

South & East Leicestershire Area United Reformed Churches



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

<http://selaunc.org.uk>

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Promises! Promises! Promises!

May is a month of promises fulfilled. I don't know about you but I always try to keep a promise. At times it can be difficult, especially if external influences try their hardest to distract you from fulfilling your promise.

I remember one of the first promises I made was as a boy scout. I was about eleven, the promise went like this *'On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to The Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.'* I enjoyed my time as a scout albeit it was only for a short time, I then 'progressed' to the Air Training Corps, there I made another promise to serve the Queen, her heirs and successors.

Promises are a sign of respect and intent. I find it rather disappointing when people make promises and then through one thing or another they fail to follow through on their promise. I find it more annoying when people in leadership roles within many Christian organisations fail to live up to their promise of leading 'a Holy Life', and they behave in a less than acceptable way, often reported by the local press, bringing Christian people into disrepute. The damage that is done to the church is immense and I am saddened when this sort of thing happens.

The promises that we can rely on are those made by Jesus, when he affirms his intent to be with us to the 'end of the age'. I firmly believe that Jesus is with us in all that we do. The big promise, is the coming of the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate on Pentecost Sunday (May 24th). Following that, is Trinity Sunday (May 31st) when we recognise God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the perfect trio but at the same time one in perfect Unity.

As we sometimes waver in our faith because of life's trials, we only have to remember that with God **all things are possible**, we just have to have faith and it can be as tiny as a mustard seed. We might not get the healing that we want, but we will get the strength to deal with the illness; we might not get the riches we deserve, but we will be guided in using the resources that we have to best effect. We might not think that we can do much, but together we can express God's love to the world. You don't have to be a 'Preacher' or 'Missionary', all you have to be is a good Christian, trying your best and remembering that God Loves you so much, (see John 3:16). Even when we 'come off the rails' God is there, helping us back on track, forgiving all of our failures and rejoicing when we get it right! As St Paul writes 'There is nothing in the whole of creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Our Lord.' (Romans 8:39b), how great is that?

Richard.

Richard's Challenge

'I am' sayings of Jesus :-

'The bread of life'.

'Light of the world'.

'I am the gate'.

'The Good Shepherd'.

'I am the resurrection and the life'.

'I am the way, the truth and the life'.

'I am the true vine'.

See if you can find these statements and any other 'I am' statements.

Answers are at the back of the Magazine - BUT NO CHEATING - complete the challenge before looking at the answers !!!!!

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

Whetstone URC	10.00 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 JUNE 26 MAGAZINE

Sunday 18 May 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 May 26

Saffron Lane	3	Eileen Williams - Communion
	10	Revd Richard Eastman
	17	Ray Green
	24	Philip Tiplady
	31	Geoff Milnes
South Wigston	3	Noel Oldershaw - Café Style Service
	10	David Todd
	17	Di Statham
	24	Revd Richard Eastman
	31	Revd David Howlett
Wigston Magna	3	Julie Slatford
	10	Worship Group
	17	Eileen Williams - Communion
	24	Revd Martin Ferris
	31	Revd Alison Termie
Whetstone	3	Revd Richard Eastman - Communion
	10	Shirley Eastman
	17	Revd Martin Ferris
	24	Revd Ivor Smith
	31	Kevin West
Abbots Road	3	Revd Pam Smith - Communion
	10	Revd Martin Ferris
	17	Elders
	24	Revd Jaquie Gavin
	31	Revd Pam Smith

Regular Church Events

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 - Rainbows Children's Hospice

Bible Bytes

Wednesday 6 May 2026

10.30 am

Saffron Lane URC

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion

No Need to be a " Bible Expert"

EVERYBODY welcome



Wigston Magna News

May Birthdays

3rd - Julie Slatford

5th - Jill Standley

14th - Ray Green

23rd - Charles Williams

Anniversary Celebrations

Wigston Magna URC recently celebrated its 360th anniversary with a joyful and memorable day of thanksgiving and fellowship.

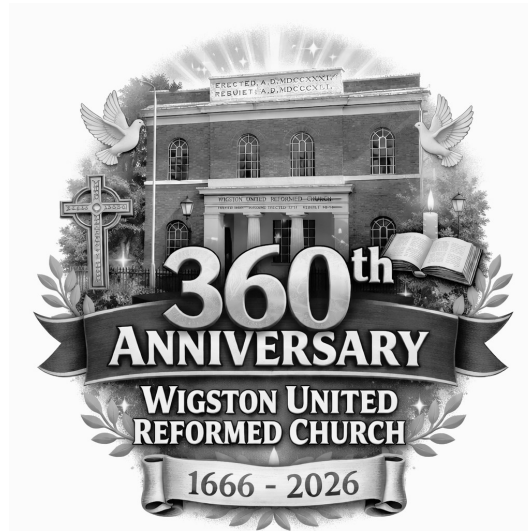
The celebrations began with a special service led by Eileen Williams, who guided us thoughtfully through a time of reflection, gratitude, and praise. Together, we lifted our voices in well-loved hymns and gave thanks for the generations who have worshipped here before us, as well as for the life of our church today.

Following the service, the celebrations continued with a delicious buffet lunch, offering everyone the chance to relax, chat and enjoy one another's company. A lovely rainbow celebration cake was also enjoyed by all.

A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes to organise everything.

It was truly a wonderful time of fellowship, marking not only a significant milestone in our church's history but also the strong sense of community that continues to sustain it.

Wigston Magna News



Community Cinema

Monday 1st June 2026

Downton Abbey Grand Finale

Doors Open 1.30 pm

Film Starts - 2.00 pm

Free Tea and Coffee
plus

Movie Snacks £1 per item

(Hot Dogs / Ice Creams / Popcorn /
Sweets / Nuts / Crisps)

Entry FREE – (Donations Welcome)

RECIPE - MAY:

MACAROONS (Makes about 14)

4 oz caster sugar
2 oz ground almonds
1 teaspoon ground rice
A few drops of almond essence
White of 1 large egg
1 teaspoonful of water
Rice paper
Split almonds

- 1) Mix together sugar, ground almonds and ground rice.
- 2) Add the essence and unbeaten egg white, and mix to a fairly stiff paste, adding the water last.
- 3) Beat well.
- 4) Place the rice paper on greased baking trays and drop on spoonfuls of the mixture.
- 5) Brush the tops with water to give a glaze and place a split almond on each.
- 6) Bake for 25 minutes at 325 F/160 C/ Gas 3.



GARDENING TIPS - MAY.

- 1) Tie up new shoots of trained fruit trees.
- 2) Place a layer of straw mulch around strawberry plants.
- 3) Stake tall-growing plants as necessary.
- 4) Repair damaged areas of lawn and re-sow.
- 5) Check that water features in ponds are in working order.
- 6) Sow beans and prepare supporting canes for runner beans.



DIARY - MAY.

- 6th Bible Bytes - Saffron Lane URC, 10.30am - 11.30am.
10th - 16th Christian Aid Week.
13th Elders' Meeting - 10.30am.
27th Drop-in - "Write a Prayer" - 10.00am.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH AHEAD.
Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world.
Nelson Mandela.

South Wigston News

Birthday Celebrations

During April South Wigston Member Lauren celebrated a Very Special Birthday (one with a 0 at the end)

The Church presented her with a Special Birthday Cake to mark the event (Courtesy of our resident cake maker !!!!) after the morning service.



South Wigston News

PRAYER LIST: Please pray for:

- 1 All who are living in war-torn countries: the bereaved; the injured; the frightened.
- 2 All those trying to find a safe place to live.
- 3 All those leading worship across the Group.
- 4 All who are travelling on this Bank Holiday.
- 5 Farmers, and all who work the land.
- 6 Those in hospital facing an operation.
- 7 All who work in our hospitals.
- 8 All who work in our Emergency Services.
- 9 Those suffering from a terminal illness.
- 10 In Christian Aid Week, pray for all who work for the charity.
- 11 Those who will benefit from the work of Christian Aid.
- 12 Those who want to work, but have no job to go to.
- 13 Give thanks for the blessings of family life.
- 14 On this Ascension Day, give thanks to God for sending us His Son.
- 15 All those in our churches who are unwell.
- 16 Those who are desperately poor in a world of plenty.
- 17 Our friends in the other churches in our localities.
- 18 Those responsible for keeping law and order in our localities.
- 19 All who suffer from depression and despair.
- 20 All who live in, or work for, the Community of Grace.
- 21 Children everywhere, especially those at risk.
- 22 All who are going through a time of great sorrow.
- 23 All who give their time to work for charities.
- 24 All who are preaching, reading, serving, or worshipping in our churches on this day of Pentecost.
- 25 Those who are lonely.
- 26 Give thanks for the beauty of our world.
- 27 Give thanks for the talents God has given us.
- 28 Young people facing important exams this term.
- 29 The elderly and housebound.
- 30 Give thanks for the opportunities that each day brings.
- 31 Peace in our world.

South Wigston URC

Multi Faith Centre

North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College

DROP IN

Wednesday 27 May 2026

10.00 to 11.30

Write a Prayer

Come along and join us

Everybody Welcome

Tea / Coffee and Biscuits Available

Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for May-June 2026

	OT	NT	SER	COL	Preacher	
May 3 rd	10	11	10	13	E Williams	Communion
May 10 th	30	12	30	13	R Eastman	Communion
May 17 th	9	3	9	13	R Green	Communion
May 24 th	5	15	#	13	P Tiplady	Family Service
May 31 st	6	36	#	13	G Milnes	5 th Sunday
Jun 7 th	6	7	6	13	M Ferris	Communion
Jun 14 th	12	30	12	13	J Slatford	Communion
June 21 st	3	9	3	13	P Smith	Communion
Jun 28 th	5	15	#	13	E Williams	Family Service

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	15. Samuel	
7.Angela S	11.Richard B	30 Sandra C	

Birthdays May

14th Mackenzie Bloxham

Birthdays June

28th Sandra Clay

Church Inspection

Well, we had our Church inspection from Synod

And we had both our flat roof's mended before he came as the rain had got in the Church and the hall kitchen, so we are waiting now to see the outcome of their visit.

Saffron Lane News

Easter Sunday April 5th 2026,

On Easter Sunday we welcomed 22 people into the church to celebrate Easter with us.

As part of the service Dominique and Kobe joined us to be Baptized by Eileen using our marble Baptistry which had been given to us by Oadby Church. As part of the service they were both presented with their certificates and a Bible. In addition Dominique was welcomed into membership of Saffron Lane. Her family were there to see her which was very nice for her. After the service Dominique and Eileen were given a bunch of flowers each and we all had an opportunity to eat three lots of Cake to mark this special occasion.

In addition to giving us the marble baptistry Oadby Church have also given us some mission praise hymn books. Thanks go to them from all of the Church members.



Saffron Lane News



Mackenzie Bloxham

On the 12th April Mackenzie ran with about 200 people in the Leicester 10K and he came 9th. We would all like to say "well done" to him.

We think that his love for running all started when Richard Eastman would run him around the Church after our services when he first attended our Church.

WELL DONE MACKENZIE



Whetstone News

Our Easter Services

On Friday 3rd April, Richard led a wonderful Good Friday Service. There was no sermon as the message came from the readings. It was very powerful and thought provoking and ended with the instruction to go and reflect on all we had heard.

Following a period of silence, we gathered at the rear of the church for tea, coffee and hot cross buns.

On Easter Sunday, David Howlett led a lovely service to celebrate Christ's triumph over death. Thanks to Jean for arranging Easter eggs for everyone! (Although, she refused to wear the Easter Bunny ears which Kevin had supplied! However, David Howlett wore them instead!)

Other Church Updates

Our Cream Tea in March raised £700 towards our Hall Roof Repair Fund.

Apologies to Jean West who should have been thanked in last month's magazine for serving tea and coffee during the First Aid Training. We really appreciated it!

New Members to be Welcomed

On 3rd May, we will be holding a very special service to welcome three people into Membership at Whetstone.

Joan Seaton, Phil Stephens and Angie Daniels will all be made members.

We will celebrate their commitment to our church with a Bring-and-Share lunch. Desserts will be provided so we would appreciate savoury items. All welcome!

Future Events

Our next charity coffee morning will be on Saturday 23rd May from 10am til 12noon. This time, we will be raising money for CRY - Cardiac Risk in the Young. There will be the usual sale of bric-a-brac and books, tea, coffee, light refreshments and a raffle. (See the poster later in this magazine)

Please do join us if you are able.

Did you know?

Annually, 400 pipe organs in UK are scrapped, neglected or become unplayable due to decay. It is expected that in the next 10 years, the number of playable pipe organs will halve. There are currently around 15,000 pipe organs in UK churches but only half of them are playable!

We must look after this mighty instrument! It is such an integral part of worship that has been part of our culture for hundreds of years.

If your church has an organ, play it, maintain, tune it.

Encourage people to come and have a go on it.

Make the most of this fantastic asset because once it's gone, it will be another loss of this most majestic of instruments.



Whetstone News

Some church magazine announcements !!!!!

(A reminder to think about what you are writing / saying)

"The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon."

"This evening at 7:00 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin."

"Next Thursday, there will be try outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get."

"The 'Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church."

"A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favourite recipe, also a short antidote for it."

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice."

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a great chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

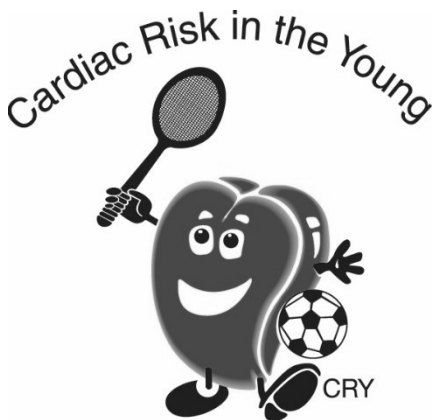
Some more examples can be found later in the magazine. Apologies if you spot any duplicate messages



Saturday 23rd May Charity Coffee Morning

10.00 – 12.00

**Raising money for CRY.
Cardiac Risk in the young.**



**Light refreshments
Bring and Buy Stall.
Raffle.
All Welcome**

Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) is dedicated to preventing sudden cardiac deaths in young people through awareness, screening, and research initiatives.

AN ESSENCE OF SENSE AND LOVE

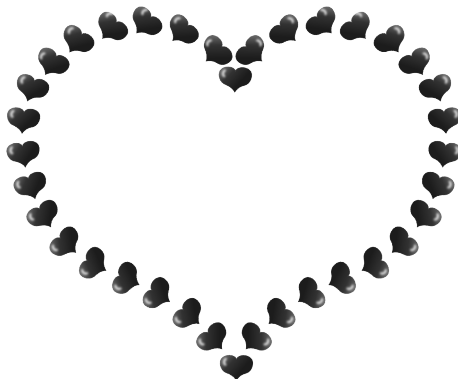
We look at the sky above so blue,
and the clouds below of white.
The twinkling of stars and the light from the moon,
and give thanks for the gift of our sight.

We hear the soft sound of a baby's cry,
in storms peals of thunder abound.
The songs of the birds in the trees, in the air,
and give thanks for the great gift of sound.

We sense in the air the new mown grass,
The scent from the flowers as well.
From the kitchen the aroma of fresh bread and cakes,
and give thanks for the great gift of smell.

We get a warm glow of affection and care,
sent down from our Father above.
We echo the same to both family and friends,
and give thanks for the great gift of love.

Bernie Gilbert © USED WITH PERMISSION
Whetstone URC Thursday Group



Oadby URC

Goodbye to the Oadby URC Building

On Sunday 29 March 2026 the final service for Oadby URC was held in the Oadby Church Building. The service was led by Revd Martin Ferris and Communion was served by Revd Geoffrey Clarke (Moderator of East Midlands Synod). Memories of her time at Oadby URC were read out by Revd Ferris on behalf of one of the Church Elders and recollections were also given by Revd Ivor Smith, Revd Richard Eastman and Tony Hudson. The bible readings were given by members of Oadby URC, and prayers were led by Eileen Williams and Revd Pam Smith.

The service was attended by members of all of the Churches in the South and East Leicestershire Area along with others who have had connections with the church. It was a joyful service despite the reason for it and it was lovely to see the Church full.

After the service there was an opportunity for everybody to share their memories over cups of tea or coffee and cakes and biscuits.

As was mentioned in the service the church "building" will now be closed but the "church" people will remain in our hearts and part of our Area.



Oadby URC



Oadby URC

After the final Service Tony Hudson sent the following message :-

Oadby URC Final Service 29th March 2026

Members and friends of Oadby URC wish to thank everyone for their continued support and prayers during our difficult decisions to close our church. We appreciate the number of past members of our congregation who were able to return for our special service. There were people who had been married at the church, people from our youth groups and uniformed organisations and people from our different activities. Above all from our area churches, Churches Together Oadby and those that have led worship over the years.

Not forgetting thank you for the cakes provided to go with our tea and biscuits

Blessings to you all
Pauline and Tony



Abbots Road URC: A Season of New Beginnings

Easter Sunday remains a powerful reminder that new life emerges through grace and this truth has been clearly seen at Abbots Road United Reformed Church.

Across the fellowship, there has been a growing sense of people being nurtured and discipled, shaped through community, prayer and honest conversation. This steady formation in faith is now bearing visible fruit.

A particular joy this Easter was welcoming Shannon Hadley, Jack Rackham and Jack Sturgess into Church Membership. Their journey has been one of shared discovery within a small group exploring life's deeper questions. As part of that journey, both Jack Rackham and Jack Sturgess also experienced baptism by full immersion at Abbots Road, marking significant steps in their faith and commitment.

The church also celebrated this Easter the baptism of Katie Emerson by full immersion, an especially meaningful moment, shared with family and friends who gathered to witness and support her. Since joining, Katie has quickly become an active and valued part of both the group at Abbots Road and the wider church.

Together, these moments reflect something deeper taking place: lives being transformed, faith taking root and community growing stronger. There is a clear sense of God at work, drawing people in and shaping the life of the church.

With gratitude for what has been and hope for what lies ahead, Abbots Road looks forward with confidence, continuing to listen, discern and follow the way of Jesus as this work of new life unfolds.

Abbots Road News



WORDS ON PEACE

Peace is more precious than a piece of land - Anwar Sadat

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding. -
Albert Einstein

Peace is the most powerful weapon of mankind. - Mahatma Gandhi.

Peace is not something you wish for, it's something you make, something you are, something you do and something you give away - Robert Fulghum.

It is so easy to breakdown and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build. - Nelson Mandela

You don't make peace with friends. You make it with very unsavoury enemies. -
Simon Peres

We should accept diversity in culture and tradition and coexist peacefully. -
Haile Selassie

The greatest need in the world is the transformation of human nature. We need a new heart that will not have lust and greed and hate in it. We need a heart filled with love and peace and joy, that is why Jesus came into the world. - Billy Graham.

We look forward to the time when the power of love will replace the love of power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace. - William E. Gladstone.

It isn't enough to talk about Peace. One must believe in it. One must work at it. - Eleanor Roosevelt.

"Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us and the world will be as one. - John Lennon

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. - Mother Teresa

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Much needed peace in our world – countries where people are killed and injured each day – Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, for a lasting ceasefire. Also, for Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen and Nigeria.

Refugees fleeing to find safety for themselves and their families.

Those who are homeless and living on our streets.

Those in our world living in poverty, those who don't have enough food to keep hunger at bay, those who don't have clean water to drink or wash in.

For those who are suffering with mental illness and feel abandoned by the NHS system.

For young people who need support and help.

People whose lives are ruled by substance addiction.

Families who have lost someone by suicide.

For those who work in the NHS.

For Gill's family who are grieving her loss. Also, for her church family where she has many friends.

Brian and Dorothy,

Anne and John,

June and Andrew

Mary

Laura as she continues to heal from her op.

Anne and Rob

Lisa and Kev

Aidan

Imogen

Our Ministry team – Martin and Eileen

Giving thanks for the folk who have come to faith

Pray for the review of the Leicestershire Area on 9th May.

Abbots Road News

This poem reflects the thoughts and words of those who have been blessed by Rainbows Hospice Care.

One day, a storm arrived to disrupt our daily lives
And normality removed itself, right before our eyes.
Our aims, our goals were shattered,
And we found it hard to cope
We didn't know where to turn to and believed there was no hope.
We had to re-evaluate, as our world just fell apart.
Our child's diagnosis crushed us, and we shared a broken heart.
And then one day, a visitor came, an angel in disguise;
Who told us of a special place, and much to our surprise
The place was Rainbows Hospice, a place of peace and calm,
They wiped away the tears we cried, with a gentle invisible balm.
They taught us how to focus, to allow ourselves some fun;
The outstanding care for children stretched to every Dad & Mum.
Each child was given a chance to shine, and smiles were all around.
The support and care was exceptional in this magical place we'd found.
We learned to breathe, 'just be' again, and find peace and relaxation,
Our family's hearts were filled with joy and memories for preservation.
We will never forget how they cared for us, although the time was short.
We valued every moment, every deed and every thought.
So thank you Rainbows Hospice, and may God bless your loving care,
God said to look for hope in a rainbow, and we certainly found it there.

Dorothy Russell

Christian Aid News – Aid cuts and Hope By Pete Moorey

Last month the UK government cut the Aid budget – a decision that, along with the decimation of US aid, is having a devastating impact on the world's poorest countries. From people in refugee camps whose food parcels will shrink to children awaiting life-saving vaccines.

The support of churches for Christian Aid is now more important than ever as we are uniquely placed to work through local partners to make a difference. We witnessed this in a recent story from a partner in Gaza. They formed a group called 'Let's Create a Life' to give children respite from the trauma of war. Support from churches allowed this group to provide fun learning activities for displaced children.

Abdullah from Let's Create a Life told Christian Aid: "In the children's ward of a hospital, there was a child who wouldn't engage with the doctors and was always depressed. I came dressed as a clown doctor, and we started playing and laughing with the kids. The doctors said it was the first time they'd seen that child laugh.

That's what life is about. In 'Let's Create a Life,' we can shape the lives we want, despite the pain and wounds, the losses we've experienced."

To continue to support Christian Aid's work in conflict zones across the world, go to www.christianaid.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.

It's that time year again when we focus on the work of Christian Aid. It doesn't take imagination to see the growing needs of the world in the wake of so much war and turmoil. We see it every day on our TV sets. We are quick to complain about things at home and issues that affect our lifestyle and standard of living, without stopping to think what I must be like to lose everything and be displaced from our home and lose members of our family. All the worlds' humanitarian agencies are struggling to meet the needs of so many people in so many parts of the world.

What can we do?

We can make a contribution through the Christian Aid envelope available in church; we can give electronically, if that is more convenient for you - just ask Charlotte for the card machine and your gift will be earmarked for Christian Aid;

Come to the Big Brekkie on Sunday 10th May before worship - from 9-15 - 10-15 and share fellowship over your cereals and tea/coffee, and give the money you have saved by not getting your own breakfast; Give an envelope to a neighbour to ask for a donation, explaining what it will be used for;

Take a prayer leaflet to pray each day during the week for the work of Christian Aid.

Please take this opportunity to show your thankfulness to God for all you have.

Thank you.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

May 10 - 16

Abbots Road News

CHURCH NOTICES

(Reminder to Secretaries - Check what you have written before you hand the notices out !!!!)

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on water.' The sermon this evening: Searching for Jesus.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and be prepared to sin.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

The Minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our congregation.

Please welcome Pastor Dan, a caring individual who loves hurting people.

Ushers will eat late comers.

YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH

1. I checked into the Hokey Cokey clinic and I turned myself around.
2. This is my step ladder I never knew my real ladder.
3. My wife said I never listen to her, or something like that.
4. I put my scales in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until she apologises.
5. What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?
The same middle name.
6. If you see me talking to myself just move along, I'm self-employed and we're having a staff meeting.
7. My age doesn't bother me it's the side effects that do.
8. I wish exercising was as easy as eating.
9. Respect people with glasses, they paid a lot of money to see you.
10. Why was the maths book sad?
Because it had too many problems.
11. If you order an axe from France and have it shipped.....
you will have a foreign axe sent.
12. Some people are wise, some are otherwise.
13. If I won an award for laziness, I'd send someone else to collect it.

Abbots Road News

Cont.....

14. I believe we should pay our tax bill with a smile, I tried, but they wanted cash.
15. They say don't try this at home, so I'm coming over to your house.
16. Why do you go to the paint store when you're on a diet?
You can get thinner there.
17. I went to the Zoo yesterday and saw a baguette in a cage.
The Zoo keeper told me it was bread in captivity.
18. Having a dog named Shark at the beach was a mistake.
19. Just sold my homing pigeon on Ebay for the 22nd. Time.
20. I wish I had a pair of skinny genes.
21. Ban pre-shredded cheese, make Britain grate again.
22. Becoming a vegetarian is a big missed steak.
23. Ants are healthy because they have little anti bodies.
24. If you're sitting in public and just want to relax, and a stranger sits next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
25. An amusing fact - Did you know that 'Dammit I'm mad' spelled backwards is 'Dammit I'm mad.'

Cont.....

26. A man died and went to heaven, as he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him.

He asked, "What are those clocks?"

St. Peter answered, "Those are lie clocks. Everyone on earth has a lie clock. Every time you lie, the hands on your clock will move."

"Oh," said the man. "Whose clock is that?"

"That is Mother Teresa's. The hands have never moved, indicating that she never told a lie."

"Incredible," said the man.

"That's Abraham Lincoln's clock," St. Peter said, "The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abe told only two lies in his entire life."

"Where is Donald Trump's clock," said the man.

"His clock is in God's office. He's using it as a ceiling fan."



Things you NEVER hear in Church

1. It's my turn to sit on the front row.
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went twenty five minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I volunteer to be a permanent teacher for the Sunday School
5. Forget the denominational minimum salary, let's pay our minister enough so he can live like we do.
6. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before.
7. Minister, we would like to send you to this conference in the Bahamas
8. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign.
9. Why don't we have a service in the afternoon and the evening as well as our morning service
10. Please can you add me to the Church cleaning rota more frequently
11. Look I have brought 20 new people who would like to join our church
12. I do not mind coming in early every Sunday to make sure everything is set up ready.

My Resignation

I am hereby officially tendering my resignation as an adult, I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of an eight year old. I want to :-

Go to McDonalds and think it is a four-star hotel.

Sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make a path of rocks.

Think M&M's are better than money because you can eat them

Lie under a big oak tree and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot sunny day.

Return to a time when life was simple; when all you knew were colours, multiplication tables and nursery rhymes but that didn't bother you because you didn't know what you didn't know and you didn't care. All you knew was to be happy because you were blissfully unaware of all the things that should make you worried or upset.

Think the world is fair. That everyone is honest and good.

Believe that anything is possible,

Be oblivious to the complexities of life and be over excited by little things again.

I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, wondering how to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank, gossip, illness and loss of loved ones.

I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind, and making angels in the snow.

So here is my cheque book and my car keys, and my credit card bills. I am officially resigning from adulthood.

From "A Barrell of Fun" J John & Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books

Answers to Richard's Challenge. 'Finding the 'I am' Statements.'

John 6:35, 41, 48, 51. v 35 'I am the bread of Life, whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' v 41 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' v48 'I am the bread of Life.' v51 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven'

John 8:12; 9:5. 'I am the Light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life'. 9:5 'As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

John 10:7, 9. 'So again Jesus said to them "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep'. v9 'I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and come in and go out and find pasture.'

John 10:11 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'

John 11:25 'I am the resurrection and the life' 'Jesus said to her I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.'

John 14:6 'Jesus said to him "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me".'

John 15:1, 5. 'I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser' v5 'I am the vine you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.'

PTO for further examples

Cont.....

There are two other '**I am**' statements in John's gospel, but these are not metaphorical but are statements of who Jesus is.

John 8:58 'Jesus said to them "Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."' This provoked the Jews and in **v59** 'So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the Temple'

John 18:4-6. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵ They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground.'

Note the actions of those who are about to arrest Jesus, '*they stepped back and fell to the ground*'. This is another indication of who Jesus is and they acknowledged that he whom they were arresting was very special indeed.

Congratulations if you got them all - Give yourself a pat on the back.



Lectionary Readings

Sunday 3 May

Acts 7 v 55 - 60
Psalm 31 v 1 - 5 & 15 - 16
1 Peter 2 v 2 - 10
John 14 v 1 - 14

Sunday 10 May

Acts 17 v 22 - 31
Psalm 66 v 8 - 20
1 Peter 3 v 13 - 22
John 14 v 15 - 21

Sunday 17 May

Acts 1 v 6 - 14
Psalm 68 v 1 - 10 & 32 - 35
1 Peter 4 v 12 - 14 & 5 v 6 - 11
John 17 v 1 - 11

Sunday 24 May

Acts 2 v 1 - 21 or Numbers 11 v 24 - 30
Psalm 104 v 24 - 34 & 35b
1 Corinthians 12 v 3b - 13 or Acts 2 v 1 - 21
John 20 v 19 - 23 or John 7 v 37 - 39

Sunday 31 May

Genesis 1 v 1 - 2 & 4a or Isaiah 40 v 12 - 17 & 27 - 31
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13 v 11 - 13
Matthew 28 v 16 - 20