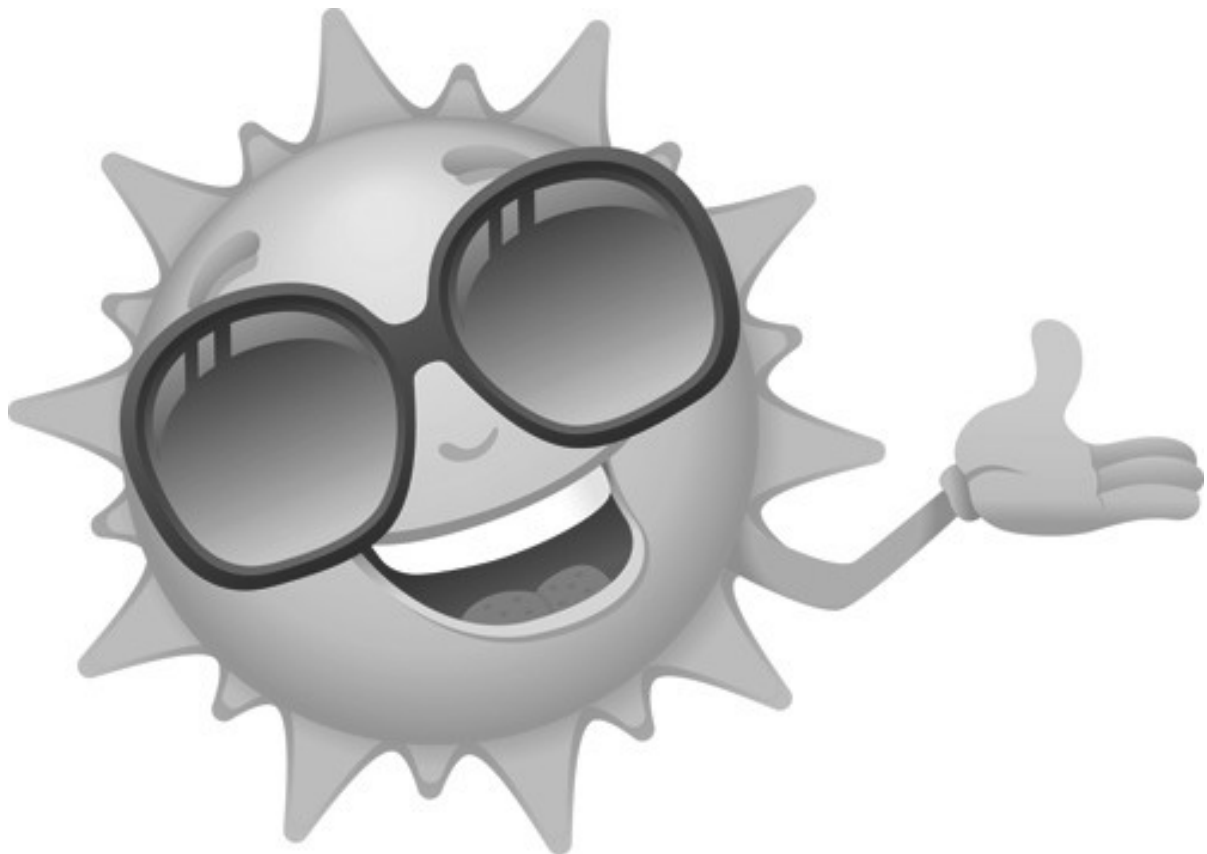


**South & East Leicestershire Area
United Reformed Churches**



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

<http://selaunc.org.uk>

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Treasurer

Martin's Message



Dear Friends

When deciding where to go on holiday, Charlotte and I like to explore places where we can immerse ourselves in the culture and history of the place we are visiting. One such place we both enjoyed during a cruise was the island of La Palma; one of the many islands in the Canaries. La Palma is the most north-westerly of the Canary Islands and like most was formed from a submarine volcanic activity. Very much prevalent during 2021 when the residents experienced the eruption 'Cumbre Vieja volcano', and most recently 'Mount Etna' in Italy that we've seen in the news. Charlotte and I had the opportunity to visit one of the volcanos called 'Volcán de San Antonio', thankfully not active.

However, for an island which is volcanic it was noticeably very fertile and green. This is fundamentally due to La Palma having a mild and consistent tropical semi-arid climate, which you soon become acclimatised to. Their local economy is primarily based on agriculture and as a community they are keen to retain their traditions and culture. This was very prevalent as the climate suggests many of the homes and fields had an abundance of banana farms '*Plátanos*' and vineyards. Now Charlotte and I never turn down the opportunity of participating in some wine tasting, and therefore visited a winery where the wine was very palatable and meant that a couple of bottles returned home with us! What was striking from the vineyards we saw was that the vines are not presented in a way that most conventional vines are grown. The vines on La Palma grow close to the ground and their roots extend deep down into the soft porous lava to the rich soil below.

The reason for growing the vines so close to the ground is because of the harsh winds that the island experiences that would damage the fruit if exposed. The meticulous way in which the gardeners care and nurture the fruit is very labour intensive as there is no modern machinery for harvesting. Many of the vineyards may be situated on the sides of volcanic mountain ranges and can be very treacherous, as you can see from the attached picture.

How the vines are grown made me think about our walk with Christ and the image portrayed in the gospel of John, where Jesus says;

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" John 15:5.

Whilst considering how the gardeners on La Palma tend for their vines using traditional methods and labouring year after year to produce good fruit, think about where your journey with Jesus is taking you? Are your roots deep within the rich soil that Jesus provides? Are you nurturing and caring for others in bearing new fruit? Does Jesus need to prune the vine to encourage new growth in you?

Jesus said; "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:7-8

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 Area Churches.

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST 25 MAGAZINE

Sunday 20 July 2025

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 July 2025

Oadby	6	Geoff Milnes
	13	David Coxhead
	20	Revd David Howlett - Communion
	27	Revd David Howlett
Saffron Lane	6	Julie Slatford
	13	Eileen Williams
	20	Shirley Eastman
	27	P Tiplady
South Wigston	6	David Miller - Café Style Service
	13	Di Statham
	20	Revd Richard Eastman
	27	Marion Bartholomew
Wigston Magna	6	Revd Martin Ferris
	13	Revd David Howlett
	20	Revd Jacquie Gavin - Communion
	27	Worship Group
Whetstone	6	Eileen Williams - Communion
	13	Kevin West
	20	Julie Slatford
	27	Revd Richard Eastman
Abbots Road	6	Revd Pam Smith
	13	Revd Martin Ferris
	20	Revd Pam Smith
	27	Revd Martin Ferris

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 (Not currently meeting)

Quiz Thursday 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 charity RNIB

Bible Bytes

Wednesday 2 July 2025

10.30 am

Saffron Lane URC

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion

No Need to be a " Bible Expert"

EVERYBODY welcome



South and East Leicestershire Area

PICNIC IN THE GARDEN

Sunday 10 August 2025

Whetstone URC

3.30 pm – 5.30 pm

Bring YOUR OWN Picnic and join us



Wigston Magna News

Community Cinema at Long Street - 2 June 2025

We held our bi-monthly cinema again in June. This time with a thought provoking film about the choosing of a new Pope and the story behind it. (Fictional of course but very topical at the moment).

There was a packed church again, people having been arriving in a steady stream as soon as the doors opened. Hot and cold drinks were available along with cakes and biscuits.

After the film there was the draw for the raffle, always connected in some way to the film. It was won this month by one of the ladies from Long Street. The raffle was followed by another welcome cup of tea or coffee (or even a cold fruit drink.) There was also more cakes and biscuits. There was also an opportunity to find out about the next film (which will be a cheerful comedy) and to exchange thoughts about the film we had seen.

After drinks and chatting it was time to say goodbye to each other and to make plans to meet up again in 2 months time at the next film. See you all in August folks.

Grace

July Birthdays

5th - Ian Coutts

17th - Yvonne Callis

25th - Terry Hewes

29th - Susan Markham

Happy Birthday

Community Cinema

PADDINGTON IN PERU

When Paddington discovers his beloved Aunt has gone missing from the home for retired bears he and the Brown family head to the jungles of Peru to find her. Determined to solve the mystery they soon stumble across a legendary treasure as they make their way through the rainforests of the Amazon.

Starring Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent and Imelda Staunton

Showing At

Long Street United Reformed Church

Monday 4 August 2025

Starting at 1.30 pm

Doors Open 12.45 pm for light refreshments

For More Information Contact

Julie 07544981674

RECIPE: JULY - Hazelnut & Honey Cake.

Heat oven to 180 C/ 350 F/ Gas 4.

Grease and line the base of a shallow 8 inch cake tin.

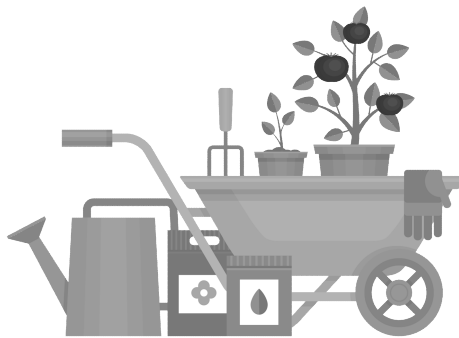
6 ozs whole hazelnuts
3 large eggs, lightly beaten
5 ozs self-raising flour
2 ozs caster sugar
2 ozs butter, softened
4 ozs clear honey

- 1 Scatter the nuts on a baking tray, put into a moderate oven for 10 minutes.
- 2 Allow to cool then rub the nuts between your hands to remove the brown skin.
- 3 In a bowl, blend together the eggs, flour and sugar.
- 4 Stir in the nuts, then the butter and honey.
- 5 Turn into the prepared tin.
- 6 Bake for 35 - 40 minutes in a moderate oven until golden brown.
- 7 Leave in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn out and cool on a wire rack.



GARDENING NOTES: JULY

- 1 Feed the lawn if you have not already done so.
- 2 Water plants, especially container plants, early in the morning.
- 3 Give container plants a weekly dose of fertilizer.
- 4 Remove dead flowers from perennials to encourage a second flowering.
- 5 Tie in new shoots of climbing plants.
- 6 Prune hedges.



DIARY: JULY

2nd - Bible Bytes - Saffron Lane U.R.C. 10.30am.

9th - Elders' Meeting 9.30am; Church Meeting 10.00am.

Thought for the month of July.
*Experience is something you don't get
until just after you need it.*

PRAYER LIST: JULY

Please pray for:

- 1 Peace, wherever there is war or conflict.
- 2 The work of Christian Aid.
- 3 All who are finding life difficult at the moment.
- 4 All those attending the URC General Assembly over the next few days.
- 5 All who need to use Food Banks, and those who volunteer to run them.
- 6 All those attending services in our South Leicestershire group of Churches today.
- 7 All who are struggling with debt.
- 8 All refugees, especially those who had to leave their homes to find a safe place to live.
- 9 Our Ministry Team, Martin and Eileen, and all those who preach in our churches.
- 10 All who are sick.
- 11 All who work for peace.
- 12 The homeless.
- 13 All who preach the Word of God in our churches today.
- 14 The work of LOROS and Rainbows.
- 15 All who serve on our local councils.
- 16 Scientists, that they use their knowledge for good.
- 17 Those caught up in addiction.
- 18 All who bring joy to people by singing in choirs, or playing in orchestras.
- 19 Those suffering from depression.
- 20 All who read the Word of God in our churches today.
- 21 The secretaries and treasurers in our group of churches.
- 22 All who are about to go on holiday that they remain safe, and return rested.
- 23 Those responsible for maintaining law and order in our society.
- 24 Young people anxiously awaiting exam results.
- 25 All who are waiting for operations and hospital appointments.
- 26 Those who are housebound and lonely.
- 27 Those who would love to be at church today, but are unable to go because of age or infirmity.
- 28 Those caring for sick loved ones at home.
- 29 Those who make their living at sea.
- 30 The Elders in our group of churches.
- 31 Give thanks for the beauty of God's world

Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for July - August 2025

	OT	NT	SER	COL	Preacher	
Jul 6 th	7	8	7	13	J Slatford	Communion
Jul 13 th	30	12	30	13	E Williams	Communion 10.30 Business meeting after Service
Jul 20 th	9	3	9	13	S Eastman	Communion
Jul 27 th	5	14	#	13	P Tiplady	Family Service
Aug 3 rd	36	6	3	13	L Gill	Communion
Aug 10 th	8	7	8	13	E Williams	Communion
Aug 17 th	12	30	12	13	G Milnes	Communion
Aug 24 th	3	9	#	13	M Feris	Family service
Aug 31 st	5	14	#	13	R Benham	5 th Sunday

3.Kath T	8. Brian S	12 Elizabeth R	36 Dec B
5.Sue B	9. Terri D	13.Darren C	# No server
6.Pat S	10.Malvolia B	14. Mackenzie B	
7.Angela S	11.Richard B	30 Sandra C	

Thank You

Saffron Lane URC would like to say a BIG thank you to Abbots Road URC for their donation of some Mission Praise hymn books

Birthdays in July

None

Saffron Lane News

Moon Walk in London

My two sisters and myself every now and again like to do something altogether, so this year we decided it might be fun to do the moon walk, which starts at Clapham common in London on May 17th.

For those of you that don't know about it, its where thousands of people, mostly woman and just a few men, walk around London at midnight wearing a decorated bra in aid of Breast Cancer. When you sign up for the event you decide whether you want to do the full marathon 26.2 miles or the half which is actually 15.1 miles. We all decided to choose the half marathon 15.1miles.

You are all asked to try and raise a minimum of £200 each for breast Cancer.

The theme for this year was Musical Theatre. My eldest sister Karen chose for her costume the Lion King, I decided to do Cabaret, and my youngest sister Michelle, chose the Oompa Lumpa's from Charlie and the Chocolate factory.

We were in the second wave to start so we set off at approx. 10.50pm. It was quite cold but we started power walking which meant you soon got warm. The atmosphere was brilliant, taxi drivers blasted on their horns, people clapped and cheered from their balconies all around the course. Unfortunately, at approx. 6 miles my youngest sister was ill so had to pull out but me and Karen picked up the pace and power walked on to the end, crossing the finishing line at about 04.28am.

Thanks to everyone from Saffron Lane URC who sponsored us. You will be pleased to know that we raised a grand total of £1,020 for Breast Cancer.

From Sue Bloxham

Saffron Lane News



Gareth

Elizabeths friend Gareth has been growing his hair for a long time, as his plan was to have it cut for Charity so he could donate the money to Cancer research for his hair to be turned into wigs for people who had lost their hair.



Wedding Day May 30th 2025

Just a few words to share our enjoyment of our Granddaughter Charlotte Aquilina's wedding to Dan Hardman. It took place in the grounds of Hothorpe Hall at the wedding venue called the Woodland. The place was magical, the wedding service, which was first class, was conducted in the rooms which were perfect. The service of the staff was brilliant, as was the food. There were games on the grounds for the younger children to run around, and we were so thankful that the weather was so good for us. We finished the evening with a disco where we all had been asked to pick the music. Darren was happy to dance the night away, but we were glad to get the taxi home as it had been a long day. But as we left the children were all happy to be still dancing.



Whetstone News

Thank You

Thank you to all who supported our Charity Coffee Morning on Saturday 24th May in aid of Air Ambulance.

As usual, it was a lovely morning of friendship and fellowship and raised an amazing £300 for the charity.

Special thanks to Jean West who worked so hard to keep the tea and coffee flowing and washed the pots along the way, which she also did for our VE Day celebrations. Many thanks!

Richard has now earned his "Cold Cob Provision" badge, providing much welcomed sustenance in Kevin's absence. Well done!

Pentecost Celebration

Kevin led a lovely service for Pentecost. Beginning the service in French, he also taught us how to conjugate the verb "to have", in German.

The white chocolate as a symbol of the Holy Spirit was also well received!

Songs of Praise !!

Our Songs of Praise service on 15th June was wonderful with people picking their favourite hymns and Shirley sharing a lovely story. Kevin also shared a poem but was it just another "excuse" to share more sweets? (Liquorice Allsorts this time!) The jury is still out!

Whetstone News

Future Events

Pam and Jon Brookes look forward to welcoming you to their home on Saturday June 28th from 10 till 12. With a raffle, tombola, cake stall and refreshments, their coffee morning is always a wonderful event and we thank them once again for their kind hospitality.

Please do come if you are able.

Looking forward to July, we have a Book and Jigsaw sale on Thursday 17 July from 10 until 12. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

Ploughman's Lunches (ham, salad, cheese, new potatoes, crusty bread and pickles) will also be available for just £5.

On Thursday 31st July, following our Community Coffee Morning, we will be serving a "Seaside Special" lunch. (Cone of chips, fish bites, mushy peas or curry sauce, followed by a cornetto style ice-cream - chocolate or strawberry) All welcome! Please add your name to the list or contact Shirley to ensure we cater for the right number of people!

We wish Gareth a very happy birthday, as he celebrates his 40th on 1st August.

The planning for more events, including celebrations for VJ Day and another "Music Hall Memories" evening are well underway!

Watch this space!

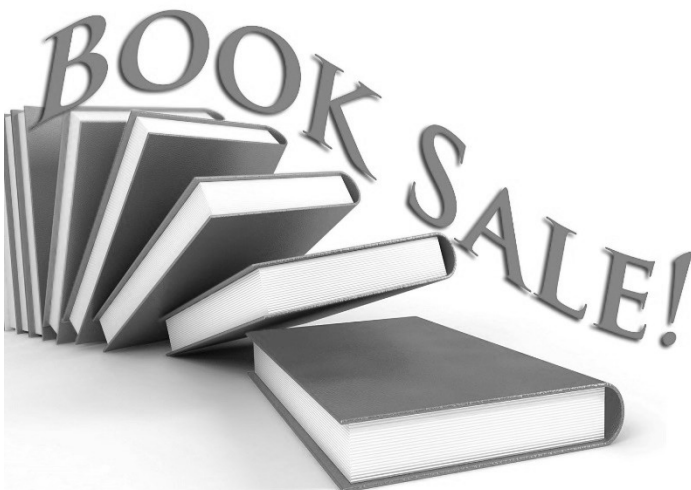
Thought for the Month

If "All the nice girls love a sailor", who do the other not so nice girls love?

Whetstone United Reformed Church.
LE8 6LP

Book and Jigsaw sale.
Thursday 17th July
10.00 -
12.00 Noon

**Light
refreshments**



Raffle
All Welcome

Whetstone United Reformed Church LE8 6LP

Community Coffee Morning with Seaside Lunch

**Thursday 31st July.
10.00 onwards.**

**Cone of Chips, Fish
Ice Cream
Donations
to Church**

Roof Fund

All welcome



Oadby United Reformed Church
Rosemead Drive, Oadby

Book in the Garden

**Saturday 5th July
at
2.30pm**



Come and join us for cakes, scones,
a good chat and a free book

INSIGHTFUL QUOTES

If it costs you your peace it's too expensive.

Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind.

I wept that I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet.

"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been." Mark Twain

"Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old." - Franz Kafka.

"The only true wisdom is knowing you know nothing." Socrates

"Change your thoughts and you change your world." Norman V. Peale

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says I'm possible!"

Audrey Hepburn

"Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it." Anon

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." Anon

"Be yourself, everyone else is already taken."

"You have to believe in yourself when no-one else does." Serena Williams

"Spread love wherever you go. Let no-one ever come without leaving happier."

Mother Teresa

"By being yourself, you put something wonderful in the world that was not there before." Edwin Elliot

"Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later."

Og Mandigo

"Don't let yesterday take up too much of today." Will Rogers

"Life is a long lesson in humility." James M. Barry

THOUGHTS ON GOD

"God loves all of us as if there were only one of us." - St. Augustine

"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much." - Mother Teresa

"There are two kinds of people:

Those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those

To whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way." - C.S. Lewis

"I believe in God like I believe in the sunrise; not because I can see it but because I can see all that it touches." - C.S. Lewis

"I have discovered that when the Almighty wants me to do or not to do a particular thing, he has a way of letting me know it." - Abraham Lincoln.

"God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say 'thank you'." - William A Ward.

"One and God makes a majority." - Frederick Douglass.



'GIVING' by Frank Topping

Unexpectedly, out of the blue, she said, "I've got a present for you."
It wasn't my Birthday, there was no special occasion, it was just a generous impulse.

"I saw it and thought you would like it."

And we looked at each other and laughed.

A moment of sheer delight - a realization of mutual affection that had matured

Through years of shared experience.

The gift itself didn't matter, but the giving said, 'I love you.'

And there has been so much giving and receiving over the years;

Not gifts you can buy - how can you buy laughter or tears, or patience, or caring, or loyalty or time?

They are without price.

Yet they have all been given - freely, rashly, wildly because love is extravagant,

Love takes risks, love is always giving and receiving.

Lord, you have said that the greatest of all commandments is to love God and love each other.

Your life was a revelation of the power of love,

The love that turns the other cheek,

The love that heals, restores,

The love that ultimately conquers even death itself.

In the days in which I am confused by tiredness, irritated by the mechanics of living, depressed by money or work,

Let me never forget that the reason for living

Lies in the giving

And receiving of love.



Please Pray For

The families who lost loved ones who died in the Indian plane crash.
That there be no more attacks from Israel on Iran. Pray for peace.

Peace between Gaza and Israel

Peace between Ukraine and Russia

For children and families who are starving because war is ravaging
their land and Aid can't get through.

For Aid Agencies working throughout the world

Refugees and Asylum seekers.

Those who are disabled and being unfairly treated

Those who are homeless

Those who have just begun their faith journey

Those who are having doubts and trying to cling onto their faith.

Those working for the NHS

Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one

For Brian, Dorothy, and all of their family

For Roy and family

For Anne and John

For Willow and her family

For Charlotte

For Kate

For our Ministry Team - Martin and Eileen

For our Elders who serve in each of the SELA churches

For the Mission of our SELA churches

For 'Talking Faith'



A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Dear one, I pray that you will be well;
That all which troubles you now will pass,
And you will be well.

Dear one,
I pray that many blessings come to you;
Even in this moment,
May you be blessed.

Dear one,
I pray that healing will find you
Through the blessings which surround you:
In the compassion of caregivers, in the skill of clinicians;
In the humour of friends, in the embrace of loved ones;
In the touch of a hand, in the strength of a prayer;
In the quiet of the night, in the warmth of the day;
And may God, who heals and creates and re-creates,
Bless you fully and richly

With love.

By Elaine Gisbourne
'Praying with the Iona Community.'



Abbots Road News

YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH

1. What do you call a magician who lost his magic? Ian.
2. I went to the doctor with a suspicious looking mole. He told me they all look that way and I should have left it in the garden.
3. I ordered a chicken and egg from Amazon. I'll let you know which comes first.
4. Why would a pig dressed in black never get bullied?
Because Batman has sworn to protect Goth - ham.
5. Why is a swordfish's nose 11 inches long?
Because if it was 12 inches it would be a foot.
6. What do you call a line of men waiting to get a haircut?
A barbercue
7. Why do so many people unwittingly drown in Egypt?
Because they are in De Nile.
8. I was going to tell a time-travelling joke, but you didn't like it.
9. I bought a belt of watches - it's a waist of time!
10. I'm writing a book on reverse psychology - don't buy it.
11. Why don't oysters donate to charity?
Because they are shellfish.
12. What would bears be without bees?
Ears

Abbots Road News

Cont.....

13. Why do seagulls fly over the sea?

If they flew over the bay they would be Bagels.

14. Why did the sun skip going to college?

It already had a million degrees.

15. I'm reading a book on teleportation - it's bound to take me places.

16. I used to be a banker but I lost interest.

17. What do you call a cow missing a leg?

Lean beef.

18. What do dentists call their x-rays?

Tooth pics.

19. Why did the bee go to the doctor?

Because it had hives.

20. What comes once in a minute, twice in moment, but never in a thousand years?

The letter 'M'

21. Why don't skeletons fight each other?

They don't have the guts.



Ten Commandments for Marriage

1. Thou shalt not take thy partner for granted
2. Thou shalt not expect perfection of each other
3. Thou shalt be patient, loving, understanding, kind & true
4. Thou shalt tend the garden of love daily
5. Thou shalt take great care that thy partners trust shall never be violated or diminished in anyway
6. Thou shalt not forget thy wedding vows, remembering especially those important words "FOR BETTER OR WORSE"
7. Thou shalt not hide thy true feelings. Mutual love provides a bright sunlit room where things of the heart can be discussed freely and without fear.
8. Thou shalt always respect each other as individuals. Degrading words and a sharp tongue cause grave distortions. Endearing terms ennoble, lift up and engender peace.
9. Thou shalt give the marriage room to grow. Both partners should be willing to face the future together with confidence and trust. Today is a better day for them than yesterday, and tomorrow will find them closer still.
10. Thou shalt through all the days reverence God thy creator, never forgetting that it is he who made you one.

(from A Bucket of Surprises - Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe)

Lectionary Readings

6 July

Isaiah 66 v 10 - 14

Psalms 66 v 1 - 9

Galatians 6 v (1 - 6) 7 - 16

Luke 10 v 1 - 11, 16 - 20

13 July

Deuteronomy 30 v 9 - 14

Psalms 25 v 1 - 10

Colossians 1 v 1 - 14

Luke 10 v 25 - 37

20 July

Genesis 18 v 1 - 10a

Psalms 15

Colossians 1 v 15 - 28

Luke 10 v 38 - 42

27 July

Genesis 18 v 20 - 32

Psalms 138

Colossians 2 v 6 - 15, (16 - 19)

Luke 11 v 1 - 13