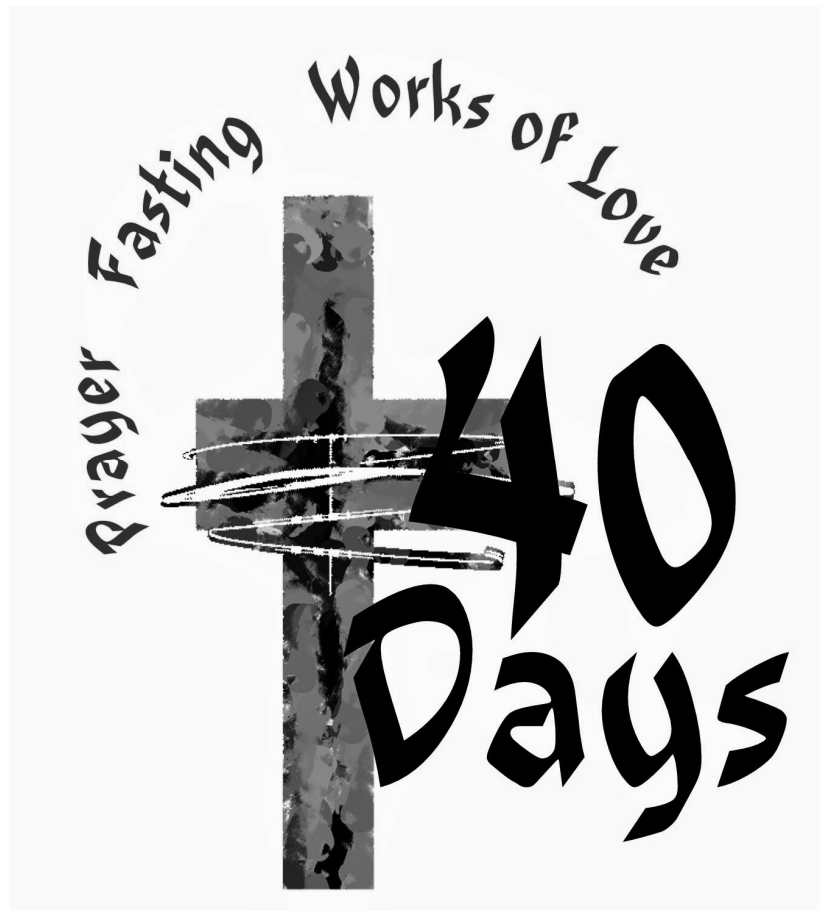


The
United
Reformed
Church

FEBRUARY 2026

South & East Leicestershire Area United Reformed Churches



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

<http://selaunc.org.uk>

Contact us:**Revd Martin Ferris****0116 2419357**

Area Minister

Mrs Eileen Williams**0116 2478929**

Local Church Leader

South Wigston

Di Statham

Secretary

0116 2962847

di.statham@btinternet.com

Noel Oldershaw

Treasurer

0116 2813398

Marion Bartholomew

Magazine

0116 2717755

Wigston Magna

Eileen Williams

Secretary

0116 2478929

Ray Green

Treasurer

0116 2887774

Ray Green

Room Lettings

0116 2887774 /

07518 214144

Church Office answerphone

0116 2882666

Saffron Lane

Sandra Clay

Secretary/Finance/Magazine

0116 2835375

Elizabeth Richardson

Treasurer

0116 2993176

Oadby

Pauline Hudson

Secretary

0116 2712913

Tonyhudson727@btinternet.com

Tony Hudson

Treasurer

0116 2712913

Whetstone

Shirley Eastman

Secretary

0116 3484121

Glenis Chapman

Treasurer

Jean Warner

Room Lettings

0116 2752405

Kevin West

Magazine

0116 2779402

Abbots Road

Paul Hadley

Secretary

07948 802031

Charlotte Ferris

Treasurer

Challenge is a word that seems to be in vogue at the moment. Let's face it - all of life is a challenge and we are all challenged, every day, either in small or large ways. Some challenges can be life-threatening; others can be exhilarating. Have you even been challenged to do something outside of your comfort zone? Have you tried a new hobby, read a different genre of novel, been challenged to try an unfamiliar foodstuff? I have recently tried 'curling', not on ice but with 'stones' that have wheels on a flat floor. It is hilarious and it did us all good to have an afternoon laughing together.

Some challenges can be daunting and something that we tend to put off for another day. Have you been asked to read the Bible in church when you haven't done it before? Or been asked to be a figurehead for an association? Have you felt that God is calling you to do something that you think you won't be good at or that you really can't see yourself going down that path in life? If you have answered 'Yes' to any of those questions, then you have been challenged and have risen to the occasion.

February this year sees the beginning of our period of Lent - 6 weeks leading up to Easter Day - a time that we can use in deepening our faith, perhaps using a local Alpha course or words of inspiration on the Internet. Whatever you do, it will hopefully make you think and perhaps challenge you into a deeper relationship with God. Don't forget our monthly Bible Bytes at Saffron Lane URC, which is always a good place for discussion and insight into what the Bible, and God, is saying to us.

I hope that you will use our time of Lent wisely and when Easter Day arrives be prepared for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you

Eileen

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 MARCH 26 MAGAZINE

Sunday 15 February 2026

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 February 2026

Oadby	1	Revd Les Gill - Communion
	8	Revd Martin Ferris
	15	Revd David Howlett - Communion
	22	David Coxhead
Saffron Lane	1	Revd Martin Ferris - Communion
	8	Revd Pam Smith - Communion
	15	Julie Slatford
	22	Rob Waterton
South Wigston	1	Café Style Service - led by David Todd
	8	Eileen Williams
	15	Shirley Eastman
	22	Revd Les Gill
Wigston Magna	1	Revd David Howlett
	8	Ray Green
	15	Worship Group - Communion
	22	Revd Pam Smith
Whetstone	1	Revd Richard Eastman - Communion
	8	Revd Les Gill
	15	Revd Martin Ferris
	22	Revd Richard Eastman
Abbots Road	1	Eileen Williams - Communion
	8	The Elders
	15	Revd Pam Smith
	22	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

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 4 February 2026

10.30 am

Saffron Lane URC

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion

No Need to be a " Bible Expert"

EVERYBODY welcome



Birthdays for February

- 6th - Adam Powell (17)
- 18th - Sandra Dunkerley
- 25th - Angie Tebbutt
- 28th - Jennie Townsend



Jesus - They Missed Him

They were looking for a lion. He came as a Lamb, and they missed Him.

They were looking for a warrior. He came as a Peacemaker, and they missed Him.

They were looking for a King, He came as a servant, and they missed Him

They were looking for liberation from Rome. He submitted to the Roman stake, and they missed Him.

They were looking for a fit to their mould. He was the mould breaker, and they missed Him.

WILL YOU ??

(From A Bucket of Surprises J John & Mark Stibbe)

Community Cinema

Monday 2 February 2026

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris

Doors Open 1.30 pm

Film Starts - 2.00 pm

Free Tea and Coffee
plus

Movie Snacks £1 per item

Entry FREE – (Donations Welcome)

FEBRUARY - RECIPE:

Date & Walnut Loaf

Cooking Time: 1 Hour: 190 C; 375 F; Gas Mark 5.

8 ozs self-raising flour
1 teaspoon of baking powder
2 ozs soft margarine
1 tablespoon of golden syrup
2 ozs dates, chopped
2 ozs walnuts, chopped
7 tablespoons of milk

- 1) Well grease a 1lb loaf tin.
- 2) Sieve the flour and baking powder into a bowl.
- 3) Add the remaining ingredients and beat well for 1 minute.
- 4) Turn into the prepared tin and level off.
- 5) Bake in a moderately hot oven for about 1 hour, or until well risen and a skewer inserted into the centre of the loaf comes out clean.
- 6) Leave in the tin for 2 - 3 minutes, then turn out and cool on a wire rack.
- 7) Serve sliced, and spread with butter.



GARDENING NOTES:

- 1 Ventilate the greenhouse or conservatory on mild days to prevent fungal problems.
- 2 Buy potato tubers for early crops, and sprout them in a light frost-proof room or shed.
- 3 Prune Autumn-fruiting raspberry canes.
- 4 Loosen, but do not remove, heavy layers of fallen leaves over early-flowering plants, so that new shoots can push their way through more easily.
- 5 Plant pansies and other biennials in sheltered places in open soil during good weather.
- 6 Cover any beds to be used for early sowings with black mulch sheeting, to warm up the soil and prevent weeds.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

19th: Di Statham - Happy Birthday Di!

DIARY FEBRUARY:

- 4th - Bible Bytes; Saffron Lane URC at 10.30am. All welcome.
- 11th - Elders' Meeting 10.30am.
- 25th - Drop-in: 10.00am coffee; 10.30am Favourite Hymns.
- 26th - Choir practice for World Day of Prayer: 2.00pm at South Wigston Congregational Church.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A goal is not always meant to be reached,
it often serves simply as something to aim at.

Bruce Lee

PRAYER LIST - FEBRUARY: Please pray for:

- 1 All those attending our churches on this 1st Sunday of the month.
- 2 All those living in war-torn countries.
- 3 Those world leaders who are striving for peace.
- 4 For all who are uncertain of their future - especially the young.
- 5 Those who are homeless - and those who try to give them help and hope.
- 6 All who work in our hospitals
- 7 Those who are lonely.
- 8 On Racial Justice Sunday, pray for all those suffering because of their creed, colour, race or beliefs.
- 9 All who are unemployed.
- 10 The staff and residents of our local Care Homes.
- 11 All who are suffering from a terminal illness.
- 12 The bereaved.
- 13 Those who are suffering from depression.
- 14 On St Valentine's Day, pray for those we love.
- 15 All those preaching the Word of God in our churches today.
- 16 Give thanks for the blessings in our lives.
- 17 Those of our membership who find it difficult to get out.
- 18 On Ash Wednesday, resolve to use Lent as a time of spiritual preparation for Easter.
- 19 All who work for our emergency services.
- 20 All who are sick.
- 21 Those who work to protect our environment.
- 22 On this first Sunday in Lent, let us turn our thoughts and prayers to Jesus as He faced His time of Trial.
- 23 All who queue at Food Banks.
- 24 Those who have to drive for a living - whatever the weather.
- 25 Give thanks for the writers whose hymns give us such comfort and inspiration.
- 26 Our Government and politicians, that they may be guided to make The right decisions.
- 27 Give thanks for family and friends.
- 28 Pray for peace in the world.

South Wigston URC

Multi Faith Centre

North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College

DROP IN

Wednesday 25 February 2026

10.00 to 11.30

"My Favourite Hymns"

Come along and have a Sing

Everybody Welcome

Tea / Coffee and Biscuits Available

Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for Feb- Mar 2026

	OT	NT	SER	COL	Preacher	
Feb 1 st	36	6	3	13	M Ferris	Communion
Feb 8th	7	8	7	13	P Smith	Communion
Feb 15 th	30	12	30	13	J Slatford	Communion
Feb 22 nd	9	3	#	13	R Waterton	Family Service
Mar 1 st	5	14	5	13	E Williams	Communion 10.30 start Business Mtg
Mar 8 th	6	36	6	13	S Eastman	Communion
Mar 15 th	8	7	8	13	M Ferris	Communion
Mar 22 nd	11	10	#	13	I Smith	Family Service
Mar 29 th	12	30	#	13	D Howlett	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 February

None

Birthdays March

19th Angela Slatter

19th Samuel Muiruri

Saffron Lane News

December Events

Carol Service December 14th

We had a very nice Carol Service. Sandra led the service and all the other members took part with readings and prayers plus plenty of Poems. After the service we all shared mince pies and tea and coffee. We took a collection for Shelter

Midnight Communion December 24th

Our service started at 11.30pm and was led by Revd Martin Ferris. There was a good number people and one of our past members, Angela who we only see each Christmas Eve was able to join us. It wouldn't be the same without her !

Again the collection was taken for our chosen Charity

December 28th

An old friend came back to us for this Sunday - Rev. Rowena Frances who was staying at her brothers. She took a lovely Communion Service for us.

Sandra introduced her to the new folks at Saffron Lane who had not meet her before and explained that her connection to the Church was that her parents were Ron and Barbara Gates who looked after Saffron Lane before they moved to look after a Church in Liverpool. Originally Rowena had trained to be a nurse then midwife in Liverpool which included looking after a mother who had given birth to six triplets. She then went into training to be a minister going to Churches all around England. She was also a Moderator for the URC. Some of our Saffron Lane members meet her at Christian Woman's Fellowship each year. In the past when she came to visit family in Oadby she would ring Sandra and say "can I come and get my hair cut" as she didn't trust the hairdressers.

Saffron Lane News

A Christmas Smile - A Tale about a Turkey

I thought I would add this in the magazine to brighten up your day. Before Christmas I went from shop to shop trying to get a big Turkey with no luck so I rang my daughter and told her. She said "don't worry I will get you one on line with my shopping". So she ordered it and on the Sunday before Christmas it arrived at her house. The Tesco delivery man said to her "I've never seen such a big Turkey I can hardly carry it."

I went up to her house to collect it and took up a turkey tin to bring it home in. I was glad I had as I could not carry it to the car without the extra support as it was 18lb in weight. I put it in the car boot and went home.

I thought I would put it in the table freezer in the shed so I took all the food out and put the turkey in. BUT the turkeys legs were sticking out and I could not shut the door. So I took it out and put the other food back in. Then I took him inside my kitchen to put him in the freezer there. I took all the food out of the middle shelf as this was the biggest drawer, but still no joy. I started to think I would have to cook him before Christmas.

I went to two of my neighbours to ask if they had space but both were out. I was now beginning to panic - what was I going to do with this turkey ?? I went to another neighbour and asked her and she said she had two freezers in her garage so she was able to help me. Thank Goodness !

A week later her husband brought it back and said "I hope you can get it in the oven!!!" I thought oh no I had not thought about that. I was worried that the turkey would get cremated on the top because I have an oven that heats from the top. Thankfully I got him in to the oven using two turkey tins. I put him on for 5 hours as it said on the label. I have to say it was the best bird we had ever had in 60 years but my Granddaughter had to get it out the oven for me as I could not lift it. After we had served it for dinner my daughter and Granddaughter took a big box of meat home each.

Hope this has made you smile.

Sandra

Saffron Lane News

Anne Goss 1938-2025

Sadly I have to tell everybody of the death of Anne Goss who left our Church three and a half years ago to live with her daughter. In accordance with her wishes she was brought back to Saffron Lane to have her final service with us. The Cremation Service took place at Countesthorpe Crematorium first then back to Saffron Lane for a service and food. It was nice to meet up with her family and old friends one more time.

Charity Donations for 2025 from Saffron Lane

Save the Children	£2,130.00
Shelter	£150.00
British Red Cross /Jamaica	£100.00
Christian Aid Myanmar	£100.00
Medical detect dogs	£60.00
Home less at Christmas	£50.00

Total **£2,590.00**

Thank you to everybody who helped to raise this wonderful amount.

Thank

You

Whetstone News

Christmas Celebrations

Our Candlelit Carol Service, led, as usual, by Bernard and Kevin, was wonderful and well supported! 70+ people joined us to celebrate the reason for the season and we were blessed to have Sandra Sutcliffe and the Youth Drama Group performing two items - a Shakesperian poem and a Christmas tableau. It really made a wonderful addition to our worship. Thanks to Matthew Brookes for playing for our service, to Richard and Shirley for preparing and serving the mulled wine, to Jean, Jan and Pam for warming and distributing the warm mince pies and to Bernard and Kevin for leading our worship.

On Christmas Eve, we held our first Christingle Service. Richard led us in worship and provided pre-prepared bags to enable us all to make a Christingle. It was a truly lovely service and we thank Richard for all his hard work.

Our own Shirley led our Christmas morning worship. It was a lovely service, truly fitting the occasion of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Going Forward into 2026

We look forward to many events during 2026, beginning with our first ever Burns Lunch on 22nd January.

We will also be celebrating the 90th anniversary of our Church building in March. Please keep a lookout for our forthcoming events and please do join us, if you are able.

Please keep Sheila and John in your prayers as well as Jenny B, Bernard, Janet S and Jenny S, all of whom are struggling with health issues at this time.

We all send our love, congratulations and best wishes to Pam and Jon Brookes, who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 28th February.

Oadby News

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the kind words, cards and company on our 65th Wedding Anniversary.

This event was arranged by Tony as he said "We let the previous years slip by."

It was a happy day surrounded by our family and friends including our Bridesmaid. Unfortunately, our Best Man had an accident and was unable to attend.

We were able to raise £300 for Cancer Research on the day whilst others sent donations direct.

We now have good memories of fellowship together.

Pauline and Tony Hudson

MEMORIES

62 years ago almost to the day, Pauline and I stood on a cold concrete floor in the middle of what was to become a church. There was no roof just the roof girders and a sprinkling of snow.

Revd Arthur Brown, who was warden of our Overdale Training College for Ministers dedicated the building to the Glory of God

Originally it was intended to be the church hall with a 300 seater church across the end. But things didn't work out !!!!

The building cost £12,000

Tony Hudson

Oadby News

Christmas Coffee Morning

On a rainy Saturday 22nd November we held our Christmas Coffee Morning.

Paddy had her Christmas Hamper with many delicious treats, also for the first time Judy had a chocolate hamper. (Actually, because she received an abundance of chocolate, she made one large hamper and one small hamper) It looked scrumptious.

We also had a raffle, a Bring and Buy table and Mo sold Christmas Wreaths plus offering any help if required.

Tables were put in the Church where we all enjoyed teas, coffees, cakes, biscuits and a great deal of fellowship.

I am pleased to say that although Pauline and Tony were feeling unwell they managed to come and join us for a short while.

A big thank you to all who helped and attended for us to raise £245

Ann Craighead



Abbots Road News

Welcome to Our Family

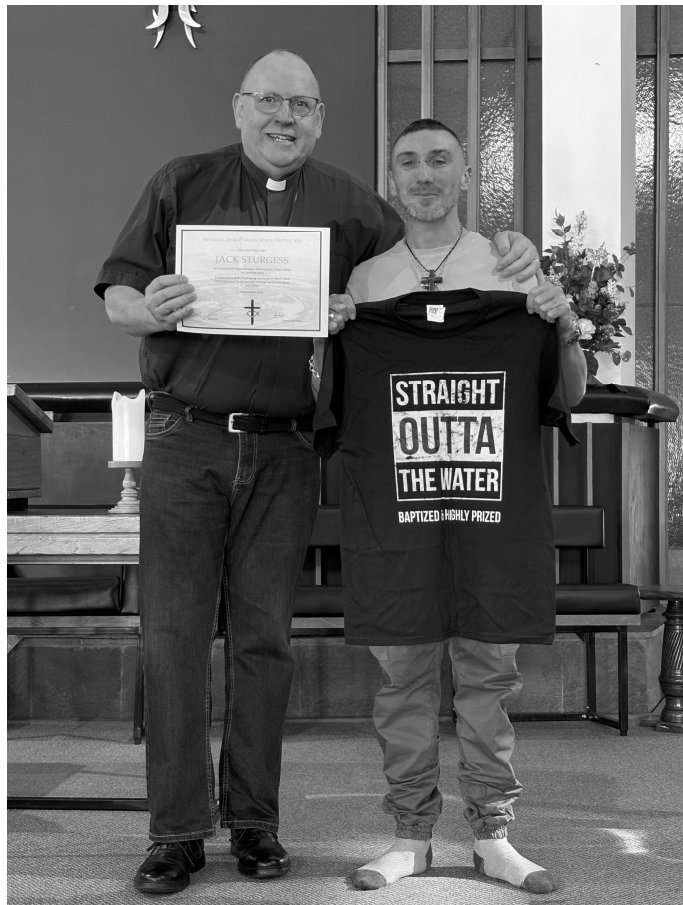
At the end of November, Abbots Road was once again richly blessed as we gathered to celebrate a baptism by full immersion, a deeply joyful and hope filled occasion for our whole church family.

Jack Sturgess has been part of our church family for some time and has been attending the Alpha Seekers group. Through this time of fellowship, conversation and prayer, he has been on a profound and life changing journey of faith. Recently, he shared his testimony with the congregation and many were deeply moved by his honesty, courage and depth of God's work in his life.

Although Jack was baptised as a child, he came to recognize that this moment marked a renewal of his baptismal vows and a new chapter in his walk with God. Out of his own story and experience, Jack felt called to make a personal and public declaration of faith, acknowledging how God has met him, transformed him, and turned his life around in what would be described as a true "Damascus Road" moment. This service of renewal and baptism by immersion was not only a milestone for Jack, but also a powerful witness to everyone present. It reminded us that God's grace continues to call us back, deepen our faith and renew our commitment, whatever stage of the journey we find ourselves on.

As a church, we give thanks for Jack's courage and faith and we rejoice in the hope his story brings. May his renewed vows inspire us all to reflect on our own walk with Christ, trusting that God is always at work, offering renewal, new beginnings and abundant life for all who respond to his call

Abbots Road News



Abbots Road News

Community Carols

This year, our annual 'Community Carols' took place out in front of the church, shaped by a simple but hopeful vision: to take the church to the community. By stepping beyond our walls, we sought to share the joy and meaning of Christmas in a way that was open, visible and welcoming to all.

Through familiar carols and the light that filled the space, the festive message of the Gospel was shared in song and spirit. As the photos capture, it truly was an occasion filled with warmth and brightness. Passers by stopped their cars, curious to see what was happening and many paused to offer smiles, waves and warm wishes of "Merry Christmas" to those gathered.

These moments of connection reminded us that small acts of faith and celebration can speak powerfully into the life of our community. Looking ahead, we hope to build on this encouragement by inviting the Salvation Army Band to join us next year, helping us to share the good news even more boldly and joyfully.

As we reflect on this event, we give thanks for the openness and goodwill we encountered and we look forward with hope, trusting that God continues to work through simple gatherings, shared songs and hearts willing to meet one another in love.

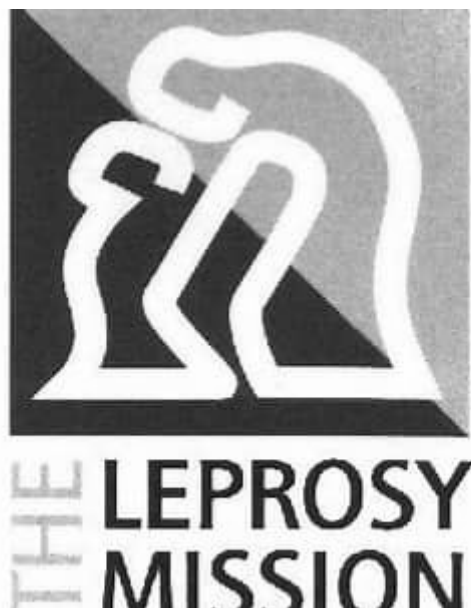


Leprosy Mission

A big 'Thank you' to all the folk who purchased cards and gifts through the 'Leprosy Mission' this Christmas. Altogether members and friends purchased goods to the value of £550. This was a great response. The gifts given to COGS children this year by the church were also purchased through LM.

The Leprosy Mission raised £600,000 in 2025 through extra donations on orders and through 'Gifts for Life'. If you don't know about this scheme, you buy a gift for a family member or friend like for example. 'Curing Leprosy' for £24, or 'A bundle of bandages' for £20, or 'School Kits for two children' for £35, and you send the person a card, provided by LM, to say what you have done. It's a great way of helping others and solving the problem of what to buy for someone who has everything!

The catalogues are available all year round. Ask Joyce Busby for further details.



Abbots Road News

Please pray for:

Peace in the many places around the world where there is war, conflict or unrest

- Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, in Gaza as Israel moves the Yellow Line deeper into Gaza, the streets of America and Iran.

Greenland and Denmark as President Trump threatens new tariffs on countries opposed to American takeover.

The poor, hungry and homeless

Young girls forced to marry much older men

The family of the 15 year old girl who has gone missing.

For those struggling to keep warm during the cold weather because they are worried about fuel bills.

For those who are homeless living on our streets during these winter months.

For families who are still having to use food banks to put food on their table.

For the volunteers at food banks.

For young people who need support and help.

For the congregation of our sister church at Oadby after the sad news that the church is closing.

For Mary,

Anne and John

Brian and Dorothy

June and Andrew

For Hilary's family

Anne and Rob

Give thanks for the 'new' people who have joined us, 3 of whom have asked to be members.

Pray for our Ministry Team - Martin and Eileen.

Pray for the mission of our churches.

Pray about the results of the Synod Review.

GOD OF GRACE

The grace of God will carry you through this and his love will hold you close. When you don't have the words to pray, he hears your heart. You are not alone, Jesus says, 'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.'

God will always make a way.

Wishing you a day full of happiness and a life full of blessings.

He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge.

Always take time out to rest your weary wings.

ANON

WE ARE YOUR PEOPLE

We are your people.

Together we make up your Body:

Your hands reach out.

Your feet to walk with others.

Your arms to link in solidarity,

to embrace those who hurt,

to love and laugh and protest.

Enable us to realise that we are powerful beyond measure

because we together are your Body

and together we can transform the world.

By Zam Walker from the Iona book 'In the gift of this new day'



Facts about the English language

1. There's no English word that rhymes perfectly with month, orange, silver or purple.
2. Dreamt is the only English word that ends with mt.
3. Strengths is one of the longest words with only one vowel.
4. Almost is the longest common English word with all letters in Alphabetical order.
5. 'Set' has 400 meanings making it one of the most flexible words in English. It can be a verb, noun, or adjective. For example: 'set the table', 'set a bone', 'the sun sets', 'a set of tools', 'a drum set', 'the set of his jaw', 'a set expression.' If you'd like to know more have a look in the Oxford English Dictionary.
6. You can be overwhelmed or underwhelmed but you can't just be whelmed.
7. You can be dishevelled but never shevelled.

The names of things you probably never knew.

1. The space between you eyebrows is called the glabella.
2. The way it smells after rain is called petrichor.
3. When your stomach rumbles that's a wamble.
4. The cry of a new born baby is called a vagitus.
5. The day after tomorrow is called overmorrow.
6. When you combine a question mark with an exclamation mark (?!), it's referred to as an interrobang.
7. The armhole in clothes, where the sleeves are sewn, is called an Armscye.
8. The metal thing used to measure your feet at a shoe shop is calle a Bannock device

Lectionary Readings

Sunday 1 February

Micah 6 v 1 - 8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1 v 18 - 31

Matthew 5 v 1 - 12

Sunday 8 February

Isaiah 58 v 1 - 9a (9b - 12)

Psalm 112 v 1 - 9 (10)

1 Corinthians 2 v 1 - 12 (13 - 16)

Matthew 5 v 13 - 20

Sunday 15 February

Exodus 24 v 12 - 18

Psalm 2 or 99

2 Peter 1 v 16 - 21

Matthew 17 v 1 - 9

Sunday 22 February

Genesis 2 v 15 - 17 & 3 v 1 - 7

Psalm 32

Romans 5 v 12 - 19

Matthew 4 v 1 - 11