

South & East Leicestershire Area United Reformed Churches



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

<http://southleicsgroupurc.org.uk>

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Treasurer

Dear Friends,

Just recently I've been reflecting on a question a friend asked - 'How do we serve and work for God in every situation of our lives?' Well, we may say, there are many ways we can serve God in every situation. There are many challenging situations in the world today - how do we serve God in these situations? I was pointed to the book of Proverbs chapter 14: 31, which says, 'If you oppress poor people, you insult God who made them; but kindness shown to the poor is an act of worship.'

I'm sure I've read it before but it seemed as God's word often does to have particular power and relevance now. It reminded my friend, too, of Nelson Mandela's famous words, 'A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.' God's care and love for the poor, the outcast, those subject to injustice is no secret. Just look at the many passages in the Bible that talk about this care and concern, encouraging all of us to take seriously the challenge. I haven't counted them but I read that there are over 3,000 verses which address God's concern on the subject. In the Old Testament we see there are laws that relate to how God's people should relate to one another and ensure that their dealings are fair. Jesus so often cared for those on the edge of society, those who were rejected and isolated. Jesus got alongside those who were suffering through physical illness, emotional need, mental illness and spiritual need. And he was criticised for it.

At the beginning of his Ministry, he read from the scroll of Isaiah, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' Then he told the people, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

The way the world treats some people these days shows that things haven't changed much.

Just think of some examples where people are oppressed or down trodden because of financial problems, unfair laws or outright violence, aggression and racial hatred. As God's people we can't ignore this reality, we are called to follow Christ, to be Christlike, transformed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to stand for the weak and work to change the situation in any way we can.

The problem is we look at the enormity of the challenge, we say to ourselves, 'It's too much, how are we supposed to change these things.' We can be overwhelmed and think we can't do anything. But just think of a stone thrown into a pond - the ripples caused by that stone spread out and so it is with our small action. And it is true that we can't help everyone but also that each of us can help someone. The more people that join in the fight to help the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised can make a bigger difference. If God's people throughout the world were to stand in solidarity what a difference it would make.

Yours in the eternal love of Christ,

Pam.



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 Area Churches.

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 24 MAGAZINE

Sunday 18 August 2024

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

Worship Leaders for August 2024

Oadby	4	Revd Ivor Smith Communion
	11	Revd Ivor Smith
	18	Revd David Howlett Communion
	25	Revd Les Gill
Saffron Lane	4	Ray Green
	11	Eileen Williams
	18	P Tiplady
	25	Revd Martin Ferris
South Wigston	4	Noel Oldershaw Café Style Service
	11	Revd David Howlett
	18	Di Statham
	25	Revd David Howlett
Wigston Magna	4	Revd Richard Eastman
	11	Songs of Praise
	18	Revd Les Gill Communion
	25	Worship Group
Whetstone	4	Revd Les Gill Communion
	11	Songs of Praise
	18	Ray Green
	25	Kevin West
Abbots Road	4	Eileen Williams Communion
	11	Revd Jacqui Gavin
	18	Revd Pam Smith
	25	Worship Team / Elders

Regular Church Events

Oadby URC

Weekly Coffee Morning
Every Monday from 10.00 - 12.00 -
including Bank Holidays

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

Ladies Group
4th Thursday 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Craft Group
4th Saturday 11.00 am - at 25 Chestnut Ave, Oadby

Whetstone URC

Community Coffee Morning Thursday 10.00 to 12.00

Saffron Lane URC

Weekly 3T's (Tea, Toast & Talk) Thursday 10.00 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 12.00 pm

South Wigston

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

Abbots Road

Lunchbox every Tuesday from 12.30pm - 3 course meal
£5.00

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
10.00 to 11.30 £1.50 per family

Saturday Coffee Morning including a raffle, on Zoom
from 10.30am. Raising funds for our chosen charities.

Bible Bytes

Wednesday 7 August 2024

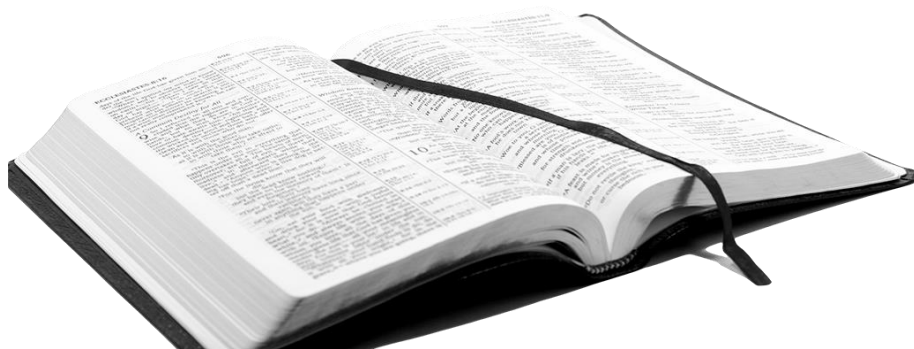
10.30 am

Saffron Lane URC

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion

No Need to be a " Bible Expert"

EVERYBODY welcome



To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you for all your contributions to your local church in 2023. This includes your financial contribution which plays an important part in the life of the whole church through the Ministries & Mission Fund.

As officers of the denomination, it's good for us to be rooted in a local URC (or LEP) congregation and to work out our faith in the local context, as well as across the entire United Reformed Church. On the other hand, it is good for you in local churches to know that those who serve you nationally understand the local church financial issues as well. And there have been some big issues over the last 12-18 months: inflation, a "cost of living crisis" for many, with energy costs rising unprecedented levels etc. Churches and ministers have had the same challenges as so many others.

The M&M Fund of the URC pays for ministers' stipends, training, Assembly costs and all the central support functions for ministry in the URC across three nations. The M&M Fund's main income is contributions from the churches with some top-up from synods, together with investment income and grants etc.

In 2023 the churches continued to support the M&M Fund to a wonderful level, but there also was significant and generous synod support. Overall, the giving to M&M Fund was slightly ahead of budget at £16.3 million. It was also only 2% down on 2022's result. However, we should note that these figures include the synods' extra contributions this year which amounted to £1.9 million, an increased amount compared to 2022.

The full M&M account for 2023 in summary:

Income - £18.2m - of which 16.3m was from churches and synods contributions

Expenditure - £19.3m

Deficit - £1.1m

2024 is not going to be an easy year either and we are again budgeting for a deficit. We have a commitment from synods to continue their support on top of church contributions and a plan for balancing the M&M budget over the next 5-7 years, including budget reductions of central costs of 3 to 5% p.a.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2023 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

Stewardship of our resources, personally, as local churches and as a denomination is rarely easy, but it is one of the challenges we are called to in making our faith real. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more continue to respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Yates (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

Community Cinema

Monday 5 August 2024

THE SECRET GARDEN

1.30 pm

Doors Open 12.45 pm

Light Refreshments Available.

Admission Free - but Donations welcome

Join Us For

CREAM TEA

Saturday 17 August 2024

3.00 to 5.00

Everybody Welcome

RECIPE: AUGUST – Date and Walnut Loaf.

100g stoned dates, chopped.

Half a teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda.

Finely grated rind of half a lemon.

100ml hot tea.

40g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing.

70g light muscovado sugar.

1 small egg.

125g self-raising flour.

25g walnuts, chopped - plus walnut halves to decorate.

- 1 Preheat oven to 180 C/350 F/Gas mark 4. Grease a 450 g/1lb loaf tin and line the base with baking paper.
- 2 Place dates, bicarbonate of soda and lemon rind in a bowl and add the hot tea. Leave to soak for 10 minutes, until soft.
- 3 Cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy, beat in the egg, then stir in the date mixture.
- 4 Fold in the flour using a metal spoon, then fold in the chopped walnuts.
- 5 Spoon the mixture into the prepared cake tin, spread evenly and top with the walnut halves.
- 6 Bake for 35 - 40 minutes until risen, firm and golden brown.
- 7 Cool for 10 minutes in tin, then turn out the loaf and finish cooling on a wire rack.

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GARDENING NOTES: AUGUST

- 1) Pull out any thistles or other weeds by hand, or use a selective weedkiller.
- 2) Trim shrubs and evergreens into shape.
- 3) Cut back over-vigorous container plants.
- 4) Take and pot up cuttings of fuchsias, pelargoniums and other hybrids.
- 5) Stop applying fertiliser.
- 6) Plant winter-flowering heathers and chrysanthemums in containers.



DIARY: AUGUST

7th - Bible Bytes - Saffron Lane U.R.C. 10.30am.

TBC - Elders' Meeting - 10.00am

Thought for the month of August.

Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny ,
inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement.

Golda Meir

South Wigston News

PRAYER LIST: AUGUST

Please pray for:

- 1 All who are going away on holiday this month, that they may be safe.
- 2 Our new Government that they may work for the good of everyone.
- 3 Firemen, as they perform their difficult and dangerous work.
- 4 All who preach the Word of God in our churches today.
- 5 The bereaved.
- 6 On the anniversary of Hiroshima, pray for peace throughout the world.
- 7 Animals, especially much-loved pets which give so much pleasure.
- 8 All who do not have enough to eat.
- 9 Give thanks for the gift of friendship.
- 10 All who suffer as a result of the weather - heat, flood or drought.
- 11 All who read from God's Word in our churches today.
- 12 All who work for the Probation Service.
- 13 Give thanks for our local health centres.
- 14 Students waiting for important exam results.
- 15 The work of LOROS and Rainbows.
- 16 All who have been feeling unwell recently.
- 17 Our local shopkeepers, and all businesses that serve the community.
- 18 All who are worshipping in our churches today, especially anyone attending church for the first time.
- 19 All who seek to create unity and resolve differences.
- 20 Farmers, especially those hampered by adverse weather conditions.
- 21 Those who suffer injustice, wrongful persecution and imprisonment.
- 22 All who are going through the pain of divorce.
- 23 Those who do the difficult work of counselling.
- 24 All who are the victims of violence.
- 25 Our friends in the other churches on our localities.
- 26 All students starting or returning to school or college.
- 27 The homeless.
- 28 All who live in the war-torn countries of the world
- 29 For tolerance and understanding between nations, races and faiths.
- 30 All who are training for the Ministry.
- 31 Give thanks for the beauty and peace of gardens.

Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for August - September October 2024

	OT	NT	SERV	COLL	Preacher	
Aug 4 th	36	6	3	13	R Green	Communion
Aug 11 th	7	8	7	13	E Williams	Communion
Aug 18 th	12	30	12	13	P Tiplady	Communion
Aug 25 th	9	3	#	13	M Ferris	Family Service
Sept 1 st	5	14	5	13	R Eastman	Communion
Sept 8 th	6	36	6	13	D Howlett	Communion
Sept 15 th	8	7	8	13	J Slatford	Communion
Sept 22 nd	30	12	#	13	E Williams	Family Service
Sept 29 th	3	9	#	13	R Eastman	5 th Sunday
Oct 6 th	14	5	14	13	I Smith	Communion
Oct 13 th	36	6	3	13	P Tiplady	Communion
Oct 22 th	7	8	7	13	L Gill	Communion
Oct 29 th	12	30	#	13	R Benham	Family Service

3 Kath T	8. Brian S	13. Darren C	
5. Sue B	9. Terri D	14. Mackenzie	# No server
6. Pat S	10. Molly B	30 Sandra	
7. Angela S	11. Richard B	36 Dec B	

Church members if you are unable to be there to read at a service, please inform Kath or swop your reading week with someone thanks

Saffron Lane News

Birthdays

Aug

13th Terri Derbyshire

27th K Thorpe

September

1st M Foster

19th Pat Storton

20th E Williams

Future Events

Cream Teas

7th September

If your able please come to join us for a cream tea & raffle at Saffron Lane from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm

All the money will be going to this year's Charity - Heart Link

Ride and Stride

September 14th

The Church will be open from 10am - 4.00pm

Please come and visit us.



Saffron Lane News

A New Strength

There are times in every life
When we feel hurt or alone.
But I believe that these times when we feel lost
And all around us seems to be falling apart
Are really bridges of growth.
We struggle and try to recapture the security of what was,
But almost in spite of ourselves...
We emerge on the other side with a new understanding.
A new awareness.
A new strength.
It is almost as though we must go through the pain,
And the struggle in order to grow
And reach new heights.

Poem by Sue Mitchell.



Whetstone News

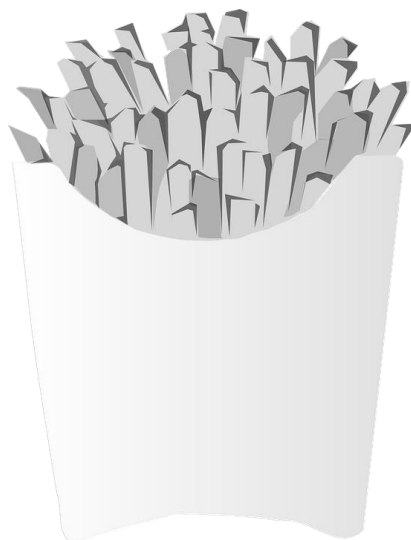
We thank everyone who supported our charity coffee morning. There was bric-a-brac, books, clothes, tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits and cobs. An incredible £285 was raised for British Heart Foundation. Thank you.

We are looking forward to the coffee morning at the home of Pam and Jon Brookes on Saturday 27th July from 10:00am till 12 noon. There will be tea, coffee, hot cobs, cakes and a raffle.

Events in August

On Wednesday 7th August, we will be holding a "Music Hall Memories", beginning at 7:00pm. (see poster) There will be sketches, monologues and songs to sing along to, followed by light refreshments. There is no charge for this event but we will gratefully receive any donations towards our ongoing efforts to repair the roof of the church hall.

We shall also be saying "never mind the weather, never mind the rain" on Thursday 22nd August when we will be serving a seaside special lunch during our Thursday Community Coffee Mornings. This will comprise of a cone of chips with fish bites, a choice of mushy peas or curry sauce, followed by an ice cream. All welcome. Donations to church hall roof fund gratefully received!



Whetstone News

Whilst away on holiday in Poole. Kevin took the opportunity to visit the oldest church there which just happens to be a United Reformed Church - a Grade 1 listed building from 1777.

He says :-

I was made very welcome as I joined them for their short prayer service before being allowed to play their organ.

After playing several hymns, I joined the congregation for a cup of tea. I was then asked if I were available to play for their Service a week on Sunday! I sadly had to decline as a 4 hour journey before the service was a little too much!

They have asked me to go back if ever I am in the area and I thank them for their kindness and hospitality.



Whetstone News

Celebrations

It is obviously a year for milestone Wedding Anniversaries for members of Whetstone URC:-

On 28th August, Kevin and Rebecca will be celebrating their Silver (25th) anniversary.

In September, Richard and Shirley will be celebrating their Golden (50th) anniversary.

To mark Richard and Shirley's special occasion, the church will be holding a buffet lunch from 12.30 onwards on Thursday 5th September. We wish to invite everyone from the South and East Leicestershire Area Churches so please do join us if you can!

Get Well Wishes

Please keep Sheila in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from illness. Also, Jean West (Kevin's Mum) as she recovers from her operation to remove kidney stones. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

To Make you Think

Question:

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

Answer:

Somewhere over the rainbow!
(Apologies to Judy Garland!)



Music Hall Memories Wednesday 7th August 7 P.M.

Singalong to Old Time
Favourite Songs

Comedy Variety
Entertainment



Light refreshments



Oadby News

At their recent 11 O'Clock Club Oadby Members received a very informative and interesting talk from Leicestershire Search and Rescue. Following on from the visit Oadby have made Leicestershire Search and Rescue their charity of the year.

For those who know little or nothing about them they have provided some information about their work.

Leicestershire Search and Rescue who are we and what do we do?

Leicestershire Search and Rescue (LeicSAR) is a registered charity consisting entirely of trained volunteers. Our primary role is to assist the police in the search for vulnerable missing persons in urban, rural and lowland areas throughout Leicestershire and Rutland. This includes children, the elderly or those who are suffering from an illness, whether physical or mental (for example, people suffering from dementia, depression, or with mental health issues).

We are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and are typically deployed over 60 times per annum (over 40 so far this year). Our joint objective with the police is to get search teams out as soon as we possibly can in order to maximise the chances of locating a missing person safe and well. We are pleased to say that we have a very good relationship with Leicestershire Police, who consistently state that they could not complete their missing person searches without us. All members are trained in Searcher Skills as Search Technicians with a number undertaking additional training for the Drone Team, Search Dogs, Swift Water and Community First Responder teams.

Oadby News

LeicSAR is also part of the Local Resilience Forum, where we can be mobilised to assist in significant incidents throughout the county. In 2024, we have already deployed our water rescue team to assist with flooding in Loughborough, and the team has contributed to the community response when a major incident was declared for contaminated gas supplies to the villages of Ratby and Kirby Muxloe.

In 2020, the team was incredibly proud to be the recipient of the **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**, the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work in the local community.

LeicSAR receives no statutory funding and relies solely on donations, grants and sponsorship from the local community and businesses, as well as our own fundraising activities, in order to remain operational. It is a requirement for every member to contribute a set number of hours to our fundraising work each year.

The cost of maintaining the team operational is around £22,000 per annum. This essentially covers all of our normal running costs, for example to maintain and fuel vehicles, replace worn out equipment, fund training and pay insurance premiums (we need to have a range of essential insurance cover in place for both the team and vehicles, which comes at a cost of over £8000 annually).



Oadby News



Abbots Road News

IMPORT

To book a place or for further information please call Dorothy 07804 495 527

A warm welcome
awaits you at
ABBOTS ROAD CHURCH
HOLIDAY @ HOME.

Monday 12th Tuesday 13th Wednesday 14th August
10 30 am to 3 30 pm

Morning tea / coffee
Lunch at 12 30pm
Afternoon tea and cake.

Tuesday Lunch is
Fish and chips
And must be ordered
in advance.

Crafts. Quiz. Bingo .
Jigsaws . Games . Gentle Exercise . Demonstrations.
Flower Arranging

Entertainment
Friendly chat .
£6 .50 each day .

Thursday 15 August
3 hour Lunch Cruise
on River Trent .
£26 50

Free coach travel from

Abbots Rd Church

LUNCHBOX SAYS FAREWELL

Last week at Lunchbox we said goodbye to Irene (Wren) after many years of helping and leading Lunchbox, along with Dorothy and more recently, as Dorothy isn't always able to get to Lunchbox due to Brian being ill, doing the cooking with help from Pam, Jeanette, Mary and Dorothy when she is able to get there.

Irene is off to distant shores, 'Up North' to Morley near Leeds where she will be nearer to family, (It's cold up there you know Irene!).

Lunchbox presented Irene with a card which everyone had put a message in to say 'Thank You' for all of Irene's hard work and 'We'll miss you.' And we gave her a prezzie of a box of chocolates and a box of biscuits.

A POEM FOR TEA LOVERS

When the world is at odds
And the mind is at sea
Then cease the useless tedium
And brew a cup of tea.

There is a magic in its fragrance
There is solace in its taste
And the laden moments vanish
Somehow into space.

The world becomes a lovely thing
There's beauty as you'll see
All because you briefly stopped
To brew a cup of tea.

Abbots Road News

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Peace in our world - peace between Russia and Ukraine

Peace between Israel and Gaza.

Refugees trying to escape from conflict, war or danger of any kind.

People who are suffering from famine, drought, disease, poverty.

Those who need to use food banks and those who volunteer.

For those who have been made redundant

Those who are ill or in pain

Brian and Dorothy - for Dorothy's care of Brian and for trying to get Brian's NHS care organised, so that he receives the treatment he needs.

For Margaret

Chris and family

Laurell, recovering from an operation

Paul Hick

Audrey

Anne and John - as John continues to care for Anne

For Roy and his family.

Rosalind's friends and family

For all those going on holiday that they have safe journeys and a time to relax and be refreshed.

For Irene on her new journey

For young people awaiting results from exams

For all children on their summer holidays away from school

For Andrew and June.

For our Ministry Team, Martin and Eileen, may God uphold them and guide them as they lead the Area churches.

For all of our SELA churches, that we work together more closely and carry out the mission God is leading us in.



A few thoughts for this month

AT THE HEART OF YOUR KINGDOM

When you were busy, surrounded by crowds,
With their needs and their pleading,
You always had time for the individual,
Just because at the heart of your Kingdom,
There was infinite compassion.

**John Polhill, from A Heart for Creation, published by Wild Goose Publications*

WHAT GOD IS LIKE

Thank you for the people you sent
when I needed them most,
For the insight, the touch, the smile,
that showed what God was like.

**Tom Gordon, from a Need for Living, published by Wild Goose Publishing*

ETERNITY CANNOT HOLD YOU

O God of life, eternity cannot hold you,
Nor can our little words catch
The magnificence of your kindness.
Yet in the space of our small hearts
And in silence
You can come close and repair us.

**Wild Goose Worship Group, from A Wee Worship Book (4th)*

MAKES YOU THINK

*DO TWINS EVERY REALISE THAT ONE OF THEM IS UNPLANNED?

*WHY IS THE LETTER W, IN ENGLISH, CALLED DOUBLE U? SHOULDN'T IT BE CALLED DOUBLE V?

*MAYBE OXYGEN IS SLOWLY KILLING YOU AND IT JUST TAKES 75-100 YEARS TO FULLY WORK.

*EVERY TIME YOU CLEAN SOMETHING, YOU JUST MAKE SOMETHING ELSE DIRTY.

*THE WORD 'SWIMS' UPSIDE-DOWN IS STILL 'SWIMS'.

*INTENTIONALLY LOSING A GAME OF ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS IS JUST AS HARD AS TRYING TO WIN.

*100 YEARS AGO EVERYONE OWNED A HORSE AND ONLY THE RICH HAD CARS. TODAY EVERYONE HAS CARS AND ONLY THE RICH OWN HORSES.

*YOUR FUTURE SELF IS WATCHING YOU RIGHT NOW THROUGH MEMORIES.

RESPECT OTHERS

It's ok to have an opinion. It's ok to disagree with someone's opinion. It's not ok to humiliate them because they don't think the same way you do. Show some respect.

Society needs more of that.

EXPLAINING CRICKET TO A FOREIGN VISITOR

You have two teams of eleven, one OUT in the field and one IN to bat. Each player that's in the team that's IN goes OUT and when he's OUT, he comes IN. Then the next player goes IN until he's OUT. When they are all OUT, the team that's OUT goes IN and the team that that has been IN, goes OUT and tries to get those that are coming IN, OUT. Sometimes you get players still IN and not OUT. When both teams have been IN and OUT, including the NOT OUTS, that's the end of the game.



A COUPLE OF QUOTES

'I still believe that people are really good at heart.....
If I look into the heavens, I think it will all come out right,
And that peace and tranquillity will return.'
Anne Frank

Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through him who loved us.
Desmond Tutu

Abbots Road News
YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH

1. Tom didn't want to put his money in the Offering on Sunday morning, so his mum decided to use some creative reasoning with him. 'You don't want that money, Tom,' she whispered in his ear. 'Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!'

Horrified, Tom obeyed.

After a few seconds Tom whispered, 'But, mum, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?'

'Oh no dear,' she replied. 'It's not dirty. It just 'taint yours' and it 'taint mine,' she replied. 'It's God's.'

2. Mrs Smartt was fumbling in her handbag for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered onto the floor.

The curious Elder bent over to pick it up for her and whispered, 'Do you always carry your TV remote to church!'

'No,' she replied, 'but my husband refused to come to church this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally.'

3. A devout old shepherd lost his favourite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, 'It's a miracle!'

'Not really,' said the sheep. 'Your name is written inside the cover.'

4. Words of wisdom: 'There's a fine line between a long, drawn-out sermon and a hostage situation.'

5. God was talking to one of his angels and said, 'Do you know what I've just done? I have just created a 24-hour long period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?'

The angel said, 'Yes, but what will you do now?'

God said, 'I think I'll call it a day.'

Continued

6. A frugal Minister walked into the house panting and almost completely exhausted. 'What happened, Geoff?' asked his wife. 'It's a great new idea, I have to be a better steward of our resources,' he gasped. 'I ran all the way home from the stewardship committee meeting behind the bus and saved £1.50.' 'That wasn't very bright,' replied his wife. 'Why didn't you run behind a taxi and save £10.00?'

7. Bent over and obviously in pain, an old man with a walking stick hobbled laboriously through the sanctuary and into the Minister's office while the choir was practicing. Ten minutes later he came out, walking upright and moving with grace and speed. 'Good gracious!' the choir director exclaimed. 'Did the Minister heal you by faith?' 'No,' said the man with a smile. 'He just gave me a walking stick that wasn't six inches too short!'

8. A Minister fell out with his church council over various church policies and procedures, including how the finances were handled. After bitter arguments and many nights of lost sleep, he decided to leave the congregation to take a job as a prison chaplain. He preached his last sermon at the church on John 14:1 - 'I go to prepare a place for you.'

9. In a moment of creative inspiration, the entrepreneur who owned the coin-op laundry beside the church commissioned this sign for his window: 'Where cleanliness really is next to Godliness!'

10. A little boy in church for the first time watched as the Elders passed around the offering plates. When it came near to his pew, the boy said loudly, 'Don't pay for me, daddy, I'm under five.'

A Celebration of



b: **Isaac Watts**

*J*oin us to mark the 350th
anniversary of Watts's birth



SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

AT MELTON MOWBRAY URC, LEICESTERSHIRE

2.00 FOR 2.30PM - 4.00PM

**Including an Act of Thanksgiving
and opportunities to hear and
sing your favourite Watts hymns-
with free refreshments afterward,
including
Melton Mowbray pork pies!**



With keynote speaker the Revd Dr Robert Pope



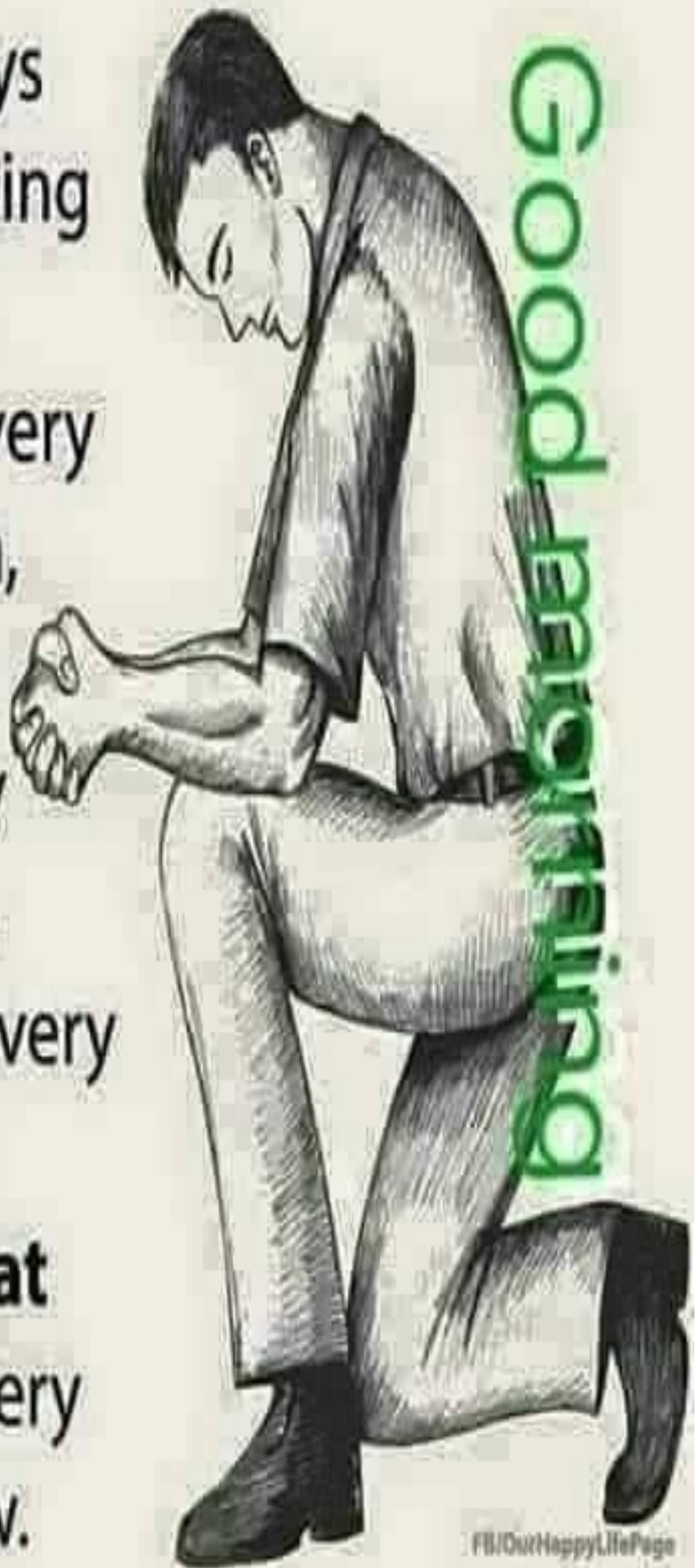
The
United
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God always
has something
for you:
A **key** for every
problem,
a **light**
for every
shadow,
a **relief** for every
sorrow
and a **great**
plan for every
tomorrow.



FB/OurHappyLifePage

Self-love reminders

@mindfulofdreams



you don't need to
please everyone



it's okay to be
a work in progress



you are strong
and valuable



your true colours
are beautiful



it's okay to
have bad days



talk to yourself
with kindness

Lectionary Readings

4 August

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a;

Psalm 51.1-12;

Ephesians 4.1-16;

John 6.24-35

11 August

2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33;

Psalm 130;

Ephesians 4.25-5.2;

John 6.35,45-51

18 August

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14;

Psalm 111;

Ephesians 5.15-20;

John 6.51-58

25 August

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11),22-30,41-43;

Psalm 84;

Ephesians 6.10-20;

John 6.56-69