APRIL 2023

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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Dear Friends,

April is upon us already and this year April sees the conclusion of the dark, melancholic time of Lent which leads us into the light, celebratory time of Easter.

What does Easter mean to you? When I was a small child Easter meant a new set of ‘Sunday Best’ clothes to wear to church, which had to be kept pristine for the Church Anniversary Service a few weeks later.

In 1985 Charles and I and our children spent Easter in Tunisia where we were made to feel especially welcome as on Easter Sunday we were given painted hard-boiled eggs for breakfast.

This year Easter Sunday will be a double time of celebration at Saffron Lane URC. We will, of course, be celebrating the Risen Christ and we shall also be ordaining and inducting a second new Elder within the space of 5 months. Never let it be said that smaller congregations have nothing to offer!

Easter is a special time in the Church calendar. Without the celebrations of Easter there would be no Christianity, in fact Easter is the cornerstone, the axis, that the Church calendar revolves around.

Oh, did I forget to mention chocolate? The Easter Egg, made of chocolate and usually hollow. Why is it hollow? – it is said that the hollowed-out egg signifies the empty cave where Jesus had been laid and where Mary had gone and discovered the absence of Jesus, only to almost bump into Him in the garden and mistaking Him for the gardener. What joy she must have felt, learning that Jesus was alive, only to be disbelieved by the disciples, who had to go and find out for themselves.

I hope that this Easter we shall all remember the scene from that first Easter Day, ponder on it and learn from it. Easter may come around every year, but aren’t we lucky to be able to remember once again the story of so long ago yet still fresh today.

Have a Happy and Healthy Easter everyone and try not to eat too much chocolate!

Eileen

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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.

DEADLINE FOR MAY 23 MAGAZINE

Sunday 23 April 2023

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 296 2847 for information

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Worship Leaders for April 2023

Oadby 2 Revd Jacquie Gavin

 9 Revd Richard Eastman

 16 Revd David Howlett

 23 Revd Ivor Smith

 30 Eileen Williams

Saffron Lane 2 Revd David Howlett

 9 Eileen Williams

 16 P Tiplady

 23 R Waterton

 30 R Benham

South Wigston 2 David Miller Café Style Service 9 To Be Confirmed

 16 Shirley Eastman

 23 Revd David Howlett

 30 Revd Martin Ferris

Wigston Magna 2 Ray Green

 9 Julie Slatford (Communion) 16 Worship Group (Communion) 23 Revd Martin Ferris (Church Anniversary) 30 Revd Jacquie Gavin

Whetstone 2 Eileen Williams (Holy Communion) 9 Shirley Eastman (Easter) 16 Kevin West

 23 Shirley Eastman

 30 Julie Slatford

Abbots Road 2 Revd Martin (Communion) 9 Easter Celebration – Revd Martin Ferris 16 Revd Pam Smith

 23 Intergenerational – Worship Team 30 Mrs Irene Wren

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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

 4th Saturday 11.00 am – at 25 Chestnut Ave, Oadby

Whetstone URC Community Coffee Morning

 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

 Sit Sip and Social

 2nd Wednesday of each month 2pm – 4 pm

 Coffee Morning

 Every Saturday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

South Wigston Drop In with coffee / tea. 4th Wednesday of each month

Abbots Road Lunchbox every Tuesday from 12.30pm – 3 course meal £4.50

 Quiz Wednesday evenings from 7.15pm (on Zoom)

 Thursday Stay and Play and Little Borrowers toy library. For children aged 0-4 years old and their parents/carers

Saturday Coffee Morning including a raffle, on Zoom

from 10.30am. Raising funds for our chosen charity

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Bible Bytes

Wednesday 5 April 2023 10.30 am

Saffron Lane URC

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion No Need to be a “ Bible Expert”

EVERYBODY welcome



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Wigston Magna News

April Birthdays

13 Sheila Stephens

22 Alan Simpson



Good Friday Worship

Wigston URC - Long Street

Friday 7 April

10.30 am

Everybody Welcome

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Wigston Magna News

World Day of Prayer at Long Street

This year the United Reformed Church hosted one of the services held for the World Day of Prayer. Together with the Methodist Church and All Saints Church we welcomed a good congregation on the morning of Friday March 3rd.

The service began with members of the 3 churches making up a map of Taiwan which when completed showed the country, with it’s fertile areas and rivers all depicted in the colours represented on the table supporting the map. Plus vases of lilies decorating the church depicting one of the native flowers of Taiwan.

The service continued with the recounting of the lives of the people of Taiwan interspersed with hymns, readings and a meditation together with prayers for Taiwan and the rest of the world.

After the service the congregation were able to enjoy hot drinks and refreshments whilst looking at the many pictures of the people and places of Taiwan, displayed around the church before making tracks for home,

Grace



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Community Cinema

THE LOST KING

Guided by instinct and spectral visions, an ambitious writer and amateur historian defies the academic establishment to unearth Richard III’s long missing remains in a Leicester Car Park

Showing at

Wigston United Reformed Church, Long Street

On

Monday 3rd April 2023

Starting at 1.30 pm

Doors Open at 12.45 pm for Light Refreshments

For Further Details Contact

Julie on 07544981674

There is no admission charge but donations kindly accepted.

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Wigston Magna News

Thank You NHS

I had two good reasons to be grateful to our wonderful NHS last year.

At an eye test at Specsavers in July I paid an extra £10 for a test at the back of my eyes and was so glad I did. The outcome of that little test was the diagnosis of Age Related Macular Degeneration (or ARMD). The eye clinic soon got me in for tests and up to now I have had 4 injections into my left eye and will have another one at the end of March. It’s not pleasant but if it helps my eyesight to improve I’ll be glad I went. In the first year it is between 6 and 8 jabs so hopefully the it will be a bit better and I can get some new specs.

On the 7th December I slipped in the garden – resulting in broken ribs on my left side. What is it about my “left” side I wonder !. Three months down the line I still feel the ribs “moving” and I have a bit of pain but I still take the pain killers and hope for the best. The big bottle of morphine helped !!!!!

So I have seen first hand how our NHS works when you need them. Thank you to everybody concerned.

Also thanks to my family and friends and my church friends. You were all there for me and still are.

Elaine Wiggins.



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Wigston Magna

I love the “funny bits” which have been in recent magazines. They have made me “Laugh Out Loud” many times. They did not help with the painful ribs but they have kept me going. So I have found a few funnies of my own and I hope that they tickle your ribs too.

Elaine Wiggins

Messages for Dogs

(don’t let your dog read them !!)

1. Stick a cold nose up a visitors skirt

2. Always leave your marks on a CLEAN window

3. Eat flies, not wasps

4. Pose for photos, especially if you’re not supposed to be in them 5. Only ask to be let in during a GOOD FILM

6. Only ever swim in DIRTY water

7. Never take NO for an answer

8. Only drag your bottom on PLUSH carpets

9. Learn to recognise the word DOG in at least 5 languages 10 Attack a vacuum cleaner but steer clear of the LAWN MOWER









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Wigston Magna News

The Joys of Grandparents

Messages for Grandfathers, Gramps, etc

1. Going on a bus with most people is just going on a bus, but going on a bus with Gramps is an adventure

2. There is nowhere more comfortable for a small child to have a nap than on the knee of a sleeping Grandfather

3. Grandpas do not need to do much – just to be there 4. Gramps, Thank you for dropping everything in an emergency and coming at a run.

5. Grandpa, when we go anywhere busy, noisey or scary, I like to hold your hand tight. It’s the safest, most comforting hand I know.

Messages for Grandmothers, Nanas or Gran-Grans etc

1. Gran-Grans are antique little girls

2. Grandmas have bottomless handbags

3. Nanas have all day to play with you and never have anything more important to do.

4. Grandmothers are meant for kisses and hugs, for watching rainbows, making pictures and giving you your favourite biscuits. 5. Gran-Grans are for giving you books to read and songs to sing 6. Nanas just let you be yourself and they love it because that’s when you are at your best.

Elaine Wiggins

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South Wigston News

RECIPE – APRIL: Chocolate Melting Moments (Makes 16 – 18) Pre-heat oven to Gas 4, 350 F, 180 C

4 ozs butter, softened

3 ozs caster sugar

1 large egg yolk

3 1/2 ozs S.R. flour.

1/2 oz of cocoa powder

1 oz cornflour

1 oz chocolate coated cereal, coarsly crushed

2 ozs plain or milk chocolate drops.

1. Cream butter & sugar together until pale

2. Beat in the egg yolk.

3. Sift in the flour, cocoa and cornflour, work into the butter and sugar mixture using a wooden spoon.

4. With slightly wet hands, form mixture into 16 – 18 small balls the size of a truffle.

5. Roll into the crushed cereal to coat

6. Place on to greased, lined baking trays/sheets, and press each down to slightly flatten, leaving room between the biscuits as they will spread.

7. Press a few chocolate drops on top of each biscuit, then bake for 10 minutes.

8. Leave on baking sheet for 5 minutes, then cool on a wire tray. 

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South Wigston News

GARDENING TIPS – APRIL

1) Plant dahlia tubers.

2) Plant evergreen hedging plants.

3) Continue to weed and hoe ground under hedges.

4) Support perennials with pea sticks or canes.

5) Order tomato plants.

6) Sow late summer cauliflowers and maincrop carrots.

DIARY – APRIL

 5th Bible Bytes – Saffron Lane URC, 10.30am.

 6th Maundy Thursday Service – South Wigston Methodist Church 7.30pm.

 7th Good Friday Witness – outside South Wigston Tesco Store at 12.00 noon, with soup and Hot Cross Buns afterwards at South Wigston Methodist Church.

 7th Good Friday Service - South Wigston URC, 7.30pm. 12th Elders' meeting 9.30am, followed by Church meeting at 10.00am.

26th Monthly "drop-in" - 10.00am.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

6th Lauren Fretter

A Thought for the Month. I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear. Knowing what must be done, does away with fear.  Rosa Parks. 

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South Wigston News

Prayer List: April – Please pray for:

1 Our Minister, Martin, and Charlotte, as we hold them in our prayers. 2 All in our churches who preach the Word of God on this Palm Sunday. 3 David Todd, that his health may continue to improve.

 4 All who are struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time. 5 All who are affected by war.

 6 People who are facing trial, especially those who are innocent. 7 On this Good Friday, all who are persecuted for their faith. 8 Those who have to work over the Bank Holiday.

 9 HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! HALLELUJAH! Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter!

10 All who are travelling on this Bank Holiday, that they may travel safely. 11 Foster parents, and the children they care for.

12 All who suffer from depression.

13 All those recovering from recent disasters – floods, earthquakes, fires. 14 Those recently released from prison now facing the task of rebuilding their lives.

15 All who give their time to work for charities.

16 All those worshipping in our churches today.

17 All who are going through a time of sorrow.

18 Those who are unable to find work.

19 Children everywhere, especially those who are abused. 20 Doctors, nurses, and all staff in the health centres in our localities. 21 Our Prime Minister and Government that they may make the right decisions.

22 All who are in hospital.

23 The people of England on this, St George’s Day.

24 The homeless.

25 Those whose families are far away.

26 The residents and staff in our local Care Homes.

27 Those going through the pain of divorce.

28 Young people facing important exams this term.

29 Give thanks for the beauty of Springtime.

30 Our friends worshipping in the other churches in our localities.

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Did you know that........

South Wigston News Easter Facts

1. 90 million chocolate eggs are sold in the UK each year. 2. In the UK, each child receives an average of 8.8 Easter eggs each year.

3. Sales at Easter time make up 10% of UK chocolate spending for the whole year.

4. The UK's first chocolate egg was produced in 1873 by Fry's of Bristol.

5. Almost 1 in 5 children say that they have made themselves ill by eating too much chocolate over the Easter holidays! 6. In 2007, an egg covered in diamonds sold for almost £9 million. The egg is very special because, every hour, a cockerel made of jewels pops from the top of the egg, flaps its wings 4 times, nods its head 3 times and makes a crowing noise!



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South Wigston News

Gods Plan

God made the earth, the sky and the sea

 Then he made the birds and the trees.

 Animals and Humans next, you and me

 Then rested, as it was good to see.

 Man, like God, was kind and good

 Always doing the things that he should.

 Then Satan came and had his way

 Man slipped and fell from Satan’s sway

 God tried to help, sent Prophets and Seers

 Warnings ignored, threats held no fears

 So God sent his son to show how to live

 His death on the cross meant God could forgive.

 He left his spirit to guide and to teach

 His word for encouragement and Satan’s defeat. He fills us on earth with Love, Peace and Joy

 And eternity with the Trinity for all to enjoy.

Lets share God’s plan with all we meet.

 Lauren Fretter



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South Wigston News

Monthly Drop In 4th Wednesday of Each Month Tea / coffee

 Chat Talks Crafts

Games

Come Along and Join Us

Multi Faith Centre

South Leicestershire College 10.00 – 11.30

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Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for Apr- May 2023

 OT NT SERV COLL Preacher

Apr 2nd 5 14 5 13 D Howlett Communion Apr 9th 6 36 3 13 E Williams Communion Apr 16th 8 7 8 13 P Tiplady Communion

Apr 23rd 30 12 # 14 R Waterton Family Service Apr 30th 9 3 # 13 R Benham 5th Sunday

May 7th 14 5 14 13 J Slatford Communion May 14th 36 6 3 13 E Williams Communion May 21st 7 8 7 13 S Clay Communion

May 28th 12 30 # 14 M Ferris Family Service

3 Kath T 7.Angela S 11.Richard B # No server 4.Maureen F 8. Brian S 12.Elizabeth R 30 Sandra 5.Sue B 9. Terri D 13.Darren C 36 Dec B

| 6.Pat S  | 10.Molly B  | 14. Mackenzie  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |

Church Birthdays

April

16th Peter Clay

May

14th Mackenzie Bloxham



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Saffron Lane News

Christian Woman’s Fellowship weekend Swanwick

February 24th – 26th

The ladies from the East Midlands area were well represented with 2 from Saffron Lane, 2 from Wigston Magna, 2 from Oadby, 3 from Abbotts Road,1 from Hinckley and 1 from Lutterworth We travelled there on the Friday afternoon some stopping to shop on the way there.

 We then all met up at the Hayes conference centre with all the others and shared an evening dinner together, which is nice as there was no washing up! We had a getting to meet you after dinner and then an Epilogue before social time in the bar.

 On Saturday morning we started with quiet time then meditation, followed by a cooked breakfast - just the thing to start the day. Our first two session was a lady called Sally who was from a group called Just Ice. Sally and her husband who was a minister gave up their jobs to look after people who had been trafficked from other countries to work against their will and they started an Ice Cream café to give them employment in Derbyshire.

After lunch we had a choice of 6 activities walk, craft, singing, knit and natter, BSL signing and bible journaling. These were followed by coffee and cake. After our business session we had yet another dinner and afterwards got ready for the evening concert. Alison Hadley organised the evening and our group took 4 spots on the evening’s entertainment. When that had finished Eileen Williams and Julie Slatford closed the evening with the epilogue. Followed by a drink in the bar before bedtime.

Sunday morning started with quiet time and meditation, followed by our cooked breakfast, so nice. Our first session was hymn singing followed by bible study about the book on Ruth. After coffee we joined together at the chapel for our Communion service where Elizabeth went with the group who did BSL signing to do the Lord’s prayer.

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Cont…..

Saffron Lane News

After a roast beef dinner, we gathered together to say goodbye till next year and we made our home safely to Leicester.

























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Saffron Lane News

Area Service Sunday 12th March 2023

I have to tell everybody that the Area Service at Saffron Lane went ahead with only 15 people attending at 3.30pm on Sunday 12 March. Eileen led the service and Sandra, Elizabeth, Kath, Paul and Pam did a funny sketch before Julie Slatford led us in prayer. The collection raised £33.00 for our 2023 charity Smile Train. Thanks to all who attended the service and joined us for tea and biscuits afterwards.

Puddings Evening Tuesday 14th March 2023

We were worried that we were going to have to cancel our Puddings Evening because of the snow. But everyone always wants this evening to go on so with puddings prepared and gifts to sell for our charity made the evening went ahead. A lovely sale table was prepared with good books and chocolate eggs and Elizabeth had knitted some tiny baskets filled with little chocolate eggs. Elizabeth also made up a short quiz for us all to do with prizes for the winners. With only members from Saffron Lane and 2 visitors in attendance there were not as many puddings for us to choose from but I think everybody there enjoyed the evening.

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Saffron Lane News

Sunday 19 March – Mothers Day

What a crowd we had. Saffron Lane were joined by South Wigston for the Mother’s Day service. We had some nice Hymns and Readings and then joined together after the service for coffee and tea plus cake thanks to it also being Angela’s birthday. Thank you to Eileen for leading the service for us and to Mackenzie who took around a button hole to all the ladies in the Church.







Easter Sunday April 9th 2023

On Easter Sunday 1961 Elizabeth Richardson and Sandra Clay were Baptized at Saffron Lane Church of Christ by full emersion. In 2020 we were looking forward to celebrating our 60th Anniversary but it was cancelled because of Covid. So, when Elizabeth accepted the call to be an Elder at Saffron Lane United Reformed Church we decided what better day to have the induction service than Easter Sunday. The special service will be conducted by Eileen Williams.

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Saffron Lane News

Three Crosses

By Paul Pickard from 3T’s

Looking from my window what I saw Was something I could not ignore? Three crosses standing in a row

And of their faces now I know

Lit up by lightning flash of light

I did behold a wondrous sight

A daytime turned to night times bleak And still remember looking back

And high above one cross

Two angels soared the guardian

Keeper of the Lord

As in his anger he cried out

And in his voice, I heard his doubt “Oh Lord, why has thou forsaken me” That he was nailed upon a tree

But in a moment that doubt was gone As on God’s face he looked upon

To save the world

It was now he knew

To die for us all

Was what he must do

My tears like rain, this Easter fell And did I dream I cannot tell

For from my window that sight has gone But in my mind, it still lives on

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Whetstone News

Members and Friends Update

David and Janet and Pam have all recently been to visit friends of our church who are currently unwell.

David and Janet went to visit Joan and Peter and bought flowers as a kind gift. The situation is much the same as before but Joan and Peter appreciated the visit and the well wishes from the church.

Pam visited Dorothea at Tavey House with Dorothea’s daughter, Liz. Pam took some lovely spring flowers for Dorothea and also a card and chocolates from the church. Dorothea seemed well and happy and Liz is hoping to bring her to church again when the weather gets warmer.

Away Service !!

On a recent weekend away to Chesterfield, we visited the Church of St. Mary and All Saints. This is the church that is famous and known worldwide for its incredible crooked Spire.

On the Sunday morning, Bernard, Pam and I joined the congregation at 10:30am for morning worship. We were made very welcome and even had a special mention.

It was wonderful to be able to worship God in such an iconic place.

Jean



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Thank You

Whetstone News

Thanks to all who supported the recent Murder Mystery evening to raise funds to support Darren’s upcoming marathon run for Mencap. Everyone enjoyed the evening and Darren and all who organised the event were very grateful for the money which was raised.

As a church, our donation towards this event was the provision of the hall free of charge.

As a community hub, we feel it is imperative that we do as much as we can to support all within our local community.

Darren asked for his thanks to be passed on to the church.

Well Done !!

Congratulations to Richard and Kevin who have recently passed their Level 2 examination in Food Hygiene and Safety in Catering. We thank them for taking the time to complete the course.

(Kevin also wanted to say a special thank you to Thomas, who noticed that the certificate had arrived and went to fetch a frame for it! He then presented the framed certificate wrapped, to his Dad. Not many 18 year old lads are so kind and thoughtful!)



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Whetstone News

Mothers Day Service

We thank our dear friend Paul Baxter who brought three lovely hanging baskets to the service which he led on the 19th March.

Two of the hanging baskets are now displayed at the front of the church and thanks to Sheila for her donation of 10 pounds for the third hanging basket. This money will now go towards our next fund raising event.













Thanks also to Jean who, as usual, organised small bouquets of daffodils for the ladies of the congregation as a gift for Mothers Day. Such kindness is often overlooked but greatly appreciated!

Joke for the Month

Q: If you weigh a whale at a whaleway station, where do you weigh a pie?

A: Somewhere over the rainbow.

(Weigh a pie?!)

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Whetstone United Reformed Church

Charity Coffee Morning

Saturday 22nd April

10.00 – 12.00

Bring and Buy Stall

Raffle

Tea, Coffee and Biscuits.

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Oadby News

European Transplant Games 2022

In August 2022 the European Transplant Games were held in Oxford , 2 years later than planned due to the pandemic. Like many others, people who had transplants had needed to shield during the pandemic so it was fantastic for over 400 people from across 25 European countries who had all had received the gift of a life saving transplant to take part.

 I was really delighted to be able to swim for Team GB and NI . It was a great day and the team did well gaining many medals. Most of all though it was just lovely for us to be together again as a team, we had all missed seeing each other and swimming together. Many of us know swimmers from other countries having met them at previous event so it was also lovely to see them too. We were able to swap information about how we had been impacted by the pandemic. We had all had to prove that we were fully vaccinated before attending and also had to take a test when we arrived. Oxford was a good place to hold the games, we were able to hold the opening ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre and take a boat trip down the Thames afterwards. Some events took place at Blenheim palace but most took place at Radley College , a boys school just outside Oxford.

 As always with such events it was also a celebration of life and a display of gratitude from us for our donors without whom many of us would not be here.

Gillian Ferguson



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Oadby News

Oadby United Reformed Church Rosemead Drive, Oadby

Spring Coffee Morning

Saturday 15th April 2023

10.00 -12.00

Come and buy

Joan's cakes

books, jig-saws and vases See you there.

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Oadby News

Do you or your family need to improve your fitness ? FIONA’S FITNESS Exercise Classes

Oadby URC Hall

Friday Mornings

10.00 - Parents and Under 5’s NEW FROM 3 MARCH 2023

11.30 – “older” Adult Classes

Why not Come along and give it a go ?? 

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Abbots Road News

NEWS FROM EDITH MIDDLETON

I was thinking the other day when we had snow that the country seemed to come to a standstill. Three days later it was all back to normal again.

Sunday I was on door duty and for the first time in a while. I took my coat off as it was so warm. But no matter what the weather is doing, daffodils and other spring flowers are there as usual to cheer us up. God is saying to us “Spring is almost here.” Thank you Lord for Spring and all your blessings.

On a personal note, at the moment, at the age of 93 years I am moving to a sheltered accommodation flat as my family worry about me after I collapsed twice before Christmas. I have now completely recovered and I thank God for looking out for me. I wasn’t ready to go yet. I am blessed that I have my church family.

Thank you Lord for all our blessings. AMEN

WOOD THAT I SHOULD BY LINDA HENDERSON Wood that I should have made a cradle,

Stands instead to cradle one who is

Nearly at the end of life’s allotted span.

Wood that ought to soothe the crying

Breaks the back and causes pain.

Towering monument, gory treatment

Handing death to a man.

Wood that should have rocked the baby

Holds in death the Son of God.

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Abbots Road News

 THE WORD

Which word didn’t you understand?

Someone once said they were not worried by the parts of the Bible they did not understand. What did bother them was the parts they did understand, and so it is with me. I am not worried by the parts of the Bible I have forgotten or never read, and I am not much bothered by the parts of the Bible and Christian teaching I cannot understand. What disturbs me are the parts that are so clear that it is not possible to misunderstand them, such as the Beatitudes and some other parts of the Sermon on the Mount, or the story of the sheep and the goats where Jesus says exactly what will happen to nations who allow people of other nations to starve. For the only way to avoid the challenge of such passages is to pretend that Jesus meant something else or that, for some reason, what he says does not apply to us.

By Roger Gray

A BLESSING

Look at the world with eyes of love and hear the cries with ears of concern.

Then, go into the world as those who don’t just stand there, but do something, for we are the loved children of God.

And may the God of grace be with us, forever,

Christ be our Saviour and friend

And the Spirit guide our feet.

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Abbots Road News

BEING THERE – BY AVIS PALMER

There were many women who watched

In tender anguish beyond tears

Unknown followers, background figures,

Many women who had looked and listened and loved.

And when it was over

Followed again, remembering the tomb.

The Sabbath was so long, separation

Impregnated with spices.

At last, now, in the soft, sable darkness before dawn, Pain and longing

Could find some relief in action,

And anxious intricate discussion

Of how to move the stone.

Entering the garden, the hues of sunrise

Colouring the sky,

Shapes emerging softly from shadow,

They stepped into strange stillness,

Morning air fragrant filled

With expectation.

Hand reaching out to reaching hand

Eyes widening in wonder,

Sensing mystery,

They found, stone rolled aside, Open

Streaming with light brighter than

The breaking dawn,

His tomb no longer needed.

And kneeling, standing, arms welcoming,

Believed.

And worshipped.

Held and blest by Easter Love.

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Abbots Road News

Please Pray For

The people of Ukraine as the war continues

Compassion for asylum seekers who are only trying to escape the danger in their own country.

Refugees who have been sent to Rwanda

All who work for peace

All those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria: Those who are bereaved, the injured, those whose homes were destroyed. Anne and John

Brian and Dorothy.

Martin and Charlotte

Matthew,

Anne and Rob

Jacob

The family and friends of Elisha

David Todd

All those on our prayer list – those who are ill, either mentally or physically, those who are bereaved.

All those who work in our emergency services

Those who are homeless and the organisations who work hard to help them.

Those who are unable to pay their bills

Those who need to use foodbanks

All those who work in the NHS – nurses, doctors, porters, auxiliaries, physiotherapists, technicians etc.

Those who care for vulnerable relatives at home.

Our ministry team

The mission of our churches in the South and East Leicestershire Area and that the churches can become closer and work together as an area.

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Abbots Road News

YOU’RE HAVING A LAUGH

My daughter asked me if I’d seen the dog bowl. I didn’t even know he could bowl!

I told my daughter that I saw a deer on the way to work this morning. she said, “how do you know it was on its way to work.”

 My mate has just been caught stealing a sweater three sizes too small. Let’s see him wriggle out of this one.

I just bought a pirate GPS Sytem. It tells you exactly where you arrrrrr.

A tv weatherman reacted angrily to being sacked after so many cold and gloomy forecasts. so, no more mist & ice guy.

Phew, just got back from a 25 mile run, a quick shower and change then off to liars anonymous.

I’m starting up a jogging class with my dad, mum and sister. It’s a family run business.

A teacher was exploring the children’s notion of God. She asked, “Tommy who is God?” Six year old Tommy furrowed his brows and thought for a moment or two about the question. Suddenly he brightened up, and with a smile he said,”I think God is the man who saved the Queen.”

A lady advertised for a travelling companion concluding with words: “christian wanted, cheerful if possible”

Definition of a committee – a committee makes minutes but wastes hours.

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Abbots Road News

Cont……

Notice outside a north London church: ‘Wanted – workers for God – plenty of overtime’

Some amusing signs –

On a plumbers truck: - ‘We repair what your husband fixed. In a london department store: - ‘Bargain Basement upstairs.’ In a dry cleaners: - ‘Anyone leaving their garments here for more than 30 days will be disposed of.’

A chicken walks into a library and up to the desk. “Buk”, says the chicken. so, the librarian gives him a book. The chicken leaves with the book and returns five minutes later. “Buk”, he says. so, the librarian gives him another book. This goes on about eight more times, until finally the librarian leaves the library and goes outside to the back where there is a pond. The chicken is standing on the edge of the pond tossing the books to a frog on a lilypad. The chicken says, “buk, buk.” and the frog says, “reddit, reddit.”

PERKS OF BEING OVER 50

1. You still look amazing, as long as you don’t put your glasses on or look in a magnifying mirror.

2. No one expects you to run anywhere.

3. You can still touch your toes, but now it’s with your boobs. 4. You can still eat whatever you want, but now it sits on your waistline.

5. Kidnappers are no longer interested in you.

6. There’s nothing left to learn the hard way.

7. If you haven’t grown up yet, you don’t have to!

8. You no longer care what anyone thinks about you!

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Lectionary Readings

 April 2 (Palm Sunday)

Psalm 118 v 1 – 2 & 19 – 29

 Matthew 21 v 1 – 11

 OR

 Isaiah 50 v 4 – 9a

 Psalm 31 v 9 – 16

 Philippians 2 v 5 – 11

 Matthew 26 v 14 – 27 v 66 or 27 v 11 – 54

April 9 (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10 v 34 – 43 or Jeremiah 31 v 1 – 6 Psalm 118 v 1 – 2 & 14 – 24

 Colossians 3 v 1 – 4 or Acts 10 v 34 – 43 Matthew 28 v 1 – 10 or John 20 v 1 – 18

April 16

Acts 2 v 14a & 22 – 32

 Psalm 16

 1 Peter 1 v 3 – 9

 John 20 v 19 – 31

April 23

Acts 2 v 14a & 36 – 41

 Psalm 116 v 1 – 4 & 12 – 19

 1 Peter 1 v 17 – 23

 Luke 24 v 13 – 35

April 30

Acts 2 v 42 – 47

 Psalm 23

 1 Peter 2 v 19 – 25

 John 10 v 1 – 10

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