

South Wigston Methodist Church

# The Oracle

**WE ARE  
TWINNING  
OUR TOILETS**

**Harvest festival**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

## **Our Mission Statement**

The people of South Wigston Methodist Church are called to live the good news of God's love through open hearts, open minds and open doors.

We strive to be a place where understandings of Jesus Christ can flourish.

We're called to be good neighbours to people in need, to challenge injustice, and to meet regularly for prayers, singing and learning.

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One of the ways in which we seek to put this mission statement into practice is to ensure that our church is a safe place for all who use it by following the safeguarding policies and practices of the Methodist Church. Our church's safeguarding policy is on the noticeboard in the lounge. The Safeguarding contact is Helen 07500 180517.

**South Wigston Methodist Church**  
Blaby Road, South Wigston LE18 4PB  
[www.swmchurch.org.uk](http://www.swmchurch.org.uk)

**Minister:** Rev. Fran Rhys 0116 257 1069

**Senior Steward:** Mary B. 0116 281 2625

Leicester Trinity Circuit, Charity registration number 1129943

**Editor:** Mary B. contact: [pmmby@gmail.com](mailto:pmmby@gmail.com) 07891 917768  
Contributions always welcome; deadline 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
You can see *The Oracle* in colour on our website.

**Rooms for Hire** A number of spaces ranging from small meeting rooms to a large hall are available for hire. For available dates and prices please contact Pat 0116 277 6818

## Services in September

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 10.15 Morning worship  
Junior church

**6.30 At Birstall** – Circuit ‘welcome’ service  
recognising Rev. Paula Hunt as Superintendent.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 9.00 BANG with breakfast for children,  
families & carers  
10.15 Morning worship

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Bible breakfast  
10.15 Morning worship  
Junior church

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10.15*

*Harvest festival & Junior Church awards  
music by the Lutterworth Town Band*

Your gifts of produce will be received for the local food bank  
and money for Toilet Twinning (see page 7)

Followed by a faith lunch – bring some food to share

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Morning worship  
Junior church

**Bible Society coffee morning**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 10~12 at St Thomas.



## Letter from our minister

### “Passing on the mantle”

It's wonderful to realise how many expressions that are used in English have their origins in the bible. “Taking up the mantle” is one such. Its origins can be found in 2 Kings 2:13, where Elisha picks up the prophet Elijah's cloak. Elijah has discerned through prayer that Elisha is the right person to take over from him in his role as prophetic conscience and advisor within the nation of Israel. Elijah is portrayed as a bold reformer, unafraid of speaking truth to power (the kings of Israel) in the 9<sup>th</sup> century before Christ, but also as someone who experienced profound discouragement: “He went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: ‘It is enough; now, Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.’” (1 Kings 19:4) So Elisha had big shoes to fill, so to speak.

You may or may not know that the Methodist Church has a rule that no one should hold voluntary office for longer than 6 years, if at all possible. Four of the church's stewards have now held office for longer than 6 years. One of them, Janice, is stepping down on 1<sup>st</sup> September. We thank her very much for all of her hard work, hosting of preachers and services, and attention to detail that she has been faithful to in this post. Mary, Janet, and David will step down in May 2020.

Margaret and Pat are also stepping down as leaders of Little Angels Toddlers group which has met two mornings a week

during term-time. Margaret has filled this demanding role for 20 years, and Pat for many years as well. Little Angels has been a welcoming home for so many families over these years. As one parent put online, “lovely church great people lovely mum’s and tots group”. We thank God that Donna, the leader of the Girls’ Brigade, has come forward to start a Monday afternoon Tiny Tots group.

Let’s pray for the success of this new group, not least at the new prayer group starting up on the first Tuesday of every month, 10-11am. Everyone who can is encouraged to come along to this.

You may be approached in the next few weeks and months, as to whether you are being called, like Elisha, to take up some of the tasks of being a steward. Please give it some prayerful thought as to what more you could offer the church. Your church needs you!

### *Flower rota ~ September*

1<sup>st</sup> Ladies’ Circle for Diana

8<sup>th</sup> Beryl for Bill (porch)

15<sup>th</sup> Stuart in memory of Mum

22<sup>nd</sup> Janice for Hilda & Peter

29<sup>th</sup> Brenda



If you would like to contribute towards the flowers you can find out more from Margaret.

*Church family*

*We wish a Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrates in September*

2<sup>nd</sup> Stuart  
3<sup>rd</sup> David H.  
14<sup>th</sup> Arthur  
21<sup>st</sup> Steve  
24<sup>th</sup> David G

*And a Happy Anniversary to*

18<sup>th</sup> Estelle and Charles  
19<sup>th</sup> Maxine and Peter  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sam and Steve



*Mr & Mrs Chris Guy married 3<sup>rd</sup> August  
Bex is Janet & David's granddaughter*

**We're twinning our toilet!**



This year your gifts of money at Harvest will go to twin one of our toilets with one in a community without this basic facility. **Without proper toilets and clean water, people are trapped in a vicious cycle:**

- They're likely to become sick through sanitation-related diseases
- Illness means they cannot work or farm their land, so they earn less or grow less food
- Children often miss school, because they are sick or because they're busy collecting water
- Girls often drop out of school altogether when they start their periods if there are no toilets or changing rooms
- Parents have to pay for medicines or food, so they may fall into debt
- Women and girls risk being attacked or bitten by snakes as they go to the toilet in the open, especially if the culture dictates that they have to go out at night

Water and sanitation projects enable families to build a toilet, have access to clean water, and to learn about handwashing and other hygiene principles.

Dignity is restored when the whole family can use a private, hygienic toilet at their home and no longer have to squat in the bush.

You can find out more about the project on the website or look at the display which will be put up for Harvest. We will run further fund-raising events until we reach our target of £60. If we raise more we can twin two toilets!

## *Celebrations*



On 12<sup>th</sup> July we celebrated Beryl's special birthday with a surprise party.

Eric and Mary celebrated their 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 24<sup>th</sup> July and were delighted by a surprise visit from the Lutterworth Town Band who played seven tunes in the garden.



On 16<sup>th</sup> July Mary received her MA in English Local History from the University of Leicester.

## **Mariam, our sponsored child in Burkina Faso.**



Mariam's latest letter is on the board.

She says that everything is going well and they are on holidays. They are having Bible camps and learning many things. She is enjoying the rainy season, playing in the rain and the 'ice that is falling down' [hail]. They had a trip to a river and saw how people could garden using the river water. She asks for prayers for her parents – 'may God give them customers'.

**Please continue to donate** via the box on the counter and after café-style worship – our donations do make a difference to Mariam, her family and their community.

### **The Raise-a-Roof appeal**

We hosted an event for the circuit back in April last year.

This update and a photo of the church under construction can be seen on the circuit website:

[www.leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk/news/raise-a-roof-appeal-update.html](http://www.leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk/news/raise-a-roof-appeal-update.html)

The Circuit originally raised £2,162.18 and a further £593.47 has been sent following the joint Leicester Trinity and Leicester West Service to mark the visit of the President and Vice President of Conference.

Rev Milton Kumire, Superintendent minister of the Insiza Circuit [Zimbabwe], wrote "We greatly appreciate your support to the construction of the house of the Lord. Your first contributions enabled us to roof our church. We are currently working on the plastering of the church. Your support will enable us to do the floors, painting and ceiling. It is hoped to open the church in August [2019]."



**Parent/Carer, Baby & Toddler Group  
OPENING 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

South Wigston Methodist Church  
0-3 years

Meets on Mondays  
(Term time only)  
1pm until 2.30pm

£2 per family.

Contact Donna for more information on  
0116 278 7152

## *Church news & events*

### **Ladies' Circle**

All women are welcome to come along to this group which meets on Monday evenings, usually at 8pm. On members' evenings we have a chat and a cuppa. On other evenings we have speakers or activities. Open evenings are also held when we have a special speaker ~ men are welcome to attend.

### **September**

2<sup>nd</sup> Members' evening



**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.30**

Ploughman's supper in aid of Rainbows children's hospice ~ everyone welcome!

16<sup>th</sup> Members' evening

23<sup>rd</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> Members' evening

### **Ride and Stride ~ Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

There is still time to sponsor Brenda, Janet and Sylvia who will be visiting churches to raise funds for the Trust and for our own Church.

Our Church will be open from 10.00 am ~ 4.00 pm to receive visitors. Unfortunately, we have been missed off the list of Churches open. If you know of anyone who is joining in on the day, please let them know that we will be open.

**Macmillan coffee morning  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 10 to 12.**

Janet is once again hosting this event in the church lounge.

Come and enjoy cakes, coffee and tea.

WORLD'S BIGGEST  
**COFFEE  
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**Pat's quiz**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30

Admission £5 including light refreshments.

Teams will be made up on the night. There will be a raffle – donations of prizes welcome.

*Other events*

**Churches Together in South Wigston: Autumn Social Event**

The Social Event has been brought forward to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 pm, at the Congregational Church. This will be an Entertainments Evening, where each church provides at least one item of music, dance, poetry, prose or a story. If you would like to perform please see Brenda.

There will be a faith supper and donations from the evening will go to the work with asylum seekers at Kennedy House.

**Quizzes**

Thank you to all who supported the BIRDS quiz, it raised £160 for AGE UK Oadby and Wigston.

I had 7 copies back all correct and the winner was Mrs. Ruth Cawthorne. *Brenda*

**Brenda's next quiz is on INSECTS**, this is in aid of Wigston Framework Knitters Museum.

Brenda devises a quiz each year in support of the Museum and time it to coincide with the Museum's Rent Day which is on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 am.**

Originally the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council owned the house and workshops. A Museum Trust was formed, which rented the premises at a peppercorn rent of a sock, knitted on one of the knitting frames. This later became a pair of socks – a 50% increase!

The Museum Trustees were able to buy the premises with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Although the Council no longer owns the property, a symbolic Rent Day is still celebrated, with a framed pair of socks being presented to the Mayor of Oadby and Wigston.

This an opportunity to attend the Rent Day and to visit the house and workshops and everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Age UK Oadby and Wigston ~ Well Being Day Care**

The Well Being Day Care room is open from Monday to Friday to give, Respite Support, Elderly Day Care, and Dementia Support.

The room has been newly refurbished and has upgraded facilities purposely designed for the clients, including wheelchair accessibility.

Clients can choose from a menu of freshly cooked meals at lunch times with all dietary needs catered for. Refreshments are available at all times during the day.

Transport to and from Wellbeing Day Care is provided, with qualified staff giving caring passenger assistance and support. Free "taster sessions" are offered. For more information, please see the notice on the church lounge notice board.

## Megan's charity tea

Megan, one of our Junior Church members, held a charity tea on 30<sup>th</sup> June. She raised a magnificent £175 which was divided between the RSPCA and the RSPB.



*Helping Val choose some cakes.*



*Presenting a cheque to the RSPCA at Woodside Animal centre. The dog has since been adopted.*



The last day of Little Angels: what a lovely time we all had over the years. Playing, doing crafts, icing gingerbread men, singing and lots more. The mums came with exciting stories

to tell us. Lots of friends were made with new mums. Help was given if there were problems. We ran for 20 years – thank you to all have helped in any way over this time. The photo shows the last-day party of Little Angels.



However, we had one last event – on 7th August there was the Teddy Bears' Picnic. The children enjoyed playing on the bouncy castle and with the toys. We finished by eating the Teddy Bears' picnic. A great time was had by all. We then sold off some of the toys for which the mums were very grateful. £100 was raised for church funds – a big thank you to all who helped.

**THANKS to Margaret for all she has done.**

## Prayer for the old

Blessed are they who understand,  
My faltering step and shaking  
hand.

Blessed who know my ears today  
Strain to catch the things they say.  
Blessed are they who seem to  
know

My eyes are dim and my mind is slow.

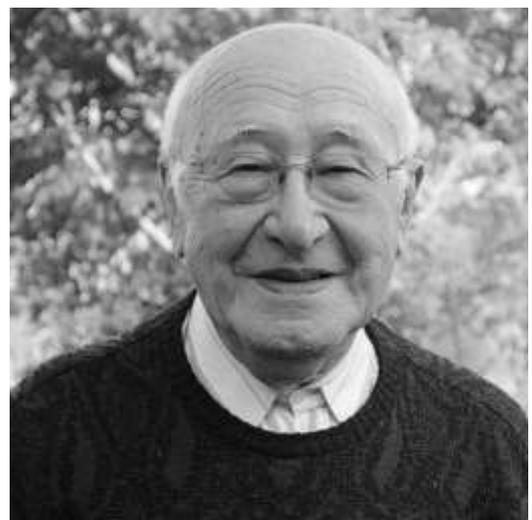
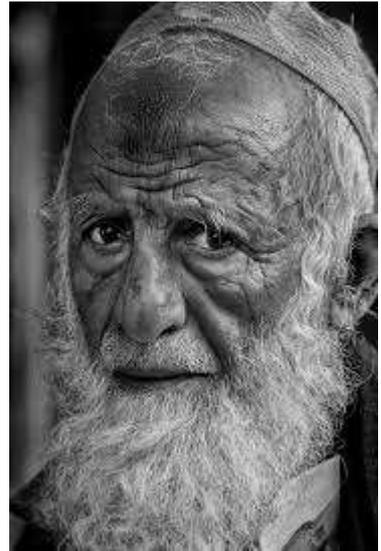
Blessed are they with cheery smile

Who stop to chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who make it known

That I'm loved and respected and not alone.

*Author unknown*



South Wigston Methodist Church

**FRIDAY NIGHT  
IS  
QUIZ NIGHT**

Come and join us for a night of  
Quizzing, Friendship and Fun

**FRIDAY**

October 11th 2019

@ 7pm

Light Refreshments

All proceeds to Church funds

£5-00

# WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

7th Annual Public Illustrated Lecture

Thursday 26 September 2019 @ 7.30pm

***“Square Bashing and Kicking our Heels”***

**The Royal Leicestershire Regiment and  
the Glen Parva Depot**



**AN ILLUSTRATED PRESENTATION BY  
ROBIN JENKINS**

**Senior Archivist (Collections),  
Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland**

**Venue:**

**Age UK, 51 Paddock Street, Wigston LE18 2AN**

**Admission £4.00 Per Person**

**Including Refreshments**

**BOOKING ADVISABLE**

**Contact: Colin Towell**

**0116 288 9638 Or 07813 782 899**

## **The Church**

**Services:** Sundays 10.15

**Junior Church:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 10.15 to 11.15

Sarah V. 288 1576 (Not on when BANG & LWT are held)

**BANG** with breakfast: for children, carers and families

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 9.00 am (Not during July & August)

**The Local Worship Team (LWT) leads cafe-style modern worship**  
on the last Sunday of each month at 10.15 (Not during July & August)

**Bible breakfast** second Sunday of each month 8.45-9.45 am

**Prayer meeting** first Tuesday of each month at 10.00 am

### **FELLOWSHIP & OTHER GROUPS**

**Ladies' Circle:** Mondays 8.00 pm ~ all women welcome

**Knit & natter:** Tuesday 2 - 4 just come along and enjoy a cup of tea  
in good company.

**Coffee morning:** Saturdays 10.00 to 12.00 noon

### **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Tiny Tots parent/carer baby & toddler group** Mondays 1-2.30 (term  
time) Contact Donna 278 7152 **Starts 9<sup>th</sup> September**

**Girls' Brigade:** Thursday evenings 6-7.30 (Term times)

Contact Donna Jobling 278 7152 2ndwigstongb@gmail.com

***Outside groups which use the building include:***

**Busy Bugs Playgroup:** Nina Bevans (Term times)

**Let's Walk South Wigston:** meet on Saturdays at 9.15 for an hour's  
walk. Contact Judith 0116 286 2625 judithnorth64@yahoo.co.uk

**Wigston & District Male Voice Choir** www.wigstonmalechoir.org

# Harvest Festival



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

**10.15**

with Junior Church awards  
followed by a faith lunch

Music by  
**Lutterworth Town Band**

