

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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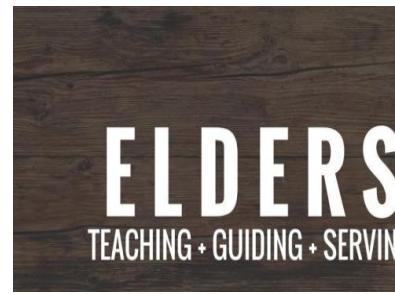
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Eric Hanson

Treasurer

Martin's Message

Dear Friends



As I reflect on the current state of our political system, I confess to feeling increasingly anxious and disillusioned. The conduct of some leaders, played out even in the high courts, reveals deep disunity in the corridors of power. True leadership, whether in society or the church, should embody unity, enthusiasm, and effectiveness. It should demonstrate genuine care for the community it serves, while also sharing a vision that inspires growth and hope.

The apostle Peter understood this well. Though called and commissioned to a position of leadership among the twelve disciples, he did not describe himself as a “leader” but rather as a “shepherd.” He writes:

*“To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them, not because **you must**, but because **you are willing**, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” 1 Peter 5:1–3*

As many of our churches begin considering nominations for new elders, I felt it timely to centre this month’s pastoral letter on the significance of this role in the life of the church. Eldership is not merely a position; it is a ministry to which one is called by God. Sometimes others may recognise these qualities in you before you recognise them yourself. At other times, it may be something you sense personally. Whatever the case, the decision must always be grounded in prayerful discernment, whether for the present or a future stage of your journey with Christ.

At its heart, eldership is about having a servant spirit. It is about seeking God's wisdom through prayer and Scripture, and offering your time, gifts, and faith with dedication. Serving as an elder involves both challenges and opportunities, yet it is also a powerful witness of your willingness to respond to God's call.

Elders in the URC are ordained for life, reflecting their vital role in the shared ministry of the church. Together with ministers of Word and Sacrament, elders help to guide and nurture the local congregation. Ordination recognizes the spiritual weight of this calling, a calling that requires not only faith but also commitment. To embrace this ministry is to consider what God may be asking you to offer or to relinquish, in order to serve faithfully. The URC's Basis of Union sets out these responsibilities clearly.

Paul reminds us of the diverse gifts God bestows upon the church:

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly." Romans 12:6–8

The URC has produced a helpful leaflet entitled Called to be an Elder: Is this for you? If you would like a copy, please speak to me.

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 NOVEMBER 25 MAGAZINE

Sunday 19 October 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 October 2025

Oadby	5	Revd Martin Ferris	Communion
	12	Shirley Eastman	
	19	Revd Jacquie Gavin	Communion
	26	Ray Green	
Saffron Lane	5	Eileen Williams	
	12	Revd Les Gill	
	19	Geoff Milnes	
	26	P Tiplady	
South Wigston	5	Richard Eastman	Café Style Service
	12	Eileen Williams	
	19	Marion Bartholomew	
	26	Revd Les Gill	
Wigston Magna	5	Julie Slatford	
	12	Richard Eastman	
	19	Worship Group	Communion
	26	David Todd	
Whetstone	5	Shirley Eastman	
	12	Revd Pam Smith	
	19	Howard Smith	
	26	Julie Slatford	
Abbots Road	5	Revd Pam Smith - Communion	
	12	Revd Martin Ferris	
	19	Revd Les Gill	
	26	The 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 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 1 October 2025

10.30 am

Saffron Lane URC

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion

No Need to be a " Bible Expert"

EVERYBODY welcome



Birthdays in October

20th - Elaine Wiggins

30th - Les Gill



Wigston Magna URC
Coffee Morning
Every Saturday

10.00 am to 12.00 pm

Please Come and Join Us

Community Cinema

THE PENGUIN LESSONS

During the 1976 coup in Argentina, an English teacher rescues a penguin and brings it to his school. His life begins to change when the bird's presence starts to have a positive effect on the school.

Starring Steve Coogan, Jonathan Price, Micaela Breque,
Vivian El Jaber

Showing At

Long Street United Reformed Church

Monday 6 October 2025

Starting at 1.30 pm

Doors Open 12.45 pm for light refreshments

For More Information Contact

Julie 07544981674

RECIPE – OCTOBER: Peanut & Raisin Bars (Makes 30)

6 oz butter
2 oz demerara sugar
4 oz clear honey
4 oz mixed peanuts & raisins, coarsely chopped
8 oz rolled oats

Pre-heat oven to 200C/ 400F/ Gas 6.

Butter a 13" by 9" Swiss Roll tin.

- 1 Put butter, sugar and honey into a large saucepan; stir over a low heat until melted, and sugar is dissolved.
- 2 Stir in peanuts, raisins and oats.
- 3 Spread mixture evenly into prepared tin.
- 4 Bake in the oven for 20 minutes until golden brown.
- 5 Mark into bars, cutting evenly into 3 lengthwise, 10 width wise.
- 6 Leave in the tin until completely cold.
- 7 To remove from baking tin, re-cut through marked lines and remove bar with a small flexible palette knife.



GARDENING NOTES - OCTOBER:

- 1 Protect guttering from being choked with fallen leaves.
- 2 Put a net over the pond to catch Autumn leaves.
- 3 Give lawn a final good cut, including the edges.
- 4 Prune fruit trees.
- 5 Rake up fallen leaves and put on compost heap.
- 6 Perennials (e.g. asters, chrysanthemums, delphiniums) that have started to die back, should be cut down to 2 - 3 inches above ground level.



DIARY - October

- 1st Bible Bytes - Saffron Lane URC 10.30am. All welcome.
- 8th Elders' meeting 10.00am; Church meeting 10.30am.
- 9th Churches Together in South Wigston - meeting 2.00pm at South Wigston Congregational Church.
- 11th Churches Together in South Wigston - Quiz Night - 7.00pm at South Wigston Methodist Church.
- 27th World Day of Prayer meeting - 3.00pm at South Wigston Methodist Church.

Thought for the Month Ahead.

*By the time you make ends meet,
you find they've moved the ends.*

PRAYER LIST - OCTOBER.

Please pray for:

- 1 Those living in war-torn countries, that they may not lose hope.
- 2 Those escaping war, who are now having to find a new life elsewhere.
- 3 Students, especially those living away from home for the first time.
- 4 All those in our churches suffering from ill-health.
- 5 All those in our group of churches attending their Church Service today.
- 6 Nurses, doctors, and all who work in hospitals.
- 7 The homeless.
- 8 The Elders, who work so hard for our churches.
- 9 Those who are ill and who are being cared for at home by a loved one.
- 10 All who work with children.
- 11 All who earn their living at sea.
- 12 All who preach the Word of God in our churches today.
- 13 Those unable to find work.
- 14 All who work in medical research for the good of humanity.
- 15 People who are unhappy and angry with life.
- 16 All who suffer discrimination because of their race, colour, sex or views.
- 17 Those who work with animals.
- 18 Those caring for sick loved ones at home.
- 19 Anyone today who is attending Church for the first time.
- 20 All who are depressed and lonely.
- 21 All who give their time to work for charities.
- 22 Those mourning the loss of a loved one.
- 23 All who care for the elderly.
- 24 All those worried about the approaching Winter.
- 25 As we put back the clocks, think of those waking on the other side of the world.
- 26 Those leading worship in our churches today.
- 27 Those living with terminal illness.
- 28 Those whose gift is counselling.
- 29 Those who have other people's lives in their hands.
- 30 Christians all over the world, especially those persecuted for their faith.
- 31 Give thanks for the beauty of Autumn.



Saturday 15 November 2025

7.00 pm

South Wigston United Reformed Church

Multi Faith Centre

North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College

Cost £5 person

Including Buffet

Please bring YOUR OWN drinks

To Book a place contact di.statham@btinternet.com

By 7 November 2025

tearfund.org/quiz

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom

☎ +44 (0)20 3906 3906 ✉ info@tearfund.org 📱 /Tearfund

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tearfund

LOROS

Hospice Care for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

*Being there for you
and your family*

AFTERNOON TEA

On

Saturday 18th October 2025

From 12 noon to 4.00 pm

At

Saffron Lane United Reformed Church
2, Glenhills Boulevard Leicester

Tombola	Cake Sale
Books	Cards

£15 per head

MUST be booked and paid for by 1st October

Contact by WhatsApp message only on 07952 542338

All proceeds in aid of LOROS

Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for Oct- Nov 2025

	OT	NT	SER	COL	Preacher	
Oct 5 th	5	14	5	13	E Williams	Communion
Oct 12 th	36	6	3	13	L Gill	Communion
Oct 19 th	8	7	8	13	G Milnes	Communion
Oct 26 th	10	11	#	13	P Tiplady	Family Service
Nov 2 nd	12	30	12	13	M Ferris	Communion
Nov 9 th	3	9	3	13	R Green	Communion Remembrance Sunday
Nov16 th	5	14	5	13	E Williams	Communion 10.30 Business meeting
Nov23 rd	6	36	#	13	R Benham	Family Service
Nov 30 th	7	8	#	13	J North	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	

Birthdays

Oct

None

Nov

30th Darren Clay

Saffron Lane News

Diamond Wedding Anniversary - From Sandra and Pete

A big thank you to all our friends who sent us some wonderful cards for our Diamond Wedding. In total we received 56 cards. Some of the cards had wonderful embroidery which must have taken a long time to do. Thank you so much

Ride and Stride

Six of the Church members took it in turns to sit at the Church for Ride and Stride from 10am -4.00 pm on Saturday 13 September. But we were very disappointed that for all the hours sitting in the Church we only had one person visit us. She was from our Oadby Church and she was walking round.

We talked as a group at coffee time on Sunday and we are thinking of not opening next year as this is no longer worthwhile for us.

Future Events

Charity Coffee Morning October 4th opening 10-12

Our October Charity Coffee Morning will be raising money for Save the Children.

Please come and have a catch up with us

Mary's Afternoon Tea - Saturday 18th October

12 - 4.00 pm

We will be holding a coffee and cake afternoon on 18th October with a set afternoon tea. The cost is £15 and you **NEED TO BOOK IN ADVANCE**. All proceeds for LOROS.

(Details on poster elsewhere in this magazine)

Whetstone News

Things We Have Been Doing

We had a wonderful time on Wednesday 20th August at our Music Hall Memories evening. It was once again a very enjoyable and successful evening, with music, monologues and poetry, followed by tea, coffee and cheese and biscuits. Everyone who joined us thoroughly enjoyed the evening and generously donated £195 towards general Church Funds.

On Thursday 28th August, Jean, Jan and Kevin attended the Synod Meeting to review the South East Leicestershire Resource Area Churches. In their absence, Carl and Jean West took charge of the Coffee Morning, for which we are extremely grateful. Others including Yvonne and Sylvia also assisted. Your efforts were much appreciated!

We are blessed that our Community Coffee Morning is able to welcome, and be supported in many ways, by so many people. Thank you!

Thank You !

Thanks to Richard Eastman for making several journeys to collect our new chairs, for removing the metal connectors to make them safer and for repairing the damaged ones. We are very grateful.

Whetstone News

A Special Thank You

Jean and Bernard would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers and gifts in celebration of their 70th Wedding Anniversary. They had lots of visitors throughout the day which they really appreciated. They particularly want to thank Kevin who organised a buffet lunch for them on Thursday 11th September. He made the food, including a large trifle and a delicious fruit cake. Thank you so much, Kevin.





Congratulations Jean & Bernard

Whetstone News

More Thank You's

Kevin would like to thank the church family for the cards and good wishes for his birthday, which he celebrated on the day of Jean and Bernard's lunch.

A big thank you to all who supported our Charity Coffee Morning on Saturday 13th September. An incredible £227.17 was raised for Alzheimer's UK.

Thanks also to David and Janet, Richard and Shirley and Jean and Carl for keeping the Church open until 4pm, for "Ride and Stride".

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest on 4th and 5th October.

On Saturday we will be holding a Coffee Morning from 10am til 12noon, during which, we will be decorating the church for the Harvest Festival. Any donations of Harvest produce will be gratefully received.

On Sunday, Shirley will lead our Harvest Festival which will be followed by a Bring-and-Share lunch and the sale of the Harvest produce, with the proceeds being donated to charity.



Birthday Gifts ???

One sunny afternoon, Dolly and Ruby, two lifelong friends, sat in a cosy café, sipping their tea and doing what they loved most—talking about their grandchildren.

Dolly let out a weary sigh, shaking her head. "Every year, I send each of my grandkids a birthday card with a generous cheque inside. And you know what? I never hear a word from them. No calls, no texts, not even a simple thank-you note. It's like I don't exist."

Ruby, her eyes twinkling with mischief, took a slow sip of her tea and nodded knowingly. "Oh, I know exactly what you mean. I send my grandchildren cheques too, every single year." Dolly looked up, surprised. "Really? And do they at least acknowledge yours?"

"Of course!" Ruby said with a sly grin. "Within a week, I get phone calls, messages, even surprise visits. They show up at my door, all smiles and politeness."

Dolly leaned in, intrigued. "What's your secret? How do you get them to actually respond?"

Ruby set down her cup and chuckled softly. Then, with a mischievous glint in her eye, she whispered, "Simple. I just don't sign the cheque."

Whetstone United Reformed Church LE8 6LP

Saturday 4th October

Harvest Coffee Morning

10.00 – 12.00

**Church open for the receiving
of Harvest Gifts.**

Sunday 5th October

Harvest Festival 10.00 A.M.

**Sale of Harvest Produce for
charity**

Bring and Share Lunch



Oadby United Reformed Church
Rosemead Drive LE2 5ST

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 25th October 2025

**PLEASE NOTE THIS
EVENT HAS BEEN
CANCELLED**

Oadby Eleven O'clock Group

Meetings In October

Thursday 2 October

Talk - Leicester Cathedral

By Peter Chivers

Thursday 16 October

Talk - Community of Grace

By Revd David Howlett

**Why Not Come Along and
Join Us**

Everybody Welcome

Abbots Road News

Thoughts on faith.

God is still writing your story. Stop trying to steal the pen.

Trust the Author.

(By Unknown)

Overthinking will kill your peace. Pray and leave it to God, for he cares about you.

(1 Peter 5:7)

"The church is a hospital for sinners; not a museum for saints."

(Tim Keller)

Pray, then let it go. Don't try and manipulate or force the outcome. Just trust God to open the right doors at the right time.

(Life learned feelings)

"Don't bother to give God instructions, just report for duty."

(Corrie Ten Boom)

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

(Colossians 3:12)

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Courage to Hope

Hope has two beautiful daughters.
Their names are Anger and Courage:
Anger at the way things are,
and Courage to see that they do not
remain the way they are.

Attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo, from Growing Hope.

Wherever we Travel

Wherever we travel
GOD IS ON OUR TRACK
Wherever we settle
GOD IS IN OUR MIDST
Whatever is ahead of us
GOD WILL BE THERE BEFORE US
God's angels are among us
TO KEEP US IN ALL OUR WAYS.

Ruth Burgess

A sign of God

Come, Holy Spirit,
make us a sign of God
in the darkness and poverty
in our world,
where hope is frail
and daily life a struggle to survive.

Yvonne Morland, from Holy Ground

In Shop Doorways and on Street Corners

In listening to those who are homeless,
whose tough reality we hope never to know,
and seeing them first as people, as neighbours,
as fellow citizens,
let us find the strength and the courage,
the wisdom and the understanding,
to listen to your call, to live as we are
called to live,
to love as we would want to be loved
to share what we can,
to live justly and compassionately,
whatever the cost.

Ewan Aitken, from In Shop Doorways and On Street Corners.

Follow, Follow

Never once, did he say,
'Worship me I am the One.'
Adoration was not sought
or ever needed by the Son.

All he wanted was the heart,
No chant or hollow plea.
The gift he asked?'Release your grasp.
Relax, and follow me.



Please pray for:

An end to the bombing of Gaza and the end of death, injuries and lack of food

which especially hits the children hard.

An end to the war in Ukraine and the suffering the people are going through.

An end to the racism we are now seeing on our streets, an end to the painting and flying of St. George flags.

For refugees and asylum seekers

An end to shootings in America and all who have been victims of these crimes and for their families.

For the family of the 1-year-old boy murdered in Berkshire

For those who are homeless especially as Autumn and winter approach.

For those who are disabled and worried about how they will cope when their benefits are cut.

For families whose sons or daughters are going off to Uni or College.

For all who are suffering through illness, whether physical or mental, and for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

For Brian as his frailty continues and for Dorothy as she copes with caring for Brian and the other pressures she has to deal with.

For Anne and John

For Hazel

For Roy and family.

June and Andrew

For David and Joyce

For Jeanette and Jordan, for David undergoing more tests

For all those who are enthusiastic about growing their faith.

For the churches of SELA to work more closely together

For our Mission and for our Ministerial team - Martin and Eileen.

YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH

Welcome to the hug appreciation hotline. Thank you for holding.

£900 ???!!!!.....I'll tell you what, that bloke at the telescope shop saw me coming a mile off.

Prevent chocolate digestives from going stale after opening by eating the whole lot!

My sister works for the gas board, do you wanna meter?

I cooked a Sunday roast for Lionel Richie today. He asked once, twice, three times for gravy.

My mate stopped being silly for a while, but now he's made a fool recovery.

I went on an 1830 holiday, it was a bit rubbish, I had to work in a mill 20 hours a day for sixpence, and caught scurvy.

I no longer see my wife and kids, and it's all down to gambling. I won the lottery and moved to Barbados.

The trouble with getting to work on time is that it makes the day so long.

Just finished a book about a bloke trying to stay afloat after falling in a river. Gripping read.

My hallucinating isn't getting any better, in fact I thought I saw a sausage fly past my window, but it was actually a sea bird. I think I've taken a Tern for the wurst.

I'm really tired today. I was up all night jumping over lamps and lanterns. To be honest I've always been a bit of lights leaper.

Feeling rough this morning. My fault for wearing a sandpaper suit.

ANSWERS TO RHYMING QUIZ (In September Magazine)

1. Pussy run over by a steam roller - FLAT CAT
2. Big canal boat - LARGE BARGE
3. Domestic rodent - HOUSE MOUSE
4. Fat fish - STOUT TROUT
5. Central orchestral player - MIDDLE FIDDLE
6. This beer isn't dark - PALE ALE
7. Plenty to sample - AMPLE SAMPLE
8. Not the sweetest bloom - SOUR FLOWER
9. Huge petrified remains - COLOSSAL FOSSIL
10. Large boar - BIG PIG
11. Comic with long ears - FUNNY BUNNY
12. A very correct policeman - PROPER COPPER
13. A wet umbrella - DAMP GAMP
14. An unruly infant - WILD CHILD
15. Well fed bovine - FULL BULL
16. Receptacle for old clothes - RAG BAG
17. A cleverer scrooge - WISER MISER
18. Dog who understands law - LEGAL BEAGLE
19. Speedy young fowl - QUICK CHICK
20. Thin young horse - BONY PONY
21. Gateau for display only - FAKE CAKE
22. Strong walking aid - THICK STICK
23. Idle blossom - LAZY DAISY
24. Controllable lady - TAME DAME
25. High barrier - TALL WALL
26. Disobedient lump of rock - REBEL PEBBLE
27. An actual repast - REAL MEAL
28. The gala is postponed - LATE FETE
29. A fragile appendage - FRAIL NAIL
30. A magnificent company - GRAND BAND

Lectionary Readings

Sunday 5 October

Habakkuk 1 v 1 - 4 & 2 v 1 - 4

Psalm 37 v 1 - 9

2 Timothy 1 v 1 - 14

Luke 17 v 5 - 10

Sunday 12 October

2 Kings 5 v 1 - 3 & 7 - 15b

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2 v 8 - 15

Luke 17 v 11 - 19

Sunday 19 October

Genesis 32 v 22 - 31

Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3 v14 - 4 v 5

Luke 18 v 1 - 8

Sunday 26 October

Jeremiah 14 v 7 - 10 & 19 - 22 or Sirach 35 v 12 - 17

Psalm 84 v 1 - 7

2 Timothy 4 v 6 - 8 & 16 - 18

Luke 18 v 9 - 14