

South & East Leicestershire Area United Reformed Churches



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

<http://selaunc.org.uk>

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September.

I always think that September is a month of beginnings and endings. It is a very popular choice for people to get married, when two people who have made promises to each other take the next step on their lives together. It is said that those who choose to marry in September will experience a harmonious and peaceful life together.

Did you know that worldwide more babies are born in September than at any other time of the year? The arrival of a newborn is a new beginning, bringing hope, new possibilities and the start of a new chapter in life.

New beginnings at schools and colleges happen in September. For many it could be leaving home for the first time to go to University. September is a month of seasonal changes when we celebrate the last days of Summer and the first days of Autumn. Sometimes September is known as the Harvest Month when farmers gather up the end of the harvest and prepare for the Winter Months. In the Southern Hemisphere Spring begins in September when the rainy season gives way to the dry season.

September is a month filled with significant holidays when various activities take place to celebrate the changing seasons.

September 12th this year sees the start of Rosh Hashanah, a Jewish Holiday. Rosh Hashanah means 'head of the year' and is a special festival that celebrates the Jewish New Year, a celebration of the creation of the world that marks making a fresh start. During Rosh Hashanah, people will ask themselves questions such as, "What is the most important thing in my life? What are the most meaningful and important things I have achieved in the last year? What do I hope to achieve over the coming year?" Slices of apple are dipped in honey to symbolise a sweet new year ahead. Honey cake is eaten too.

September 21st is the annual International Day of Peace, recognised by all members of the United Nations. Established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace. Observances range from a moment of silence at noon to events such as peace walks, concerts, and volunteering in the Community. Today, amidst staggering volatility, the search for peace feels overwhelming—but it has never been more urgent.

September 29th is Michaelmas in the Western Christian Church. An ancient Celtic "Quarter Day" which marked the end of the Harvesting season and was steeped in folklore. Rebranded by the Church and named for St Michael the Archangel to take people's minds away from pagan traditions. St Michael is the protector of God's people and a warrior against evil. The Church was often the only entity keeping a calendar, so many common events became linked to Michaelmas. Food, planting, harvests. The other Quarter Days are: Lady Day (the Feast of the Annunciation) on March 25th, the Feast of St. John on June 24th, and Christmas on December 25th.

In China a Mid- Autumn Festival, or Moon Festival, has been celebrated for over 3,000 years. Observed on the 15th day of the eighth month of the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, it can occur in either September or early October in the Gregorian calendar. Families and friends join together to give thanks for the harvest, offering each other wishes for happiness and long life and remembering loved ones who live far away.

September is often associated with the Feast of the Exaltation of the cross, (Feast of the triumph of the cross/Holy Cross Day) commemorating the triumph of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. The greatest of new beginnings. A time for spiritual growth, reflection, and anticipation in the Christian Calendar. The cross used to be nothing more than an instrument of torture and death.

The Romans used it to punish those they considered criminals, to strike fear in the hearts of those who might dare challenge their so-called peace. It was the cruellest form of execution. Everything changed the day Jesus was crucified. Jesus died upon the cross and what was once merely an instrument of Roman punishment became in Christ the symbol of salvation from pain and death. It became an instrument of divine mercy, a symbol of love, and above all the promise of eternal life.

In Christ, the cross now tells not a human story of oppressive power and dehumanizing punishment, but the divine story of redemption. In the cross, Jesus reveals the very heart of God. He shows us how precious each of us is to the Father, and how far God is willing to go for our salvation: "For God so loved the World that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life."

The cross teaches us that it is better to give than to receive. That a life lived for others is the fullest life. That death is not a calamity when it crowns a selfless life of charity and service. The cross doesn't just urge us to be good as individuals; it inspires us to work together with others for the common good. After all, one of the reasons Jesus climbed the cross was to draw all humanity in unity unto himself. The cross compels us toward justice, compassion, and solidarity with all those who suffer. It challenges us to open our eyes to the plight of the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the oppressed, and to vehemently challenge the structures responsible for their suffering, while we do what we can to alleviate their distress. It warns us not to rest until there is justice for all, to resist the constant temptation to participate in corruption or selfishness, but to transform the vicious circle of life into a circle of grace and mercy.

Above all, the cross challenges us to take God and our faith more seriously. For every Christian, the cross remains the most powerful reminder of the religion of love, justice, and peace that Christ inaugurated.

Shirley Eastman

Area Minister is on Sabbatical

Revd Martin Ferris is on Sabbatical from August until the end of October and will be unavailable for his usual duties.

Should any urgent pastoral or church related matters arise, please contact your respective Church Secretary in the first instance.

If there is a matter that requires his attention or of which he needs to be made aware, please ask that the Church Secretary liaise with Di Statham our Area Secretary, who will contact him as appropriate.

During his Sabbatical he will not be regularly accessing emails.

A Thank You from Shirley Eastman

Shirley and Family want to thank you all for the kind words and messages of support during what has been and continues to be a very difficult time. Losing Richard has been incredibly hard, but knowing that we are supported by such caring friends has brought us comfort.

Your condolences, whether through cards and messages, your presence, or thoughtful gestures have reminded us that we are not alone in our grief. It means so much more than words can say to know that Richard is remembered with such love and respect. Thanks to all who made donations to OCHRE, the Oesophageal Charity, over £1000 has been donated.

So thank you for standing with us and helping us find strength in the midst of sorrow.

Blessings

Shirley and Family.

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 OCTOBER 26 MAGAZINE

Sunday 14 September 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 September 26

Saffron Lane	6	Revd Ivor Smith
	13	Sandra Clay
	20	Revd Ivor Smith - Harvest Festival
	27	Eileen Williams
South Wigston	6	Noel Oldershaw - Café Style Service
	13	David Todd - Harvest Festival
	20	Revd David Howlett
	27	Revd Les Gill
Wigston Magna	6	Ray Green
	13	Julie Slatford
	20	Worship Group - Communion
	27	Revd Jacquie Gavin
Whetstone	6	Revd David Howlett - Communion
	13	Kevin West
	20	David Todd
	27	Harvest Hymns of Praise
Abbots Road	6	Revd Pam Smith - Communion
	13	Tom Donahue
	20	Alison Hadley
	27	Revd Jenny Mills

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 2 nd 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. 4 th Wednesday of each month (Not JULY & AUGUST) Coffee Morning 2 nd Saturday 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 2 September 2026

10.30 am

Saffron Lane URC

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion

No Need to be a " Bible Expert"

EVERYBODY welcome



South and East Leicestershire Area URC

AREA SERVICE

Led By

REVD NEIL THOROGOOD
(Moderator of General Assembly)

Sunday 27 September 2026

3.00 pm

At

Saffron Lane URC
(Pork Pie Island, Leicester)
LE2 6TE

Light Refreshments will be served after the service.

Birthdays in September

- 2nd - Brenda Colgate
- 12th - Madison Childs - '21'
- 12th - Lynda Fisher
- 17th - Nick Dunkerley
- 19th - Shaun Powell
- 20th - Eileen Williams



Diary Dates

- **Saturday 5th September** - Skittles Evening
- **Friday 11th September** - Heritage Open Day, organised by The Historical Society
- **Saturday 12th September** - Historic Churches 'Ride and Stride' (during coffee morning)
- **Sunday 20th September** - CTWM Open Air Service & BBQ @ 4pm, led by Revd. Les Gill
- **Monday 21st September @ 6.45pm** - Magna Music Band Concert (Details on poster on next page)
- **Saturday 26th September @ 7pm** - Harmonics Community Choir Concert

MAGNA
MUSIC BAND'S

14TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT
MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026

 **MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026**

 **6.45PM**

 **WIGSTON URC**
LONG STREET, WIGSTON

 **FREE ENTRY**
DONATIONS WELCOME

 **REFRESHMENTS SERVED**
AFTER PERFORMANCE

— ALSO PERFORMING: —
The Clangers
HANDBELL RINGERS

*An evening of music, celebration
and community!*

Community Cinema

Monday 5th October 2026

I Swear

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 - FRUITY SUMMER COLESLAW (Serves 4)

$\frac{1}{2}$ white cabbage, thinly sliced
1 large carrot, peeled and shredded
12 radishes, thinly sliced
1 apple, halved, cored and cut into matchsticks
1 peach, halved and thinly sliced
50g each of green and red seedless grapes, halved
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cucumber, halved lengthwise, deseeded and thinly sliced
6 spring onions, sliced diagonally

Dressing:

4 level tablespoons mayonnaise
4 tablespoons natural fromage frais
Juice of 2 limes
1 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder (optional - gives an Asian twist)

1. Place all fruit and salad ingredients in a large bowl, and mix gently.
2. Cover and chill until ready to serve.
3. Mix all the dressing ingredients in a bowl and, when ready to serve, pour over the vegetable and fruit mix.
4. Season to taste and serve.



GARDENING TIPS: SEPTEMBER:

- 1 Reduce the amount of food you are feeding the fish.
- 2 Prune any damaged fruit tree branches.
- 3 Harvest late-season pears, apples and walnuts.
- 4 Plant iris and spring-flowering bulbs.
- 5 Plant autumn-flowering plants, such as heathers and chrysanthemums, in tubs, along with grasses and ivy.
- 6 Neatly edge the borders of the lawn.



DIARY: September

- 2 Bible Bytes - Saffron Lane URC 10.30am. - all welcome.
- 9 Elders' Meeting 10.30am.
- 12 Coffee Morning plus "Ride and Stride" 10.00am- 2.00pm.
- 13 Harvest Festival
- 15 "Freshers' Fair" 10.00am - 1.00pm at South Leicestershire College.
- 19 Food Hygiene Training - 10.00am, Whetstone URC.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

The oldest, shortest words - "yes" and "no" -
are those which require the most thought.

Pythagoras.

South Wigston News

PRAYER LIST: September.

Please pray for:

- 1 All who are living in war-torn countries.
- 2 The leaders of all nations, that they may put their people first.
- 3 All who mourn the loss of a loved one, and we think especially of our dear friend Shirley and family.
- 4 Give thanks for our Summer holidays.
- 5 Children and teachers at the start of a new term.
- 6 All who preach the Word of God in our churches today.
- 7 Young people who are disappointed with exam results, and are now not sure of the way ahead.
- 8 Young people about to start a new life at work or university.
- 9 Give thanks for the public services we take for granted.
- 10 All who are homeless.
- 11 All who live in Care Homes, and those who look after them.
- 12 Missionaries who witness to their faith in faraway places.
- 13 Give thanks for a bountiful Harvest.
- 14 Those who do not have enough to eat.
- 15 Adults unable to read or write, and those helping them to learn.
- 16 Give thanks for friends.
- 17 The work of "Age UK".
- 18 The Elders in our group of churches.
- 19 All connected with the Hospice Movement, remembering our local hospice, LOROS.
- 20 All Lay Preachers who are leading services today.
- 21 All who seek to spread the Gospel to young people.
- 22 Those who have suffered through the recent heat wave, especially those affected by the rapid spread of fires.
- 23 All who are suffering from mental illness or depression.
- 24 All who are sick, those facing an operation, thinking especially of our dear friend, Joan, recovering slowly from an operation.
- 25 All who are unemployed.
- 26 The homeless.
- 27 Fellowship at our Group Service this afternoon.
- 28 Give thanks for the talents God has given us; may we use them in His service.
- 29 Peace throughout the world.
- 30 Give thanks for God's everlasting love.

South Wigston URC

Multi Faith Centre

North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College

DROP IN

Wednesday 23 September 2026

10.00 to 11.30

Come along and join us

Everybody Welcome

Tea / Coffee and Biscuits Available

Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for Sept -October 2026

Date	OT	NT	Serv	Col	Preacher	
Sept 6 th	5	15	5	13	I Smith	Communion
Sept 13 th	36	6	12	13	S Clay	Communion
Sept 20 th	7	8	7	13	I Smith	Communion
Sept 27 th	20	12	#	13	E Williams	Family Service
Oct 4 th	9	30	9	13	G Milnes	Communion
Oct 11 th	5	15	5	13	R Green	Communion
Oct 18 th	6	36	12	13	P Tiplady	Communion
Oct 25 th	8	7	#	13	R Benham	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 M	
7.Angela S	11.Richard B	30 Sandra C	

September Birthdays

1st Maureen Foster
 19th Pat Storton
 20th Eileen Williams
 22nd Gareth Slee

October Birthdays

None



Saffron Lane News

What has happened at Saffron Lane Since the last magazine

We had our Church business meeting, and Elders meeting

We held a Bible Bytes talking about one of the Parables, the Parable of the Sower

At the next Bible Bytes on 2 September we will be looking at and discussing another Parable

The Saffron Lane congregation were invited to Eileen's and Charlies house for our annual Garden Party. The weather was wonderful and we all tried to find a place to sit in the shade. This year there was 12 of us. We decided to all bring and share our first course and Eileen prepared a table full of wonderful puddings and cakes for us. The tea pot was also in use non stop. We all helped to make the afternoon go by with lots of eating and plenty of talking. When it was time to go we thanked Eileen and Charlie for inviting us. Some photographs from the event can be seen below and on the following pages.



Saffron Lane News



Saffron Lane News



Saffron Lane News

Harvest Events

We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on Sunday 20 September. If anyone has any greenery in their garden which we can have to help decorate our church for harvest, please will you let Sandra Clay know. (0116 2835375)

Our annual Harvest Fish and Chip Supper will take place on Tuesday 22nd September at 7.30pm. Everybody is welcome to come along and join us for the supper - to book a place please contact Sandra Clay on 0116 2835375.



We know that all the Churches will be holding their Harvest Festival services during September or October. But if you would like to join an additional Harvest Celebration Saffron Lane will leading a short service at Oak Court on September 25th at 2.00pm. Please feel free to come along and be part of the service.

Saffron Lane News

The below song was written for our Harvest Service when Elizabeth, Pat and myself were just small girls so thought I would bring it to life again. - Sandra

Down Saffron Lane Written by Joan and Betty Birkett

Down Saffron Lane
That's where the sun shines the brightest,
There's a little home on Saffron Lane
Made beautiful by love,
Their kindness and friendship reign,
Inspired by heaven above.

Down Saffron Lane,
That's where the sun shines the brightest,
Down Saffron Lane
Friends there are loyal and true.
Sunshine or rain,
That's where our hearts are the lightest,
That's where we gain comfort and blessing anew.

Down Saffron Lane
That's where the sun shines the brightest
There's a little school on Saffron Lane,
Where children's songs are heard
There wisdom gives eternal gain,
From God's almighty word.

Down Saffron Lane
That's where the sun shines the brightest
There's a little Church on Saffron Lane
To which we love to go;
We never seek the lord in vain,
It's like a heaven below.
Down Saffron Lane
That's where the sun shine the brightest
Down Saffron Lane.

Whetstone URC News

Coffee Morning Celebrations

What a wonderful morning we had on Saturday 4th July at the home of Pam and Jon Brookes. It was so generous of them to open their house and allow us to spend time together in friendship and fellowship, whilst raising funds for the church. With cakes, raffle, tombola, clothes, bric-a-brac, tea, coffee, burgers and hot dogs, who could ask for more? The morning was a huge success and raised over £500 for church funds.

Thank You

I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped with the cleaning and setting out of chairs and tables in preparation for Richard's funeral and also the clearing up afterwards. It really was a team effort! Also a big thank you to Sue for the wonderful flower arrangements.

Jean.

Sad News

We were very sad to hear of the deaths of two of our old friends who both supported us with fundraising events, raffles and much more for many years.

Jack Bassford passed away suddenly at home. He loved the Walking Group and he always had a joke to share. His funeral took place on Friday the 14th August at Cosby Methodist Church.

Also, Norma Lawrence who passed away at home on 24th of July, was very generous and always supported us with items for our raffles. A service to celebrate her life will take place at St. Peter's church at on 1st September at 2pm.

We will miss them both. May they rest in peace.

Jean.

Whetstone News

Future Events

Our musical evening that had been planned for 19th August was postponed out of respect for Richard who would, under normal circumstances, have led the evening with his usual wit and large personality. We are instead planning something for the spring which may include an Easter bonnet competition. More details to follow.

On Saturday 12th September we will be holding a coffee morning for Epilepsy Research UK. There will be the usual raffle, bring and buy and light refreshments. This also coincides with Ride and Stride. All welcome!

On Sunday 27th September, we will hold a special "Harvest hymns of praise" service. This will give people the opportunity to choose their own favourite harvest hymns for a lovely sing along in advance of our Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October.

On Saturday 3rd October we will have a Coffee Morning from 10am til 12noon, during which we will gratefully receive any donations of harvest produce in preparation for our Harvest Festival.

Following the Harvest Festival service on 4th October, which will be led by our own Shirley, there will be a bring and share lunch and also the sale of harvest produce. The proceeds will go to a charity, as yet to be decided.



Whetstone News

More Thank -You's

We thank Peter for the generous donation of a digital piano to the church. Thanks also to daughter Sian, for delivering the piano to us and also to Thomas who helped to move the old piano into the Primary room.

Following the sad closure of Huncote Methodist Church, we have benefitted from a new Communion table, a set of steps, two kettles and the possibility of a larger screen.

We were thrilled to welcome Amanda and her husband from Huncote Methodist Church to our service on Sunday 16th August, as they search for a new church. We pray that they will find what they are looking for. We sincerely hope to see them again soon.

Thank You from Joan

I would like to thank everyone for the love, prayers,
gifts of flowers and many beautiful Get Well Cards
I received during my recent illness. I am pleased to
say I'm progressing well now,
Best Wishes to you all
From Joan Seaton

The Offering !!

Little Timmy refuses to put any money in the church offering plate. His mother leans down and whispers urgently, *"You don't want that money, honey! Quick, drop it in the plate. It's tainted!"*

Horrorified, the little boy quickly drops his coin in. A few seconds later, he leans over and whispers, *"Mummy, why was the money tainted?"* She replies, *"Oh, it's not really dirty, dear. It just 'taint yours and 'taint mine. It's God's."*

Whetstone United Reformed Church LE8 6LP

Saturday September

12th

10.00 - 12.00

Coffee Morning

Raising money for Epilepsy Research UK



Light Refreshments

Raffle

Bring and Buy Stall

All Welcome.

Abbots Road News

Edith's News

On a warm, fine Sunday morning, a young couple Tom and Beth who are part of our church family re-took their marriage vows, because when they were married it was during the COVID Pandemic which meant family and friends were unable to be there with them to celebrate.

Beth looked beautiful and Tom looked very smart, as did their boys George, Kohn and George. And this time their family, all dressed up in their finery, were able to come and celebrate with them. Altogether it was a moving happy service. Our Minister took the service and it was meaningful. I was a little bit envious though.

In July we had another wonderful celebration when two more of our church family got married. (We don't get that many these days). It was a very happy occasion as Laura and Jack exchanged vows. Our Minister was in his prime, giving encouraging words and a lovely smile for the Bride and Groom. The whole congregation enjoyed it too. Laura looked very beautiful in her wedding gown, and Jack scrubbed up well too. Their daughters Ell-Jae and Grace along with others were Bridesmaids in dresses of a lovely green colour. And Lawson their son looked very smart in his wedding clothes. The Bride arrived in a very unusual vehicle - a lorry. That caused us to laugh because it was so unusual but it added to the joy of the day.

Laura and Jack kindly invited the whole congregation to join them for the evening knees up.

Jack and Laura, it was your day, such a joyful day it was too. God bless you - see you at church.

By Edith Middleton

Wedding Vows Renewal



On Sunday 26th July, Abbots Road URC was delighted to celebrate the renewal of wedding vows for Beth and Tom. Having married during the pandemic, the restrictions at the time meant they were unable to celebrate their special day with their wider family and friends as they originally planned.

This joyful service gave Beth and Tom the opportunity to reaffirm the promises they made to one another in the presence of God, surrounded by their immediate family, friends and the church family at Abbots Road URC, where they now worship. It was a wonderful occasion, filled with thanksgiving, love and celebration, as those who have supported and encouraged them shared in this long-awaited moment.

The service concluded with a time of fellowship over refreshments, where everyone enjoyed sharing in the couple's happiness, including a beautifully decorated wedding cake. It was a fitting end to a memorable day and we pray that God will continue to bless Beth and Tom as they journey together in faith, hope and love.



Bible Facts

Eight interesting facts from the Bible that you may not know :-

1. Lamech, the father of Noah, is supposed to have lived for 777 years.
2. Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, helped Bezalel to make linen furnishings for the Tabernacle.
3. Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of four kings of Judah; Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah.
4. David's army captured a thousand chariots from Hadadezer, King of Zobah,
5. Philip, the New Testament evangelist, lived in Caesarea and had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.
6. When Jesus told his disciples to go fishing at dawn, their total catch was 153 fish.
7. The director of music as the walls of Jerusalem were rededicated in Nehemiah's time was a man called Jezrahiah.
8. Shamgar, the son of Anath, struck down 600 Philistines with an ox-goad and so saved Israel.

A Prayer from the URC Prayer Handbook 2025

Loving God,
Gift us with words and speech that build community.
Help us to be aware of what we say.
Help us to think before we act.
Remind us that
Our spark can cause an inferno,
Our ripple can cause a wave,
Our small adjustments can change the direction of the journey,
Our tiniest actions can make huge differences for others.
Through your Spirit
May we strive to be more considerate,
May our actions reflect your love,
May our words be honest and affirming,
May our lives be holy.

By John Grundy

WORLD CUP

We've just had the World Cup.
Did you enjoy it or were you fed up?
Did the noise and excitement pass you by?
Now it's all over it's a time to cry,
Count the cost because we lost.
Was it worth it? I don't know - HO - HO.

By Edith Middleton

HEAT WAVE

Oh, isn't it hot today?
I can't cope with all this sun,
It makes me tired, it makes me weak,
How shall I get through another week?

By Edith Middleton

YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH

A woman 'phoned her local newspaper to let them know she'd just given birth to 18 children. The reporter didn't quite hear the message and said, "Would you like to repeat that?" "Not if I can help it," she said

Why can't a steam engine sit down? Because it has a tender behind.

A man goes to the vet and says, 'My dog's a nuisance. He chases everyone on a bike, what can I do?' 'If I were you', said the vet, 'I'd take his bike away.'

A monastic order was low on funds and decided to set up a fish and chip stand outside the monastery. The very first customer came up to the counter and with a smirk asked, 'Brother Alfred, are you the fish friar?' 'No,' said Brother Alfred, 'I'm the chip monk.'

After the dedication of his baby brother in church, a little boy sobbed all the way home. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'The minister said she wanted us to be brought up in a Christian home but I want to stay with you and mum.'

What weighs 2,000lbs and wears a flower behind his ear?
A Hippy potamus.

Daughter - 'Mum, does God use our bathroom? Mum - 'No dear, why?
Daughter - 'Because every morning daddy bangs on the door and shouts, 'O God, are you still in there?'

Think of a number between 1 + 50, double it, subtract 61, add 1
subtract the number you started with, close your eyes
Dark isn't it?

Abbots Road News

Cont...

Hickory dickory dock, 3 mice ran up the clock - the clock struck 1 and the other 2 got away with minor injuries.

Doctor: You need glasses.

Patient: How did you know?

Doctor: I could tell as soon as soon as you walked through the window.

The evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening.' And then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

Joe said to Tom, 'You're such a good friend that if we were on a sinking ship and there was only one life jacket, I'd miss you very much and think of you often.'

If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.

A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove you don't need it!

I've been trying to get tickets to see an Elvis tribute band, but when I phone a voice keeps saying Press 1 for the money, 2 for the show.

(With apologies to male drivers) If you don't like the way men drive, get off the pavement.

I'm good friends with 25 letters of the alphabet - I don't know 'why'.

Last night me and my boyfriend watched 3 DVD's back to back.
Luckily I was the one facing the tele.

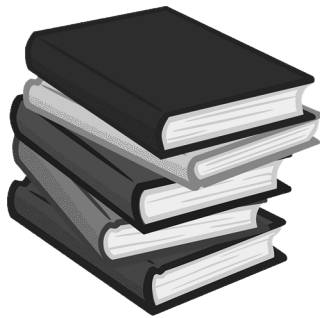
St Stephens URC Book Sale

St Stephens URC in De Montfort Street Leicester have set up a weekly Book Sale on Friday's from 11.00 to 4.00 to raise funds for the Church.

They are looking for donations of used books - for both Adults and Children of ALL ages - to supplement their stocks.

If you have any books that you have finished with and are willing to donate please speak to your Church Secretary who will make arrangements for them to be passed on to St Stephens.

Of course you are also welcome to go along to the sale if you are free on a Friday and purchase books for yourself and your family.



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 a fit to their mould.

He was the mould breaker, and they missed him

WILL YOU ????

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

Thank you from The URC

**To: All members and adherents of
United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

Dear Friends,

This letter is designed to give you an indication of the denomination's central finances but is necessarily a brief over-view. Your church (or group) treasurer has a letter giving more detail which we are sure they will be delighted to share with you.

In recent years, on the Ministry and Mission (M&M) Fund, we have seen a gradual decline in church contributions and the shortfall on synod's pledges have been made up by the synods themselves. We are hugely grateful to the synods for their generosity but recognise this is not sustainable over the long term. It is also of concern that the weakness of church contributions weakens the covenant that binds us together as a denomination, namely that those with resources contribute to supporting those who have less. The central URC budget for expenditure (for 2026) includes a number of areas of expected costs reduction, significantly in staffing. Some very hard choices have been made and implemented. On the other hand, the URC needs to buy in expertise that we need for our world of increasing regulation and oversight, in view of the scarce resources available from volunteers. We hope that at local church level you will take a moment to reflect on the expertise (paid and unpaid) that steers the URC through all we have to do to be compliant with complex regulation. (Please pray for us!).

We know you have some of these challenges at local level too. We hope that one of the outcomes of the Church Life Review and Church Life Fund going forward will be the availability of URC resources and advice that can be accessed by local congregations. Ask your Church Secretary about these and look at this year's General Assembly decisions.

The annual audited accounts of the URC (for the year ended 31 December 2025) are now finalised and were published just before General Assembly. You can find a copy at <https://urc.org.uk/trustees-report-and-financial-statements/>

The accounts of the M&M Fund (the greater, but not only part of the URC Trust finances) show our total income £670,000 ahead of budget, but our costs were around £610,000 higher than expected. The deficit for the year on the M&M fund was around £650,000. We had hoped for much better.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2025 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Yates (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

thank
you!

Nine Reasons Why God Created Eve

God was worried that Adam would get lost in the garden and would not ask for directions.

God knew that one day Adam would need someone to help him find the remote.

God knew Adam would never go out by himself and buy a new fig leaf

God knew Adam would never make a doctor's or dentist's appointment on his own.

God knew Adam would never remember which night to put out the rubbish.

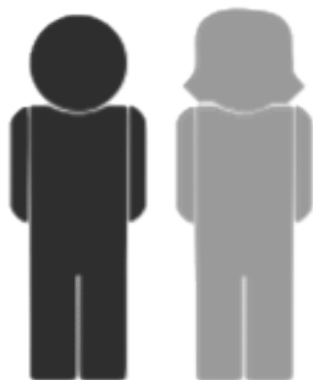
God knew Adam would never handle the responsibility of childbirth

God knew Adam would need help locating his gardening tools

God knew Adam would need someone else to blame

God finished making Adam, scratched his head and said " I can do better than that !"

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



Lectionary Readings

6 September

Exodus 12 v 1 - 14

Psalms 149

Romans 13 v 8 - 14

Matthew 18 v 15 - 20

13 September

Exodus 14 v 19 - 31

Psalms 114

Romans 14 v 1 - 12

Matthew 18 v 21 - 35

20 September

Exodus 16 v 2 - 15

Psalms 105 v 1 - 6 & 37 - 45

Philippians 1 v 21 - 30

Matthew 20 v 1 - 16

27 September

Exodus 17 v 1 - 7

Psalms 78 v 1 - 4 & 12 - 16

Philippians 2 v 1 - 13

Matthew 21 v 23 - 32