 5 in order of "birth arrival" so we know who it is.
 - If you need us to stay with the children, press 2.
 - If you want to borrow the car, press 3.
 - If you want us to wash your clothes and do the ironing, press 4.
 - If you want the grandchildren to sleep here tonight, press 5.
 - If you want us to pick up the kids at school, press 6.
- If you want us to prepare a meal for Sunday or to have it delivered to your home, press 7.
 - If you want to come to eat here, press 8.
 - If you need money, press 9.
- If you are going to **invite us** to dinner or take us to the theatre, start talking...we **are** listening !

Christmas Wordsearch

ANNA
ANGEL
BABY
BETHLEHEM
CENSUS
DREAM

ELIZABETH
FIRSTBORN
GABRIEL
HEROD
INN
ISAIAH

JESUS
JOHN
JOSEPH
MARY
MICAH
NAZARETH

QUIRINIUS
SHEPHERD
SIMEON
STAR
WISE MEN
ZECHARIAH

Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	F	E	R	Y	B
W	L	G	E	N	H	W	S	I	S	A	I	A	E
I	I	A	R	N	D	W	I	S	S	F	O	R	T
S	Z	B	O	A	S	J	E	S	U	A	N	G	H
F	A	R	D	M	I	U	D	L	E	C	I	E	L
I	B	I	N	I	M	O	S	H	A	M	B	A	E
R	E	E	N	C	E	N	H	J	O	S	E	P	H
S	T	L	T	A	O	A	E	Z	A	B	T	N	E
T	H	J	O	H	N	Z	P	E	D	R	E	A	M
B	Y	K	M	E	R	G	H	C	J	O	H	M	R
O	A	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	E	I	N	M
R	N	B	R	A	E	B	R	L	F	I	S	T	B
N	N	E	Y	B	A	C	D	I	R	N	Q	U	E
Q	R	G	M	A	Q	U	I	R	I	N	I	U	S

December Lectionary Readings

December 6th

Isaiah 40 1 - 11

Psalms 85 1 - 2, 8 - 13

2 Peter 3 8 - 15a

Mark 1 1 - 8

December 13th

Isaiah 61 1 - 4 & 8 - 11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5 16 - 24

John 1 6 - 8 & 19 - 28

December 20th

2 Samuel 7 1 - 11 & 16

Psalms 89 1 - 4 & 19 - 26

Romans 16 25 - 27

Luke 1 26 - 38

December 27th

Isaiah 61 10 - 62.3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4 4 - 7

Luke 2 22 - 40

January Lectionary Readings

January 3rd

Isaiah 60 1 - 6

Psalm 72 1 - 7, 10 - 14

Ephesians 3 1 - 12

Matthew 2 1 - 12

January 10th

Genesis 1 1 - 5

Psalm 29

Acts 19 1 - 7

Mark 1 4 - 11

January 17th

1 Samuel 3 1 - 10 (11 - 20)

Psalm 139 1 - 6, 13 - 18

1 Corinthians 6 12 - 20

John 1 43 - 51

January 24

Jonah 3 1 - 5 & 10

Psalm 62 5 - 12

1 Corinthians 7 29 - 31

Mark 1 14 - 20

January 31st

Deuteronomy 18 15 - 20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8 1 - 13

Mark 1 21 - 28