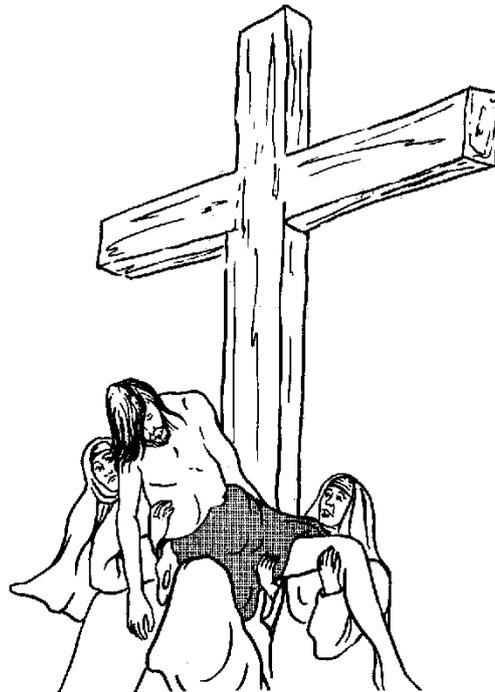


The
United
Reformed
Church

APRIL 2022

South & East Leicestershire Area United Reformed Churches



**SAFFRON LANE, WIGSTON MAGNA, SOUTH WIGSTON,
OADBY, WHETSTONE**

<http://southleicsgroupurc.org.uk>

and

ABBOTS ROAD

www.abbotsroadurc.com

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Martin's Message



Dear Friends

For many years, jigsaw puzzles have been a means of relaxation and challenge for most hobbyists.

In 1762, a map engraver called John Spilsbury mounted one of his master maps onto wood and commenced cutting around each of the countries. His purpose was to give it to his local school to help educate the young children with their geography. These soon became an instant hit and its concept was soon being expanded into the areas of developing images, such as farming and religious scenes to further assist in educational development. The puzzle continued to be created from wood and its name originally was called dissected puzzle. It's common term jigsaw, only came into being following the development of the jigsaw in the 1880's that was used for cutting the shapes. It was from this time to the present that puzzles have become popular both with adults and young children and continues to bring a sense of enjoyment today.

In light of the situation we find the world in at the moment, we may want to look to Easter as a sign of hope, where light overpowered the darkness. For many, the Easter story can seem like a puzzle, as we try and fit the pieces together from Jesus's birth, through to his death and resurrection. From building the borders and adding pieces the picture takes shape. Every piece that is added helps us to begin to understand the message that is being revealed through the image.

Mahatma Gandhi was approached by a European reporter and asked, "Do you have a message I can take back to my people?" However, it was Gandhi's day of silence and he was taking rest from his speaking engagements. Whilst he did not respond verbally, he wrote on a scrap piece of paper with the words, "my life is my message."

We can say without any doubt that Jesus' *"life was his message"* and was lived out in its fullness, even upon the cross. The cross remains one of the enduring symbols of love, forgiveness and healing for all humanity. Nowhere was pain more embodied than upon the cross and where the redefinition of life can be seen. The Psalmist writes; *"You have led captivity captive"* Psalm 68:18. Jesus used the very trial of his foes as a way to defeat the dark achievements against him. They may have nailed him to the cross, but their very act, not knowingly, became his throne that would bring the world to his feet.

It's remarkable that we make so much of one man's death. Perhaps the dominions of this world thought they had pinned God into the corner, helpless and defeated. To paraphrase James S Stuart; *"They flung him outside the gates to die, not knowing that in that very moment they were lifting up all the gates of the universe, to let the king come in."* The resurrection gives us hope and meaning to our existence by assisting in furthering the work of the kingdom of heaven.

This Easter, ask yourself if *"my life is my message"* what would people say about me? Paul writes; *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"* Romans 12: 2.

Be inspired to live your life as witnesses to the hope of the resurrection.

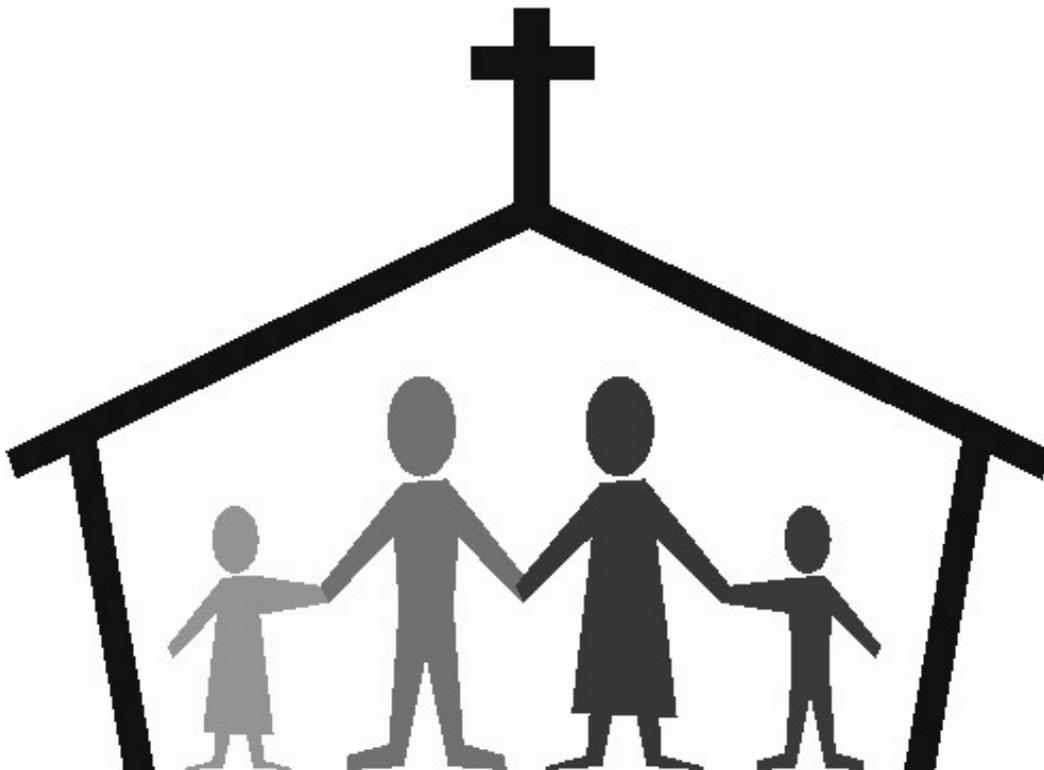
Shalom

Martin

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
Abbots Road	10.45 am

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



Worship Leaders for April 2022

Oadby	3	Revd Ivor Smith
	10	Eileen Williams
	17	Jacque Gavin
	24	Revd David Howlett
Saffron Lane	3	Eileen Williams
	10	Gus Webb
	17	Revd Martin Ferris
	24	Kevin West
South Wigston	3	Café Style Discussion
	10	Ray Green
	17	No Service
	24	Di Statham
Wigston Magna	3	The Worship Group
	10	Mr. David Todd
	17	EASTER - Revd Les Gill (this will be a Communion Service)
	24	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY Mrs. Eileen Williams
Whetstone	3	Rev. Les Gill (Holy Communion)
	10	Songs Of Praise
	17	Easter Sunday - Mr. Kevin West
	24	Rev. Martin Ferris
Abbots Road	3	Rev. Pam Smith - Communion
	10	Rev. Martin Ferris - Palm Sunday
	17	Easter- Rev. Pam Smith with members of W.G. - Communion
	24	Rev. Les Gill

Regular Church Events

Oadby URC

Weekly Coffee Morning
Every Monday from 10.00 to 12.00

11 O'Clock Club
1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30 am for 11.00 start

Ladies Group
4th Thursday 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Craft Group and Lunch
4th Saturday 11.00 am

Whetstone URC

Weekly "Coffee and Chat"
Every Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00

Saffron Lane URC

Weekly 3T's (Tea, Toast & Talk)
Every Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00

Wigston Magna

Community Cinema
Alternate Months from February - 1.30 pm

Social Afternoon
2nd & 4th Wednesday

South Wigston

Drop In with coffee / tea. Games & Crafts
4th Wednesday of each month

For more information please contact the relevant Church Secretary
(See contact details at the front of the magazine)

BIBLE BYTES

(Formerly Group Bible Study)

Held at Saffron Lane URC

1st Tuesday of each Month at 10.30 am

Everybody is welcome to come along

Tuesday 5 April - Led by Revd Martin Ferris

DEADLINE FOR MAY 2022 MAGAZINE

Sunday 24 April 2022

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

Wigston Magna News

APRIL DIARY DATES

- 2 10.30am Spring Fayre - variety of stalls, tea/coffee and lunches
- 3 "Sponsor a Child" Sunday
Church AGM after Morning Worship
- 13 2-4pm Afternoon Drop-in (Sit, Sip & Socialise)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Sheila Stephens
- 22 Alan Simpson
- 30 Marian Daetwyler



FLOWER ROTA FOR APRIL

- 3
- 10 Sheila Stephens
- 17 EASTER
- 24

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

FRIDAY 15 APRIL 2022

WIGSTON MAGNA URC

LONG STREET

10.30 AM

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US



Wigston Magna News

THE GIFT

The world was once a wondrous place
with rivers, hills and streams.
A world that God called Eden
and built it on his dreams.
The fish were happy in the seas
and birds flew overhead.
But people put upon the earth,
were greedy and overfed.

They took the garden with its wealth
and squeezed out all the good.
Took their axes to the trees
and chopped down all the wood.
And in its place, they stacked
the tonnes of nuclear waste
A world that one day even man
will have to leave in haste.

Blowing up the very gift
that God had carefully given,
Saying "we don't want it Lord,
we're fed up with living".
Now the God that smiled down upon
the flowers and the bees,
will turn his back and not smile again
until man gets down on his knees

COMMUNITY CINEMA

An old man whose wife has just passed away uses his free bus pass to travel to the other end of the UK, to where they originally moved from, using only local buses on a nostalgic trip carrying his wife's ashes in a small suitcase. "Taking her back". In doing so he meets local people and by the end of his trip he's a celebrity

THE LAST BUS

Showing at
Long Street United Reformed Church

On

Monday 4th April 2022

Starting at 1.30 pm

Doors open at 12.45 pm

Hot / Cold Drinks Available

Cost £5

Please contact Julie on 07544981674 to book your seat

(Masks optional BUT PREFERRED)

RECIPE - APRIL:

Spaghetti with Prawns, Chilli and Tomato. (Serves 2)

200g dried spaghetti.

Cooking oil

4 spring onions, finely chopped.

1 red chilli, deseeded & finely chopped

1 garlic clove, thinly sliced

2 plum tomatoes, halved, deseeded & finely chopped

200g cooked and peeled king prawns

Salt & freshly ground black pepper

Rocket leaves to garnish

1. Cook spaghetti according to packet instructions, drain & keep warm.
2. Place cooking oil in a large frying pan over medium heat.
3. Add the spring onions, chilli & garlic and stir-fry for 2 minutes.
4. Add the tomato and fry for a further 2 minutes.
5. Stir in the prawns and cook for a further 3 minutes or until warmed through.
6. Remove from the heat and stir into the cooked spaghetti.
7. Season and scatter over the chopped rocket leaves.

GARDENING NOTES - APRIL

1. Stake tall lilies if in exposed sites.
2. Sow small amounts of dill, fennel, hyssop, marjoram and thyme.
3. Plant water lilies, saturate all soil before planting.
4. Plant lavender or rosemary to form a shelter bed for herbs.
5. Plant violets as an edging round the herb garden.
6. Begin spraying as needed, but not during blossoming.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

6th - Lauren Fretter.



APRIL DIARY:

Tuesday 5th - Bible Bytes led by Rev Martin Ferris,
10.30am, Saffron Lane URC,.

Wednesday 13th - Elders' meeting 9.30am
followed by Church meeting 10.00 am.

Thursday 14th - Maundy Thursday Service led by Rev Martin Ferris,
7.30pm at South Wigston URC.

Friday 15th - Good Friday Witness 12.00 noon outside Tesco Store,
South Wigston.

Friday 15th - Good Friday evening Service - 7.30pm
South Wigston Methodist Church.

Wednesday 27th - Monthly Drop-In - games, crafts and chat,
South Wigston URC 10.00am. All welcome.

Thought for the Month.

We're in very bad trouble if we don't understand
the planet we're trying to save.

Carl Sagan

South Wigston News

Prayer List - April.

Please pray for:

1. The people of Ukraine at this terrible time.
2. Give thanks for the safe return of Nazanin Zachariah-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori, but pray for those still left behind.
3. All who preach the Word of God in our churches today.
4. As numbers rise again, all who are still suffering from covid.
5. Foster parents and the children in their care.
6. Local council leaders that they may make wise decisions.
7. Families in dispute with one another.
8. Hospital chaplains.
9. All who live alone.
10. All who lead worship today on this Palm Sunday.
11. The unemployed.
12. All those starting a new job.
13. Those who care for the sick.
14. All who suffer from alcoholism.
15. All who have been wrongly imprisoned.
16. On this Easter Saturday, pray for peace throughout the world.
17. HE IS RISEN! HALLELUJAH! Happy Easter everyone!
18. All who are travelling on this Easter Monday, that they may do so in safety.
19. Those who are struggling against poverty.
20. All who are in hospital, especially those with a terminal illness.
21. The homeless.
22. Missionaries who take the Good News to all parts of the world.
23. The people of England on St George's Day.
24. All those worshipping in our churches today.
25. All children in care.
26. All who work for our Emergency Services, fire, police, ambulance.
27. Those suffering from depression.
28. Young people facing important exams this term.
29. All those who have lost a loved one.
30. Give thanks for the beauty of the world around us.

Help Me

Why is it when I start my day
Meaning to follow the narrow way
That the devil opens enticing doors
And leads me from my planned course?

I want to do the good I should,
But let chances slip when I could.
I sin often through default
Or when I should know when to halt.

Teach me to be true and good,
To always do the things I should,
To follow when your spirit leads
To be the one who supplies the need.

You set the plan, showed the way
In how Jesus lived, every day.
He's my model, you're my stay,
Help me lord as I kneel and pray.

Fill me with your holy love,
With courage, joy and peace from above.
Let me feel your heavenly hand
Leading me in this foreign land.
Amen

Lauren Fretter



Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for Apr - May 2022

	OT	NT	SERV	COLL	Preacher	
Apr 3 rd	6	5	6	13	E Williams	Communion
Apr 10 th	8	7	8	13	G Webb	Communion
Apr 17 th	30	12	30	13	M Ferris	Communion Easter Sunday
Apr 24 th	3	36	#	14	K West	Family service
May 1 st	5	6	5	13	P Tiplady	Communion
May 8 th	7	8	7	13	E Williams	Communion/ Group Service 3.30 Saffron Lane
May 15 th	11	12	11	13	L Gill	Communion
May 22 nd	12	30	#	14	G Milnes	Family Service
May 29 th	36	3	#	14	D Howlett	5th 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	36 Dec B
6. Pat S	11. Richard B		

April Birthday

16th Pete Clay

25th Mally Benham

May Birthday

14th Mackenzie

The Empty Cross

by Doreen Storton

I walked the lonely road, alone;
The night was calm and still;
Not a sound could be heard, the city slept,
As I moved towards the hill at Calvary.

I rounded a bend, then I saw the cross,
Where earlier in the day
They had brought our Lord to be crucified;
He too had passed this way, before he died,

I stood and gazed in awe at the cross,
So dark against the sky,
And felt ashamed of the things they had done,
And leaving him there to die, and my cheeks were wet.

I knelt at the foot of that empty cross,
I could see where the nails had been driven,
And the blood that from his body had flowed,
And I prayed they might be forgiven, for what they did.

He was now at rest in a garden of peace,
No more would I hear his voice;
But I know I'd remember the things he had taught;
In the Love of God I'd rejoice, for the rest of my life.



Saffron Lane News

Swanwick Ladies Weekend February 25th - 27th 2022

We missed out in 2021 because of the pandemic so we were all eager to go this year.

Friday

Sandra, Vera, Paddy and Elizabeth were ready to meet up with all our old friends, so we packed our overnight bags and we hit the M1 for the hour journey. We stopped off at the East Midlands shopping centre on route, had lunch and then hit the shops.

We arrived safely having not spent too much money !!!!.

We settled into our rooms which were all next to each other and then after a very nice dinner we all went together to our allotted conference room and talked about what we would be doing over the weekend. When we had finished, we meet up with friends to have a nightcap.

Saturday,

We started the morning with quiet time in the Chapel then a short meditation.

After a wonderful breakfast we joined together for two Old Testament talks by a lady from Westminster College. She made it very light and interesting listening.

After lunch we had either free time or a chance to go into a variety of workshops:- crafts, singing or a writing class, or a good muddy walk. There was also a break in the afternoon for cake and coffee.

The Conference AGM was later but it was all over in an hour so that was good.

After our evening meal we came together for the evening entertainment, which was mainly singing, poems and short sketches. One thing that made us all laugh was a lady who told us about their journey to Swanwick.

Saffron Lane News

Cont.....

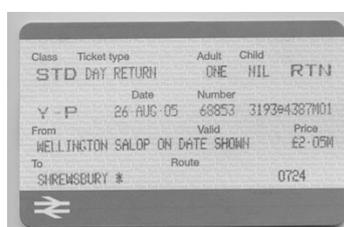
They had travelled by train which they never done before because they had always travelled by car. They were 4 friends from Greys in Essex's and the lady who booked the train asked for 4 ladies tickets to Swanwick. She got a print out of all the stations they had to change at and it told her she would arrive at 5.00pm on Friday evening. So they sat talking, did the changes they had been told and at the time British Rail said they would arrive in Swanwick they got off the train and went and got a taxi.

The lady asked the Taxi driver to take them to the Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick, but the Taxi driver said as they got in that he did not know where the place was. They showed him the programme for the weekend and he told them they were at Swanwick in Hampshire not the Swanwick in Derbyshire!

So back to the station to see what they could do. A lady at the Station had a laptop open and they asked her to help them. Some wanted to go home by now but the other ladies said NO. So they had to travel back on all the trains they had just come on and as they went from Train to train they kept their heads down in case an inspector got on the train.

After **TEN** different Trains they arrived at Swanwick in Derbyshire at 10.00pm at night. When they got off the train, they had to go through the ticket barrier but when they explained what had happened, they just let them through. They were very hungry as they had had nothing to eat for 11 hours & were 4 very tired ladies.

The thing was that they had got to get home Sunday afternoon !! Fortunately the friend who had usually taken them offered to take them home.



Saffron Lane News

Cont.....

Sunday,

Early morning quiet time followed with mediation, and a wonderful breakfast.

Then a short time of Bible study talking about people who decorate the inside of their Bibles with pretty pictures. After coffee we went to the chapel for our communion service.

We then had our Sunday lunches and said our farewells to all our friends till we meet again next year COVID WILLING.



Saffron Lane News

Pudding's Evening

On Tuesday 15th March we came together for our super Pudding's Evening, loved by people in the group. For those who have not been, people bring a pudding to share and £1 for our Church Charity and then spend the evening enjoying a variety of puddings. The Church Charity this year is Lou Lou's kitchen in Leicester, which helps the Homeless as well as being a good café which does giant bacon cobs.

People around the group have missed this event over the last two years of covid, so about 25 people attended. It was so nice to see Martin Ferris who joined us for the first time, I am sure it won't be his last !!! We also welcomed back Richard and Shirly Eastman.

Elizabeth started the evening with a nursery rhyme quiz, to get everybody talking. Then, after Eileen had said a grace, every one tucked into as many puddings as they could eat, until they were fit to burst. There were different kinds of flans and cheesecakes (including black cherry), 3-4 trifles, bread and butter puddings, crumbles, sticky toffee pudding, a sticky toffee cake and rice krispy cakes. Plus endless other options. We should also have had ice cream but Sandra forgot to get it out of the Church freezer on the night.

We did a good lot of catching up with the good friends we have around the Group. With all of the £1 donations and our charity gift table run by Pat plus a kind donation from one who could not attend we raised £50.00 towards our Charity. So, thank you all for coming, hope you enjoyed it and let me know if you all want to do it again next year.

Sandra

Saffron Lane News



Guests at the Puddings Evening



Workers at the Pudding Evening - Thanks to you all

Saffron Lane News

This was written in 2017 by Brian Bilston and could not be more poignant than now.

REFUGEES -

(An upside down poem! September 25, 2017)

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

Now read it again from bottom to top

Whetstone News

Isn't it strange to think that this time last year, our churches weren't even open?! At Whetstone, we were eagerly awaiting Easter Sunday, when Rev. Les Gill would be leading our worship!

Our Easter Sunday Service this year will be led by our own Kevin. Please join us if you can.

We send our love and sympathy to Glenis, Paul, Rebecca and Joseph on the sad loss of Paul's father, who passed away recently. Please hold them in your thoughts and prayers.

We all send our best wishes and congratulations to Matthew Brookes who has been voted the UK's top young scientist for 2022, for his research work into new methods of scanning the brain, at the University of Nottingham. The Blavatnik Laureate Young Scientist Award was presented at a ceremony in London on February 28th. Unfortunately, Matt was unable to be there to receive his award, as he was isolating at home due to COVID. Professor Peter Morris from the University of Nottingham accepted the medal on Matt's behalf and Matt then gave a speech via video link to thank everyone.

Well done Matt!



Whetstone News

Breakfast is Back !!!!

For the first time since the COVID pandemic, we will be holding an "All Morning Breakfast" from 10 till 12 on the 9th April.

Although the menu will remain pretty much the same as in the past, the organisation will be slightly different :-

- i) Thomas and Kevin will be in charge of food preparation.
- ii) Tea, coffee and toast remains "unlimited" but will be self- service, with butter and jam portions available to help yourselves to.
- iii) A standard full breakfast will consist of: two sausages, 2 bacon rashers, one egg, 1 hash brown, beans and tomatoes.

Cost will be £5.

Please join us and support us, if you are able.

Sing and dance-a-long with Tilly

You may not know but I am a great fan of singing out loud with a voice that could be better and dancing with the dance moves that only I believe are 'sooo groovy'.

Anyway, on the next page you will find another song from the world of the popular (sung by Mary Wells) that you can sing out loud and proud with a smile as big as sunshine.

Don't forget the 'groovy moves'.

ENJOY

My Guy (God)

There's nothing you could say
To tear me away from my God
There's nothing you could do
'Cause I'm stuck like glue to my God
I'm stickin' to my Lord like a stamp to a letter
Like the birds of a feather
We stick together
I'm telling you from the start
I can't be torn apart from my God
There's nothing you can do
Could make me untrue to my God
There's nothing you could buy
Could make me tell a lie to my God
I gave my Lord my word of honor
To be faithful and I'm gonna
You best be believing
I won't be deceiving my God
As a matter of opinion I think he's tops
My opinion is he's the cream of the crop
As a matter of taste to be exact
He's my ideal as a matter of fact
And no muscle bound man could take my hand from my God
No handsome face could ever take the place of my God
He may not be a movie star
But when it comes to bein' happy we are
There's not a man today
Who could take me away from my God
And no muscle bound man could take my hand from my God
And no handsome face could ever take the place of my God
He may not be a movie star
But when it comes to bein' happy we are
There's not a man today
Who could take me away from my God
There's not a man today
Who could take me away from my God
There's not a man today
Who could take me away from my God
There's not a man today

Whetstone News

Urban Legend : Sitting too close to the TV will ruin your eye sight.

I remember my mam saying "you'll end up with square eyes" if you sit too close to the TV.

That is not exactly true, but it can lead to tired eyes or headaches. However, it won't cause any permanent damage! Children's eyes can focus at short distances without eyestrain far better than adults.

Advice for all though is the same: use the 20-20-20 rule. While watching any screen, every 20 minutes adjust your vision to look at an object at least 20 feet away (6-7 meters) for at least 20 seconds.

Or you can, like some folk, have a break while making a cup of tea, opening a beer can, fetching biscuits from the cupboard.



Here's a little Thought

You can complain because roses have thorns.
Or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.

Whetstone News

Gardening Thoughts:

The other day while in the greenhouse potting up seeds listening to a 'who-dun-It' audiobook, something was said about herbs and how they could be used in medicines. I did know this already, but I did a bit of a delve and thought this little snippet might be of interest.

In both WW1 and WW2 herbs were used to treat soldiers wounded in battle. One important treatment was the use of sphagnum moss (used now adays in flower baskets or for bog gardens) and garlic, both of which are antiseptics. People of Britain were encouraged to gather and dry herbs. At that time cigarette packets contained free picture cards of herbs printed on them to help people identify the different varieties of herbs. All kinds of people were involved in all sorts of ways from scavenging herbs in the wild to growing herbs in their own fields, gardens, window boxes, even some factories had small herb allotments. The herbs were collected and sent to drug companies which made them into botanic drugs.

War Time Recipe or Not so sure Recipe

Potato Pastry

4 ozs Self-raising flour

2 oz cooking fat

4 oz smooth mashed potato

Sift flour with a pinch of salt.

Rub in the fat.

Add mashed potato and mix well then add a little water to bind.

Roll out on a floured board and use as ordinary shortcrust pastry.

It can be baked in a hot oven.

NOTE this is a soft pastry.

If you try this, please write your review and let us know how it turned out.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
ROSEMEAD DRIVE, OADBY. LE2 5SF

SATURDAY, 23rd APRIL, 2022
10.00am - 1.00pm

CAKE STALL

BOOK STALL

BRIK-A-BRAC

TOMBOLA

SPRING

FAYRE

WHITE ELEPHANT

GROCERIES

COLLECTABLES

PLANTS

BOTTLE STALL

A TOUCH OF SPRINGTIME AFTER A LONG WINTER

TEA AND COFFEE
LUNCHES

Oadby United Reformed Church
Rosemead Drive

Time to Remember

For those who are Grieving

Sunday April 24th
3 pm

Remembering those who are no longer with us :-
Family and Friends
Friends from the Church
Those who have died from Covid-19

We will be holding a
Quiz Night

Saturday May 28th
7.00 pm

Please reserve the date in your diary and come long and join us.

Abbots Road News

Dates for your diary

10th. April A.G.M. following morning worship

11th. April Leicester Police Easter Event at Police HQ Enderby,
6 to 8.30pm.

14th. April Maundy Thursday Communion 6pm.

15th. April Good Friday Service 10.45am.

DUST IF YOU MUST by ROSE MILLIGAN

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture or write a letter,
Bake a cake or plant a seed,
Ponder the difference between want and need.

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,
Music to hear, and books to read,
Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain.
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go - and go you must-
You, yourself, will make more dust.

A THOUGHT BY STEPHEN HAWKING

"Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist.

Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up.

-Stephen Hawking-
1942-2018

EASY EASTER (sort of) QUIZ QUESTIONS

(answers in next edition)

1. Who wrote The Tale of Peter Rabbit?
2. What kind of bird delivers eggs to children in Switzerland for Easter?
3. According to the Bible, how did Judas identify Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane?
4. What is Easter known as in France?
5. Which company makes Cream Eggs?
6. What is the day before Good Friday called?
7. What does the rabbit from Alice in Wonderland always carry?
8. What happens in Spring to the clocks?
9. What food is traditionally eaten on Good Friday?
10. How much is the most expensive Faberge egg worth?

Good Luck

CHRISTIAN AID - A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

By Sally Foster-Fulton.

Borders, barricades, bewilderment...

When the bargaining begins,
God, please protect peace.

Sanctions, security measured in minutes and it's scary...

When safety scatters,
God, please protect peace.

War dresses up in peace-keeper's clothes,
Troops amass, the ground trembles and so do people...
When the future feels fragile,
God, please protect peace.

The littlest, the least likely to have a say,
Those whose lives are sanctioned and bargained over-
Violence always finds them first.
And the 'oh so important' political manoeuvres mean nothing to them,
They just want to live.
When the winners want to wipe them out of the way,
God, please protect peace.

We will not turn away. We will stand together-
God give us strength to protect peace.
AMEN.



A PRAYER FOR PEACE - AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Lord, lead us from death to life,
From falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
From fear to trust.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world and our universe.
Let us dream together, pray together and work together,
To build one world of peace and justice for all.

WORDS FROM THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK

Apologies are usually the words people least want to say and often they have to be summoned with a deep breath. Perhaps we would be keener to utter those healing words if we thought of them the way author Margaret Lee Runbeck did -

"Apology," she wrote, "is a lovely perfume; it can transform the clumsiest moment into a gracious gift."

How many of us think that we know exactly how to make the world a better place but prefer to wait for someone else to actually do it? Almost all, I suspect!

Now next time I'm tempted to wait for "Them" to sort something out, I hope I'll remember what Mahatma Gandhi once said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Inspiring words, ones we should all keep in mind.

Lectionary Readings

3 April

Isaiah 43 16 - 21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3 4b - 14

John 12 1 - 8

10 April (Palm Sunday)

Isaiah 50 4 - 9a

Psalm 118 1 - 2, 19 - 29

Philippians 2 5 - 11

Luke 19 28 - 40

17 April (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10 34 - 43

Psalm 118 1 - 2, 14 - 24

1 Corinthians 15 19 - 26

Luke 24 1 - 12

24 April

Acts 5 27 - 32

Psalm 118 14 - 29

Revelation 1 4 - 8

John 20 19 - 31