

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle

Shoebox
appeal

October
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 October

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Rev. Fran Rhys – Holy communion  
Junior Church

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 9.00 BANG with breakfast  
for children & families  
10.15 Rev. Arthur Rowe

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Bible breakfast  
10.15 Mr Andy Benbow  
Junior Church

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Café-style worship  
led by the Local Worship Team  
This is our annual Shoebox service for Link to Hope  
See pages 8 to 10.

### **Prayer meeting Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 10.30.**

A small group met for the first prayer meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We started with a drink and shared our prayer concerns. We discussed if 10 o'clock was too early, and whether the group should meet in the prayer chapel, the lounge or the foyer. We spoke about different styles of prayer.

We also thought that it would be helpful if those who couldn't get to the meeting could pray at home at the same time.



## Letter from our minister

Since last writing for “The Oracle”, I’ve been fortunate to enjoy a lovely holiday in the USA, visiting my in-laws and a couple of friends. It included a couple of days walking on the beautiful, wooded “Appalachian Trail”. You can see it represented in the film, “A Walk in the Woods”. Since writing, I have also participated in the “Global Climate Strike”, which was called to precede the United Nations Climate Action Summit on 23 September. Leaders from government, business and civil society, were invited to come to the Summit with plans to address the global climate emergency.

You may have heard about the young Swedish woman Greta Thunberg who, beginning with her solo demonstrations outside the Swedish Parliament, has galvanised young people in particular to call on our governments to adopt decisive actions requiring industry and all components of society to reduce our global footprints. If this doesn’t happen, the future is looking bleak by later in this century, when children, grandchildren, great nephews and nieces will supposed to be enjoying a well-deserved retirement. However, life is already bleak for many in low-lying islands and countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam, coping with flooding as a result of warming and rising sea levels. Southern Africa has been experiencing unprecedented droughts, leading to failed harvests and malnutrition. In the Methodist Church’s report, “Hope in God’s Future, Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change”<sup>1</sup> we are encouraged not to lose hope. As Christians we are called to work towards responses to climate change, anticipating that we are helping God to renew God’s creation.<sup>2</sup> But we also recognise that God has given us freedom and we therefore bear weighty responsibility for God’s creation. Our good and bad actions have real and serious consequences for others.

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<sup>1</sup> 2009 Methodist Publishing, Peterborough

<sup>2</sup> Page 16 (Romans 8 and Hebrews 6:18)

The “Carbon Offset” movement encourages us to make donations to sustainable development or renewable energy schemes, especially in the “Two-thirds World”, where survival is so much more of a daily struggle than in “Western” nations. So, for example, a return flight of 7 hours creates about 2 tonnes of carbon dioxide. I am encouraged to donate £45 in recognition of this unsustainable



carbon footprint to projects such as solar cooking stoves or reforestation projects. My Climate<sup>3</sup> has estimated that each person should only be producing 0.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year in order for the climate emergency to not develop to crisis levels. This is a major challenge when we consider that a petrol-driven car produces on average 4.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

I heard on the BBC news<sup>4</sup> how Greta Thunberg’s father woke her saying that the Global Climate Strike was “massive”. Strikes involving millions demanding government and individual action were held all over the world. I felt tearful, reflecting how we need so much to unite together globally supporting one another in our efforts to tackle this crisis confronting all of us. Young Greta Thunberg seems to be playing a role like Mary of Nazareth played in the decisive steps of God’s redemption some 2000 years ago. May we rally to her and others’ calls.



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<sup>3</sup> [www.myclimate.org](http://www.myclimate.org)

<sup>4</sup> BBC 6 o'clock News 20.09.19

*Church family*

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

4<sup>th</sup> Sue C.

6<sup>th</sup> Narush

12<sup>th</sup> Eric

15<sup>th</sup> Thierry

21<sup>st</sup> Janet L.

*And a Happy Anniversary to*

1<sup>st</sup> Julie & Mick

4<sup>th</sup> Margaret & Tony

*Special congratulations*

to Janet & David who celebrate their  
60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 3<sup>rd</sup>  
October.



Best wishes to Catriona Bryceland and  
Richard Dalton who are getting married on  
5<sup>th</sup> October.

*Flower rota ~ October*

6<sup>th</sup> Margaret for Mum

13<sup>th</sup> Janet & David

20<sup>th</sup> Martyn for Dad, Malcolm

27<sup>th</sup> Pat for Mum & Dad

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





## **We're twinning our toilets!**

Thanks to your generosity at our Harvest Festival on 22<sup>nd</sup>

September we raised £240 and

are able to twin 4 of our toilets. The money can go towards 4 toilets, or a toilet-block at a school or refugee camp; please let the stewards know your preference.

## **Historic Churches Ride and Stride Day**

Despite our Church being left off the list of churches open, we had 19 visitors. Our thanks to Margaret and Brenda for signing them in.

Sponsorship money is still coming in, but our 3 walkers, Janet, Sylvia and Brenda hope to raise £300 between them, half of which will come back to our church. Janet managed to visit 13 churches.

## **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.

**Thank you** to everyone who supported the ploughman's supper in September ~ £65 was raised for the Rainbows Children's Hospice.

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| October 7 <sup>th</sup> | Members' evening |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>        | tba              |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>        | Members' evening |
| 28 <sup>th</sup>        | tba              |

## **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.



### **Pride of the Borough litter pick**

The next local litter pick will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Meet at Countesthorpe Road carpark at 9.30 am. The pick will be along Blaby Road and the adjacent side streets. Equipment available, please bring gloves.

### **Oadby and Wigston Civic Orchestra**

The orchestra is now in its 54<sup>th</sup> season, it was founded by Keith Smith, a South Wigston man, Keith has conducted nearly every concert since the orchestra was founded.

The highlight event this year is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at Wigston College (formerly Guthlaxton).

The programme includes Elgar's Violin Concerto and Enigma Variations, and Smetana's Overture, *The Bartered Bride*.

This concert is in celebration of Keith's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and will be in the presence of the Borough's Deputy Mayor and her consort.

Tickets are £14.00 and £10.50 and can be obtained by phoning 0116 288 9674 or on the door. [www.owco.org.uk/](http://www.owco.org.uk/)



**Mariam, our sponsored child in Burkina Faso.**  
Please continue to pray for Mariam and her family.



***From the Link to Hope website:***

<https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2019>

## **Why support the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2019?**

We ask people to fill a shoebox for a family – not just a child. Our list contains items for all family members and includes items such as shower gel/shampoo, family games, stationary items, gift for mum and dad as well as sweets, soft toys, hats, scarves etc.

Our annual **Family Shoebox Appeal** has been running since 1992 and has delivered smiles to thousands of people in Eastern Europe over the years. In fact, we have sent over 800,000 shoeboxes to hundreds of different locations!

It's a really simple idea, anyone can get involved, and we are always keen to have more people join our national network of supporters.



## **FAMILY SHOEBOX APPEAL**

The Family Shoeboxes of gifts are given to families who often have to make a choice between buying food or fuel at Christmas time – buying presents is just not a priority. Many of these families do not have running water, heating or electricity. Some live in appalling conditions, often living in just one or two rooms, and life for them is a real struggle to survive.

A shoebox for a family means that everyone receives a gift. A scarf for the mum, a tape measure for the dad, toys and games for the children as well as stationery and coloured pens. Also toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo and soap to keep everyone clean and free from the germs that make them ill. And of course sweets and chocolates for everyone – a family favourite.

## ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL

Due to the number of elderly people that are now being left alone due to their families leaving to work away, we have launched the Elderly Shoebox Appeal. The boxes are similar however the children's games and education materials are replaced with a wind up torch, sensory items, candle and holder etc.



Boxes get sent to **Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine.**

We are small enough that we have a personal relationship with all the key contacts in Eastern Europe who distribute your Shoeboxes and we do spot checks to ensure that your boxes are received by the correct people.

We are a Christian charity who believe in distributing love to those in need regardless of background, colour, creed or religion.

**Your shoeboxes will be received at our café-style worship on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 10.15.**

If you can't get to the service boxes can be left at church anytime it is open.



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

## **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 10.30 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