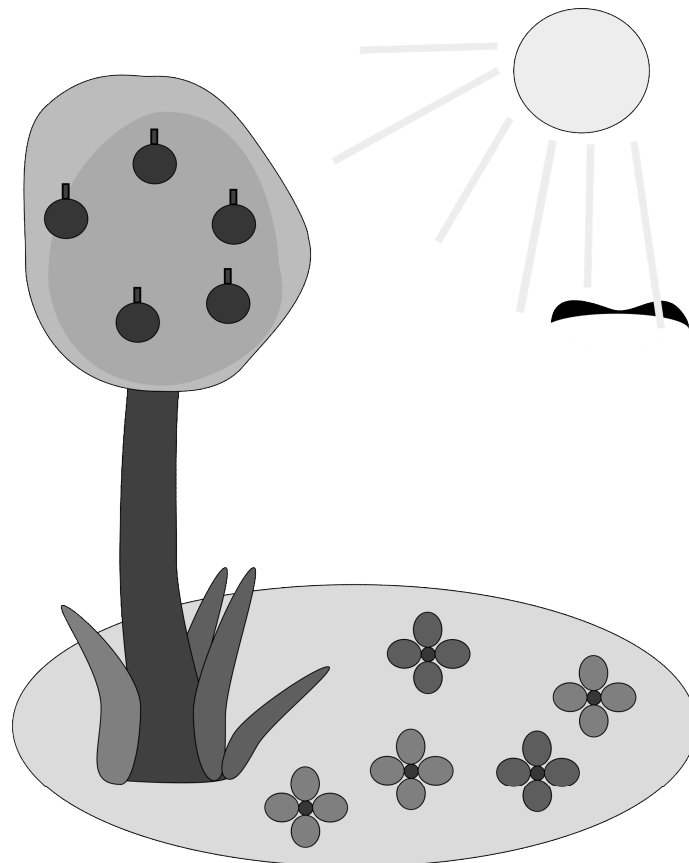


The
**United
Reformed
Church**

JUNE 2026

South & East Leicestershire Area United Reformed Churches



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

<http://selaurc.org.uk>

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Treasurer

I don't watch a lot of television, but I do like to watch nature programmes, and hasn't it been good to see so many of Sir David Attenborough's programmes that he has made over many years to celebrate his 100th birthday.

Nature has always played a big part in my life. As a child we went into the country for walks and picnics, and I was given a small patch of garden to grow flowers. It was after my children had grown up that I started to go on bird-watching days and eventually holidays with my mum. It's something that you can do at home too - sitting at the window looking out over the garden and trying to name the birds that land on the feeders. Perhaps this is what is referred to as 'mindfulness' nowadays.

Our gardens can be a place of nourishment for birds and insects. I'm no gardener, I leave that to Charlie, but it's always good to see flowers and even weeds that the bugs can land on. We are encouraged to leave a part of the garden 'untidy', so that it can be a refuge for wild animals.

We have a lot to be thankful for, and we must remember, every day, to take time to say a huge 'thank you' to God for supplying us with such beautiful green spaces for us to enjoy and take care of, so that future generations will also come to appreciate them. God gave us this planet to look after and if we all do just a little to help then we will make a difference.

Eileen

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 JULY & AUGUST 26 MAGAZINE

Sunday 21 June 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 June 26

Saffron Lane	7	Revd Pam Smith - Communion
	14	Julie Slatford
	21	Revd Pam Smith - Communion
	28	Eileen Williams
South Wigston	7	David Miller - Café Style Service
	14	Ray Green
	21	Revd Martin Ferris
	28	Revd Les Gill
Wigston Magna	7	Revd Richard Eastman
	14	Revd Les Gill
	21	Worship Group - Communion
	28	Revd Stephen Blyth
Whetstone	7	Shirley Eastman - Communion
	14	Howard Smith
	21	David Todd
	28	Revd David Howlett
Abbots Road	7	Revd Martin Ferris
	14	Revd Pam Smith & Elders - Communion
	21	Revd Les Gill
	28	Richard Knott

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 3 June 2026

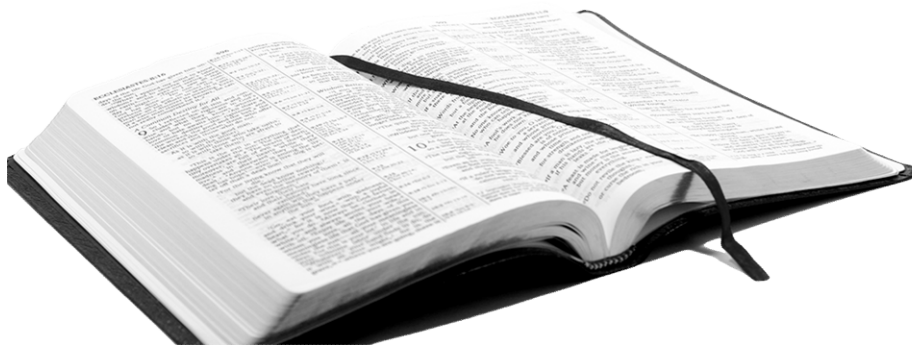
10.30 am

Saffron Lane URC

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion

No Need to be a " Bible Expert"

EVERYBODY welcome



Birthdays in June

19th - Pauline Pagett

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 - JUNE: Ginger Snaps (Makes 20 - 24)

Warm oven to: 330 F/160 C/Gas 3

4 ozs super-sifted self-raising flour

1 teaspoon ground ginger

4 oz margarine

4 oz golden syrup

4 oz sugar

Juice of half a lemon

- 1 Sieve flour and ginger.
- 2 Slowly melt the other ingredients in a saucepan.
- 3 Add the flour and ginger mix and warm gently.
- 4 Put about 5 teaspoons of the mixture well apart on to a greased thick baking tray.
- 5 Cook 12 - 15 minutes until golden.
- 6 Leave for a minute or two, then slip a palette knife under, turn over and roll round the handle of a wooden spoon.
(Work quickly before the biscuits harden.)
- 7 Gently slide off the spoon and leave to cool.
- 8 Refill the tray and repeat with the rest of the mixture.



GARDENING NOTES - JUNE:

- 1) Cut back early -flowering species, such as delphiniums to a hand's height above soil level - they will hopefully flower again in late summer.
- 2) Feed roses, and deadhead regularly.
- 3) Stake tall growing plants to prevent them from being flattened by wind and rain.
- 4) This is a good time to lift and divide congested clumps of spring- flowering primulas.
- 5) Plant quick maturing tender vegetables such as lettuce and radishes.
- 6) At the end of the month, trim hedges.

DIARY - JUNE

- 3 Group Bible Study, "Bible Bytes":
Saffron Lane URC 10.30 - 11.30am.
- 10 Elders' Meeting - 10.30am.
- 13 Bible Society Coffee Morning at South Wigston URC:
10.00 - 11.30am.
- 24 Drop In - The Hidden History of Spinalonga 10.00 - 11.30
- 28 Churches Together in South Wigston - United Summer Service,
4.00pm at St Mary's Church, Countesthorpe Road, Wigston.

Thought for the Month

*There is nothing in a caterpillar
that tells you it's going to be a butterfly.
R. Buckminster Fuller.*

South Wigston News

PRAYER LIST - JUNE:

Please pray for:

- 1 All those living in war-torn countries.
- 2 Leaders of those countries at war, that they may exchange weapons for words.
- 3 All those who have been bereaved, injured or made homeless by war.
- 4 Those we know and love, who are unwell and going through hospital treatment.
- 5 Mo, Gaynor, Andrew and families, facing life without Geoff.
- 6 All who work in our hospitals and Care Homes.
- 7 All who are preaching the Word of God in our churches today.
- 8 Those who are struggling with debt.
- 9 Young people sitting important exams this month.
- 10 People coping with disability - physical or mental.
- 11 All who work to protect the environment.
- 12 Those whose work is on the sea, that they remain safe.
- 13 The Bible Society and its work.
- 14 All who, through age or infirmity, cannot get to Church today.
- 15 All missionaries, as they continue their work.
- 16 All leaders of nations, that they may have wisdom, compassion, strength and courage.
- 17 All who are lonely and afraid.
- 18 All who are seeking employment.
- 19 Give thanks for our pets, and the pleasure they give.
- 20 The housebound.
- 21 All who are attending our churches today.
- 22 Those whose families live far away.
- 23 Refugees, that they may find a safe place to live.
- 24 On Midsummer Day, give thanks for the beauty of Summer.
- 25 All those going on holiday, that they may return refreshed in body and mind.
- 26 All who are living with OCD.
- 27 Children everywhere, that they may live in safety.
- 28 Our friends in the other churches in our areas.
- 29 Those who do not have enough to eat.
- 30 Give thanks for the love of God, which is for all - and for all time.

South Wigston URC

Multi Faith Centre

North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College

DROP IN

Wednesday 24 June 2026

10.00 to 11.30

The Hidden History of Spinalonga

Come along and join us

Everybody Welcome

Tea / Coffee and Biscuits Available

South Wigston URC

Coffee Morning

In aid of

Bible Society

Saturday 13 June 2026

10.00 – 11.30



South Wigston News

Prayers, Praise and Petitions

Father, hear the prayers we offer
Listening, hopes and love
Thanks for the gift of Jesus now
With you in the heavens above.

Thank you for the life he led
To show how we must behave
Thank you for his great sacrifice
For our sins his life he gave

We are grateful for the spirit
Who walks with us day by day
On our way he's guiding us
When we would go astray.

We know you hear all our prayers
Those spoken and in our heart
We see the evidence of healing and
Comfort when life tears us apart.

We feel your peace throughout each day
Your spirit urging us on
To do the works you have ordained
For each and every one.

Amen

Lauren Fretter

Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for Jun - July 2026

Date	OT	NT	Ser	Col	Preacher	
Jun 7 th	6	7	6	13	P Smith	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
Jul 5 th	36	6	3	13	R Green	Communion
Jul 12 th	7	8	7	13	M Ferris	Communion
Jul 19 th	30	12	30	13	S Clay	Communion
Jul 26 th	9	3	#	13	E Williams	Family Service Business Meeting 10.30
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

June

28th Sandra Clay

July

None



Saffron Lane News

Charity Coffee Morning - May 16th 2026

We want to thank all the Church member and friends of the Church for supporting our Coffee Morning which was for LOROS. We had a lovely cake table with the thanks to Mary. Pat had a sale table and we had some books for sale. We also sold tea and coffee and toasted teacakes which went down very well. We raised £247.00 so thanks go to all who contributed.

No Wonder He Wags His Tail

When God had made the earth and sky
The flowers and the trees,
He then made all the animals
And all the birds and bees.
And when His work was finished
Not one was quite the same.
He said "I'll walk this earth of mine
And give each one a name".
And so He travelled land and sea
And everywhere He went
A little creature followed Him
Until its strength was spent.
When all were named upon the earth
And in the sky and sea,
The creature said "Dear Lord,
There's not one left for me".
The Father smiled and softly said
"I've left you to the end.
I've turned my own name back to front
And called you **DOG**, my friend".

Whetstone News

New Members Welcomed

It was wonderful to welcome three new members to our church on 3rd May. Richard led a fantastic service to bring Joan, Phil and Angie into Membership. Congratulations to the three of them!

The service was followed by a bring-and-share lunch. The savoury items filled two large tables, with the desserts filling a third table! Everyone went home very full!

Thanks to all who joined us and made it such a lovely occasion!

Come and Share With Us

It is amazing to see that many of our Thursday church family are now joining us on Sundays too.

If you've not been to a service yet and are curious, please do join us. Each week there is a different Worship Leader, bringing their own style and perspective and you will be assured of a warm welcome!

Tea, coffee and biscuits follow the service, allowing for further time together in friendship and fellowship.

Forthcoming Social Events

On **Saturday 23rd May**, we have a Charity Coffee Morning in aid of CRY from 10am til 12noon. There will be bric-a-brac, a tombola, a raffle and light refreshments. Please do join us, if you are able.

On **Saturday 6th June** we will be holding a Coffee Morning with organ music. Come along to chat, listen to the music, request a song and sing a few hymns. It will be a lovely, relaxing morning from 10am til 12noon. All welcome!

Thank You

Sheila and John would like to thank the church for the lovely Easter card and flowers they received. We continue to hold them both in our thoughts and prayers.

Can you Help ?

We are blessed with a fantastic church building but isn't there always something that needs attention and, inevitably, money?!

As well as the church hall roof, the perimeter wall needs urgent attention, the heating, kitchen and toilets need upgrading, the organ needs repairs and the carpark needs resurfacing.

So

if there happens to be any rich people reading this, please bear us in mind, as we continue to serve God and the community of Whetstone!

Story for the Month

A large seminar was held for ministers in training. The lead ordained minister stood in front of the trainees and said, "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!" The trainees were shocked! He followed up by saying, "And that woman was my mother!" The trainees burst into laughter and he gave his speech, which was well received.

About a week later, one of the trainee ministers who had attended the seminar decided to use that joke in what was his first sermon to the congregation. As he shyly approached the pulpit, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. He was notably very nervous and getting to the microphone he said loudly, "The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman that was not my wife!" His congregation sat shocked.

After standing there for almost 30 seconds, the trainee minister finally blurted out, "...and I can't remember who she was!"

Whetstone United Reformed Church LE8 6LP

Saturday June 6th

10.00 - 12.00

Coffee Morning

Songs of Praise Singalong.



**Come and choose
your favourite
hymns to sing.**

Listen to hymns played on the organ.

**Light
refreshments
All Welcome.**



What is Christian Worship?

Christian Worship is the act of devotion, love, and adoration that recognises God's supreme worth, rather than just a musical or Sunday activity. It is considered a lifestyle of honouring God through service, obedience, and gratitude, frequently described as 'worth-ship' (ascribing value to God.)

Key aspects of worship include:

A Heart Response: Worship is primarily an internal, spiritual response to God's character - loving, treasuring and delighting in him.

'In Spirit and Truth': Based on John 4: 23-24, true worship is not about a physical location but is motivated by the Holy Spirit and based on proper knowledge of God through Scripture (truth).

'A Living Sacrifice': According to Romans 12:1, Christians often view their entire lives - including ethical decisions, service to others, and everyday actions as an offering to God.

'Gathered Community': While it can be done individually, corporate worship involves coming together as a church to pray, read the Bible, receive sacraments (Communion) and sing praises.

'Both Awe and Joy': Worship includes both a sense of holy awe, or reverence, and joyful celebration of the glory of God.

Worship is often seen as a way to grow closer to God - to go 'further up and further in.'

Abbots Road News

Celebrating what God has done.

God has done so much for us, but we so easily forget it, as illustrated by the following prayer, inspired by an out-of-date newspaper.

I glimpsed the headline emblazoned over the front page -
Sensational stuff! But shrugged indifferently and turned aside,
For it was old hat, yesterday's paper, news no longer.
What excited once, bores now, what was fresh then, now seems stale.

I glimpsed the message running through the pages,
the Word made flesh, Christ crucified and risen -
sensational stuff! - but once more I shrugged and turned aside,
for it was again old hat, news no longer.

Only I was wrong, for it's as much today's news as yesterday's
As alive now as it will ever be, news for you, for me, for everyone.
Lord, keep me ever-enthused, ever excited,
by what you have done and continue to do, through Christ my Lord.
Amen.

Taken from 'Expressing our Worship' by Nick Fawcett.



Abbots Road News

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

A lasting ceasefire between America and Iran, Israel and Lebanon and an end to the war in Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria and all places of conflict.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

Those who struggle each day to find food for their family,

To find clean water to drink and wash in, and struggle to get adequate medical care and treatment.

For victims of violence.

For all those living on our streets in need of shelter and care.

For those who have addiction problems.

For young people going through exams.

For Christians who live in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

For those who are lonely and feel unloved.

For those living with mental illness.

For those who are victims of abuse.

For those who are not safe in their home because of domestic violence

For the ministry of Rainbow's Hospice, for the children in their care and their families.

For the mission of each church in SELA

For patience and co-operation as the recommendations of the Review are put into place.

For our Ministry team Martin and Eileen.

For those who are ill or going through a difficult time:

Dorothy and Brian, as Dorothy recovers from the injuries incurred from a fall whilst trying to continue to care for Brian.

June and Andy

Anne and John

Alison recovering from an injury caused by a fall. And for Paul as he cares for her.

Anne and Rob.

Gill's family

Roy

Kris

Laura

Lisa and Kev

Aiden,

Imogen

Give thanks for the blessing of growth in our churches.

Laundry tricks that actually work:

Put ice-cubes in a dryer, you get wrinkle free clothes without ironing.

Rub chalk on grease stains, it absorbs oil before washing.

Put black pepper in the wash, it keeps dark colours from fading.

Put aspirin in wash for whites it brightens yellowed white shirts.

Put vinegar in the rinse cycle it softens without chemical residue.

When soaking new colours puts salt in the water, it locks the dye and prevents bleeding.

Put foil balls in the dryer they replace dryer sheets for months.

Put a dry towel in with wet clothes it cuts the dryer time by 20 minutes.

Put a tennis ball in the dryer, it fluffs towels and jackets.

Put baby shampoo in the wash to unshrink clothes, it relaxes the fibres back to size.

Clean the drum of your washing machine by spraying white vinegar on it once a month.

Put scented soap into the cupboard where you store folded linen and towels.

Freeze jeans to freshen them up.

Abbots Road News

You're Having a Laugh

1. Went to the doctor's about my breathing, he told me I've got a knight, a bishop, and a pawn in my lungs. Turns out I've got a chess infection.
2. I made a car entirely out of washing machine parts. I'm taking it out for a spin later.
3. Last night we were crawling along the M25, in the middle of a huge traffic jam, and I thought to myself, I should really get a car.
4. One of my favourite childhood memories is making sandcastles with my grandad. Then mum took the urn away.....
5. LATEST NEWS: Police in Leicester are looking for a mugger who threatened victims with lit a match. They need to catch him before he strikes again.
6. A bloke came up to me and said, 'Have you got a light mate?' I said 'Yes, his names Steve and he weighs about 6 and a half stone.'
7. A husband and wife were sitting on the couch watching T.V. The wife looks at the husband and he is staring at the ceiling above her head, she looks up and asks, 'What are you staring at?'
'A spider,' he replies,
'I don't see anything' she says,
Oh, it must have fallen on your head.' He said calmly.
The wife jumps up screaming...
The husband says, 'While you're up, can you get me another beer?'
8. My doctor said I must bathe in milk but I couldn't get into the bottle.
9. My mum said follow your dreams, so I went back to bed.
10. 'I am nobody. Nobody is perfect. I am perfect.'

Thought for the Month

If it's not yours don't take it
If it's not true or kind, don't speak it
If it's not right, don't do it
If you wouldn't want it done to you, don't do it to others

If it makes you unhappy, don't entertain it
If it's going to open up old wounds, don't entertain it
If it's not going to make your life better, don't pursue it
If it's out of your control, don't worry about it.

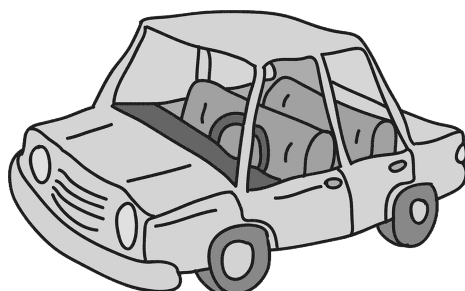
From @NavecQuotes



Instructions for a Safe Drive

The Christian Road Safety Association have come up with the following "Ten Commandments"

- 1 Begin with a Prayer
- 2 If you start late, arrive late
- 3 Alcohol is for the radiator, NOT the operator
- 4 If entry into the flow of traffic is facilitated by the courtesy of another driver, wave in appreciation
- 5 If you have inadvertently endangered the safe passage of another vehicle, wave as an apology
- 6 Make it easy for aggressive opportunity snatchers to get ahead of you -----FAR ahead
- 7 Drive so that the sudden appearance of a police patrol car is a pleasant sight
- 8 Give plenty of space to cars marked with dents
- 9 Never accelerate, and decelerate if advisable, when another car wishes to enter your lane
- 10 End every trip with a prayer of thanksgiving



Issues with Church Attendance ?

Issue 1

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door as he always did to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. He said to him "You need to join the army of the Lord"

My friend replied "I'm already in the army of the Lord, minister".

The minister questioned him "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter ?"

My friend whispered back "I'm in the Secret Service".

Issue 2

Three vicars were having lunch together.

One said "You know, since summer started I've been having trouble with bats at church. I've tried everything - noise, spray, cats - nothing seems to scare them away".

Another said "yes me too. I've got hundreds living in my belfry. I've even had the place fumigated, and they still won't go away."

The third said, "I baptised all mine, and made them members of the church Haven't seen one back since !!!!"

(The previous 3 items were all taken from " A Box of Delights" compiled by J John & Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.)

Lectionary Readings

Sunday 7 June

Genesis 12 v 1 - 9

Psalms 33 V 1 - 12

Romans 4 v 13 - 25

Matthew 9 v 9 - 13 & 18 - 26

Sunday 14 June

Genesis 18 v 1 - 15 (optional 21 v 1 - 7)

Psalms 116 v 1 - 2 & 12 - 19

Romans 5 v 1 - 8

Matthew 9 v 35 - 10 v 8 (optional 9 - 23)

Sunday 21 June

Genesis 21 v 8 - 21

Psalms 86 v 1 - 10 & 16 - 17

Romans 6 v 1b - 11

Matthew 10 v 24 - 39

Sunday 28 June

Genesis 22 v 1 - 14

Psalms 13

Romans 6 v 12 - 23

Matthew 10 40 - 42