

# The Oracle



*Happy Christmas*  
from all at  
**South Wigston Methodist Church**

December 2019

**Cover photo:** Junior Church Nativity filming 2018

## **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: [pmmmbry@gmail.com](mailto:pmmmbry@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 December

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 10.15 Holy communion ~ Rev. Fran Rhys  
Junior church  
4.00 United Advent service ~ Rev. Fran Rhys
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 9.00 BANG with breakfast for children & families  
10.15 Rev. Jill Marsh
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Carol service led by church members  
Junior church
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.15 Nativity service led by Junior church  
and the Local Worship Team

## *Christmas Day*

### **10.15 Worship for everyone led by Mr Andy Benbow**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> No service at South Wigston  
we are invited to go to Wigston Magna for their 10.30 service

## Services in January

- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Mrs Jo Kay & Mrs Moleen Chikumba  
Junior church
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 9.00 BANG with breakfast for children & families  
10.15 Holy communion ~ Rev. Fran Rhys
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Bible breakfast  
10.15 Mrs Sheila McGowan & Miss Susan Alexander  
Junior church
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Café-style worship for everyone

**Marriage & Relationships Report** – discussion at church on  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2.30 to 4.40. Copies of this important report  
can be borrowed from church or found online  
[www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/)



## Letter from our minister

Advent and Christmas are a busy time for ministers, as it is for many of us, with arrangements, writing Christmas cards, buying presents, not to mention finding time to read the manifestos of candidates and parties and to remember to vote on December 12. That reminds me of the census that led the pregnant Mary and her fiancé Joseph to travel to Joseph's birthplace of Bethlehem. But December can be a difficult time for many, as it was for Mary and Joseph. The pressures are on to seem to be enjoying the hustle and bustle, and to appear to be attending lots of events. Whereas in fact, memories of Christmases past can be much more at the front of one's mind...Not to mention the expectations, expense, and December bugs 😞

Some of the events at South Wigston Methodist that I look forward to in Advent are the following ones:

Christmas Capers on Saturday 7 December, celebrated on the street and in churches, community centres and shops, transforms Blaby Road in South Wigston. Pedestrians rule for a day! Eventually the lights are switched on, a moment I often manage to miss. I hope to run into the Emmanuel Apostolic Choir again this year which is always a highlight for me.

I'm grateful to be invited to Busy Bugs' nativity. It's good to know that the children in the pre-school which meets at the Methodist Church are learning the original Christmas story from the Bible. I love the way their teachers have adapted children's songs to incorporate this story:

Shepherds, shepherds  
Have you any wool?  
Yes, Sir, yes Sir, 3 bags full.  
One for the master and  
One for the dame  
And one for baby Jesus  
Asleep in the hay.

I wonder if the Junior Church is also going to present a nativity? Last year's film is hard to beat, and I for one would love an opportunity to see it again.

A Friday teatime Christingle is taking place for the second time on 20 December at 4pm. Schools are out at last, and the children attending it seem relaxed and happy. Last year, we welcomed three women from Jain, Hindu, and Sikh backgrounds (rather than the three magi!). They were really touched to be invited and loved the event with its message of harmony and light around the world through sacrificial love. I've re-extended the invitation to them again this year.

Then there's the visit to the Working Men's Club on Monday 23 December, 7-8pm for Radio Leicester's "Sing Christmas". It feels good, as neighbours on Blaby Road, to get together once a year for rousing carolling and hearing the Christmas story with people gathered together in clubs, pubs, and churches all around the city and county.

Oh, and the Churches Together Advent Service is at our church this year, with a candlelit, peaceful Taize theme and a choir of angels. That's on Saturday 1 December at 4pm. Mercifully, these are all inexpensive events to attend. Hope to see you at some of them. A blessed Advent, Christmas, and New Year! Rev'd Fran

## *Church family*

*We wish a Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrates in December & January*

### *December*

3<sup>rd</sup> Emily  
13<sup>th</sup> Charles

4<sup>th</sup> Cara  
29<sup>th</sup> Donna

12<sup>th</sup> Rebecca V.  
31<sup>st</sup> Mary M.

### *January*

2<sup>nd</sup> TJ  
16<sup>th</sup> Vivian

6<sup>th</sup> Janet H.  
23<sup>rd</sup> Janice

15<sup>th</sup> Margaret  
24<sup>th</sup> Helen D.

*And a Happy Anniversary to*  
Sarah & Bradley who celebrate on 29<sup>th</sup> January



### *In memoriam*

Val Shelton passed away in the early hours of Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

A memorial service was held, at our church, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November. It was good to meet members of her family and hear something of her long life from her step-son Neil.

This lovely photo of Val was on the communion table during the service.

## *Congratulations*

**to Zahne** who graduates from the University of Glasgow on 2<sup>nd</sup> December with a BSc in Computing Science. She's hoping to go into web development.

**and to Marty, Peter, and Narush** who welcomed a baby girl into their family on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November.



## *Flower rota*

December 8<sup>th</sup> Stuart  
January 5<sup>th</sup> Janet & David

The rota for 2020 is on the noticeboard ~ please fill in your preferred dates

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

## **Flowers**

I recently found a Church Magazine from 1988; looking through it I came across the following item.

“The other Friday a gentleman rapped on the glass doors at the front of the Church, whilst the flowers were being arranged and said ‘Thank you.’ and walked on by. Who knows, perhaps next time he will come in.”

At that time Jean Greenwood edited the magazine, and she and her sister Aileen arranged the flowers.

The flowers in the porch are still admired today by people passing by - thanks to Margaret and Ann. *BK*



**Pilates by candlelight** - prepare yourself for Christmas.

Please bring any battery candles you have.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December South Wigston High School 7.30

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> South Wigston

Methodist Church 7.15

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Glen Parva Memorial Hall 7.00

To book your place send me a text Gaynor 07977686824

## **Quizzes**

The INSECTS quiz raised £170 for The Framework Knitters Museum; thank you to everyone who took part. The winner with all correct answers was Mrs. Joan Norman.

The Christmas quiz is now available and is in aid of Church - the topic is MUSIC.

## **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.

### *December*

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

9<sup>th</sup> Christmas party ~ bring a special decoration

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

23<sup>rd</sup> 7.00pm *Sing Christmas* at the Working Men's Club

30<sup>th</sup> No meeting

*January* meetings to be arranged.

Leicester Trinity Circuit Methodist Women In Britain  
*Advent carols*

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**Wigston Magna Methodist Church**

11.00am gathering: tea/coffee available

11.30 am Advent Carol Service

12.40 am approx. ~ soup and rolls before leaving



### *Peace On Earth*

The 2019 Amos Trust Bethlehem Christmas carol service tour will be coming to Oadby this year.

**19.00 Monday 9th December,**

Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby, LE2 5AF

We will be joined by Sami Awad from the Holy Land Trust in Bethlehem as well as guest performers including Garth Hewitt.

Sami is a leading Palestinian peace activist who will be explaining why non-violence is at the heart of the Christmas message and of his family in Gaza.

All proceeds will go to the Amos Trust 2019 Christmas appeal for their partners in Gaza and the home and peace-building work of Holy Land Trust.

**amos**  **trust**

justice and hope for the forgotten



**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 6.50 for prompt start at 7pm  
(finishes 8pm)**

**At the Working men's Club, next door to our church.**

Come and join in with the carols, listen to the reading and enjoy fellowship with people from the community.

### **New Year's Day Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January**

Come and celebrate together.

If you are feeling energetic, come and join the local walk which starts from Church at 11.00 am. The walkers will return to join the rest of us for a lunch of soup and mince pies at 12 noon.

Donations for Action for Children.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January after worship**

*"Christmas/New Year dinner"*



As we may not have a cooker this will be a bring and share lunch followed the Christmas puddings we made on Stir-up Sunday. Food can be microwaved or heated on the hob in the coffee bar, or eaten cold.

**At the Shoe Box Service in October** we sang the hymn “*Where can we find you Lord Jesus our Master.*” Two lines in that hymn really spoke to me:

“I dined with sinners and reached out to lepers;  
Go and do likewise and don’t count the cost”

How often have I gone out of my way to help someone, then thought I was being taken for a ride?

In future “**don’t count the cost**”.

From one who needs to go the extra mile!



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

Please continue to pray for Mariam and her family.

### **The National Mark Calendar of Cooking**

I recently came across this booklet in my bookcase – it belonged to my Grandmother who had added some recipes.

The book was compiled by Ambrose Heath & Mrs D. D. Cottington Taylor for The Ministry of Agriculture in 1936. The woodcuts which headed each month were by Blair Hughes-Stanton. The calendar form was chosen “so that as seasons pass the housewife may continue to find suitable National Mark dishes at her command.” National Mark food was described as “certainly good food – none better.”

Among the recipes for January is Twelfth Night Cake.

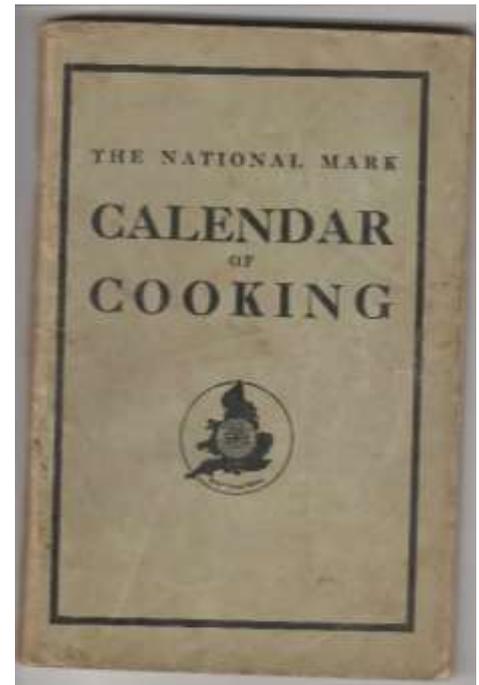
The authors wrote that ‘It is a pity to let old customs die out entirely, and a Twelfth Night Party, at which the cake takes pride of place, is sure to be popular. The outside is far the

most important. The principal decoration should be twelve candles and stars. A pale blue icing (suggestive of a clear sky) assists in carrying out the scheme. Each person's ingenuity and resourcefulness can be exercised in evolving a really attractive cake worthy of the "Feast of the Star."

The recipe was for a typical rich fruit cake using National Mark flour and eggs.

Other recipes for January were:

- Oxtail soup
- Fillets of beef Pompadour
- Rolled steak
- Mixed potato puree
- Brussels sprout au gratin
- Vegetable casserole
- Small raspberry trifles – using tinned N. M. raspberries
- Rice fritters – a sweet recipe made from cream of rice
- Baked savoury eggs
- Cold cheese creams
- Duchy toasts



South Wigston Methodist Church

**Christmas**

**Fair**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

**10 to 1**

*Various stalls &  
refreshments*

Also open 2 to 6 for  
*Christmas Capers*

South Wigston Methodist Church

# Exhibition of **Nativity sets**



Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
10.00 to 1.00

Refreshments  
Free admission

## **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 & café-style worship 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 and December)

**Bible breakfast** third 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**

**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](http://www.wigstonmalechoir.org)

# *Christmas services & events in December*

*Carol Service*  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.15

*Christingle*  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 3.30 for 4pm

*Nativity service*  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.15

*Sing Christmas with BBC Radio Leicester*  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 6.50 for 7pm start  
at The Working Men's Club (Blaby Road)

*Christmas Day*  
*10.15 worship for everyone*

