

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle

*At the going down of the
sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Remembrance Sunday

10th November 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 November

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.15 Rev. Fran Rhys  
Junior church



### *Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday*

9.00 BANG with breakfast for children &  
families

10.00 Morning Worship, including an  
Act of Remembrance, led by Mrs Sheila Howell

Please note the earlier start time to enable those who wish to go the ceremony at the War Memorial to leave at about 10.45.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Bible breakfast  
led by Rev. Jenny Impey  
10.15 Holy communion ~ Rev. J. Impey  
Junior church

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Café-style worship led by members  
of the Local worship team

**Prayer meeting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 in the  
prayer chapel.**

If you can't come along please pray at home at the same time..



## **Letter from our minister**

One of the key events in early November that we remember is the bravery of people who have fought or helped the injured in wars. We also remember the victims and injustice of warfare. This has recently been brought most starkly to our attentions as a result of the outbreak of war in Kurdistan, Northern Syria, triggered as much as we know, by NATO allies. On our doorstep at Kennedy House is a residence for 56 men who are asylum seekers. At one of their regular parties, hosted by the men and the Sanctuary and Inclusion Project, I had a long conversation with a young man from Kurdistan, who explained to me the ongoing sufferings and hopes of the Kurdish people.

At the Churches Together gathering recently, we were brought up to date about the local Sanctuary and Inclusion project at Kennedy House by the gardener there, Chris Huscroft. He gave me permission to use parts of his presentation. He explained how the project was set up in June 2016 to support asylum seekers arriving in the borough. He explained how the site is run by Serco and that the men represent about 14 nationalities, their ages ranged mainly 18-30. With no TVs or internet on site they are easily bored and sleep a lot of the time.

The project has 10 volunteers, 8 of whom are English teachers. There is also one bike mechanic and Chris, who is the project manager of the allotment. Chris also has overall responsibility for the happy group. More volunteers are required, especially anyone with bid-writing skills.

Chris helpfully explained to us the differences in terminology between “migrant” which can be understood as any person

who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and who has acquired some significant social ties to this country. Whereas a “refugee” is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees two-thirds of all refugees worldwide come from just five countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia.

Bi-monthly meetings are held with the voluntary and statutory sector. Organisations who support the men’s health and well being include: Red Cross, Migrant help, Leicester City of Sanctuary, Helping Hands, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, etc. The project works with many religious groups, for example, Oadby mosque which helps at Ramadan. Our local MP, Neil O’Brien helps to push the Border Agency on specific cases which are slow-moving. All the men are helped and supported where possible.

The projects on site are: English lessons, free bikes, bus trips and gardening, all of which help them to integrate. Regular outdoor parties are held with the men cooking the food. Finally, Chris showed us pictures of the up-to-the-minute fashion clothing the men like to sport! He said the project can accept donations of younger men’s clothes.

“Thank you for supporting us”

Chris Huscroft, chair of the Sanctuary and Inclusion project,  
and Rev’d Fran Rhys

chris.huscroft@tiscali.co.uk mobile 07814042889

## *Church family*

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sam C

10<sup>th</sup> Zach

16<sup>th</sup> Sarah V.

17<sup>th</sup> Alan

18<sup>th</sup> Mariam ~ our sponsored child ~ will be 11

20<sup>th</sup> Trevor and Megan

22<sup>nd</sup> Debbie

30<sup>th</sup> Zahne

*And a Happy Anniversary to*

Janice and David who celebrate on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

*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.

## *Flower rota ~ November*

3<sup>rd</sup> Beryl for Mum & Dad (porch)

10<sup>th</sup> Janice for Les

17<sup>th</sup> Valerie Hunt

24<sup>th</sup> Ann

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





*Congratulations to Catriona and Richard Dalton who were married at Quorn Grange on 5<sup>th</sup> October.*

***Just, Leicester's Fair Trade, ethical and sustainable shop is looking for Christmas Volunteers.***

Can you give us four hours a week? *Just* is a social enterprise based in the city centre and gets extremely busy at this time of year. We really need more volunteers to help in all aspects of retail work, from unpacking and pricing deliveries, serving customers to cleaning and making the tea! Experience would be great, but training is given. We trade on three floors so you need to be able to rush up and down the stairs. The shop also gets very cold so you need to wear lots of layers! For more info; [www.justfairtrade.com](http://www.justfairtrade.com), or email [justshop@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:justshop@hotmail.co.uk)

## 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.

November meetings

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm** Laura Johnson from the St Phillip's Centre is bringing a Jewish woman to talk with us about her faith. Please note the earlier start time.



Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Members' evening

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Members' evening

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas meal – venue and times tbc



**Mariam, our sponsored child in Burkina Faso.** I have just sent a Christmas message to Mariam and her parents. I included a photo of our Junior Church members filming last year's Nativity. Please continue to pray for Mariam and her family.

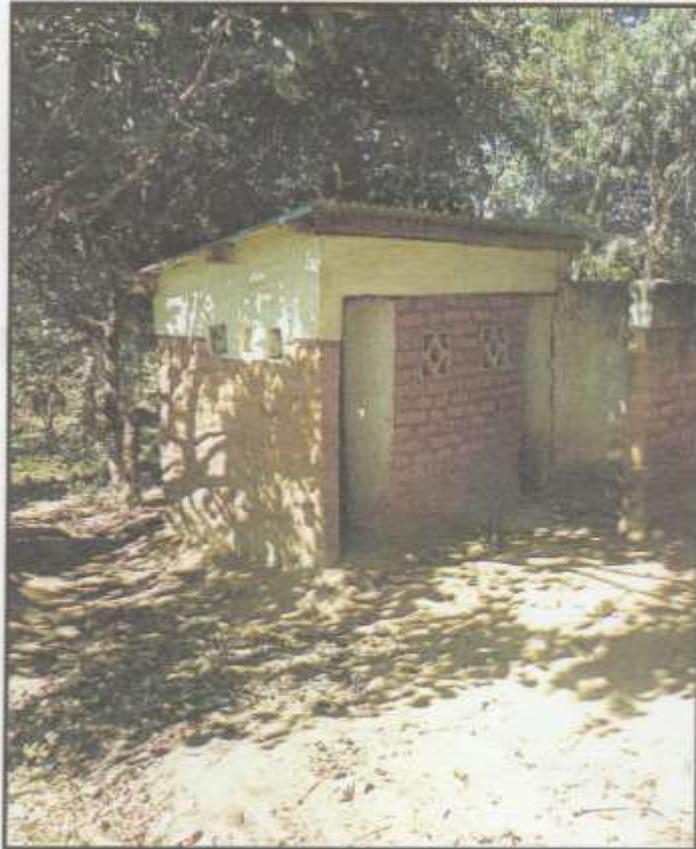
## Money raised for charity during September & October

|                                            |             |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ploughman's supper for Rainbows            | 65          |
| Toilet twinning                            | 250         |
| Historic Churches Ride and Stride          | 356         |
| MacMillan Coffee Morning                   | 217         |
| Pat's quiz                                 | 143         |
| Quiz for Wigston Framework Knitters Museum | <u>150</u>  |
|                                            | TOTAL £1181 |

This toilet block has been

# Twinned

by South Wigston Methodist Church



with a school block at

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Latitude: -10.92787 Longitude: 33.6267  
Rumphi District, Malawi  
Latrine No. 90537

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1 in 3 people worldwide don't have a loo. By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.  
Tearfund is a Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and Number SC037624 (Scotland).

[www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)

F/89582

**Our Toilet Twinning certificate  
which can be seen in the foyer.**

## Favourite hymns

A recent BBC “*Songs of Praise*” programme featured the Nation’s Favourite Hymns

The top 10 were

- 1 Jerusalem
- 2 How Great Thou Art
- 3 In Christ Alone
- 4 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
- 5 Abide with Me
- 6 I Vow to Thee My Country
- 7 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah
- 8 Amazing Grace
- 9 Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
- 10 I the Lord of Sea and Sky

I was surprised to find *I Vow to Thee My Country* among the top ten, and even more surprised to find *Jerusalem* at number one.

Are those what people sang at school? Does the *Last Night at the Proms* have an influence? Or perhaps *Jerusalem* being the anthem of the WI has a bearing.

I decided to survey my Church friends, to find out our favourite hymns. I asked for your 3 favourite hymns in order of preference.

I had 38 replies with 16 different first choice hymns.

The top ten were

- 1 Be Still for the Presence of the Lord *and* Love Devine all Loves Excelling,
- 3 Thine be the Glory, The Day Thou Gavest *and* Shine Jesus Shine.
- 6 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, *and* I The Lord of Sea and Sky

9 The Servant King *and* How Great Thou Art

The other 6 were

Be Thou My Vision, Great is Thy Faithfulness, Longing for Light, O Jesus I have Promised, Amazing Grace *and* Abide with Me

With second and third choices I had 40 different hymns, with, Be Still for the Presence of the Lord being number one

All of the Nation's favourite hymns appeared on our list ~ with the exception of In Christ Alone, I Vow to Thee My Country *and* Jerusalem.

Thank you to everyone who gave me their hymns. Brenda

### **Methodist Women in Britain**

Brenda & Janet went to the MWiB Autumn Council at Wigston Magna Methodist Church.

The morning session involved the business meeting, with a very interesting power point presentation about the work of MWiB. Then we had a short Service, including the commissioning of Liz Marriott as our new Sectional President.

The afternoon session was led by the Rev David and Mrs. Sue Leese, and was entitled “**Sharing the Gospel Through Magic and Sewing**”

Sue spoke about her passion for sewing machines, which began when, as a child, she was allowed to use her mother's hand machine, and the thrill when she had an electric sewing machine for her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

She told us how she had used sewn visual aids in services and school assemblies and showed us several examples.

One was a quilt that she had made and how she had likened it to the front being on show for all to see and representing Jesus. The backing was the base and foundation, representing God the Father. The wadding in the middle, which gives it its strength, was likened to the Holy Spirit.

Another example was a stole made from individual pieces of material representing the Bible passage – Matthew 25 vs 35 & 36.

She spoke about each piece as she used Velcro to join them together to make the stole.

A piece from a tablecloth – “I was hungry, and you fed me.”

A piece of towelling – “I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink.”

A piece of red cloth – “I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.”

Sue explained that everyone needs a red carpet. We all deserve the same sort of welcome,

A piece from a shirt – “I was naked, and you clothed me.”

A wide piece of crepe bandage – “I was sick, and you took care of me.”

A piece of sack cloth – “I was in prison and you visited me.”

David spoke about using magic to illustrate Bible stories, with his tricks and explanations, but stressed it was God who works miracles. He had been interested in working magic tricks since he was a child; he had a very easy manner and had us all spellbound ( no pun intended!).

He said that not everyone was happy with him using magic tricks in services, but, on the whole, most people found it acceptable. After all it is only sleight of hand and an illusion.

He ended by sharing an item he had heard on the radio a few years ago, it was the winning entry to a competition to give a recipe for the Nativity.

## **Recipe**

*Take*

1 virgin

1 betrothal

1 Archangel Gabriel

Leave for 9 months

*Add*

An ass and sundry farm animals

A baby

A star

Shepherds and sheep

*Fold in* 3 wise men, together with Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to season

*Leave to rise.*

David then produced a cake from nowhere, it had one candle representing one son, first and always.

An entertaining afternoon – Yes, but very reverent and thought provoking. The session ended with an Act of Worship.

### **Creative church day Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 10 to 3**

at St Andrew's Church, Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 3PV

This day will help you to: connect with other creative people, imagine beginning a new creative community, express your own faith creatively, hear stories of other creating Christian communities.

Activities include Bible journaling, creative crafts, conversations about Christian community, re-imagining the future of church. Please bring a packed lunch.

To book please e-mail Jill Marsh [jill.marsh@methodist.org.uk](mailto:jill.marsh@methodist.org.uk)

For enquiries e-mail Jill or phone 07745 020597

## **I have noticed....**

Everything is farther away than it used to be.

It is even twice as far to the corner, and they have added a hill.

I have given up running for the bus – it leaves earlier than it used to.

It seems to me they are making the stairs steeper than in the old days.

And have you noticed the smaller print they use in the newspapers?

There is no sense asking someone to read aloud anymore as everyone speaks in such a low voice I can hardly hear them.

The material in dresses is so skimpy now, especially round the hips and waist, that it is almost impossible to reach one's shoelaces. And the sizes don't run the way they used to – the 12s and 14s are much smaller.

Even people are changing. They are so much younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am.

I ran into an old classmate the other day and she has aged so much that she didn't recognise me.

I got to thinking about the poor old dear while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing so I glanced at my own reflection. Really now, they don't even make good mirrors like they used to.

*Anonymous*

# Holocaust Remembrance



The Council for Christians and Jews run an annual study tour to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.

Rev Derek McLean, Methodist Minister at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church will speak about what he learned on that tour.

2pm, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Oadby Trinity Methodist Church



This meeting is part of the regular series of talks organised by WOW (Welcome on Wednesday) to which all are welcome.

A contribution of £2 is requested to cover speakers costs and contribute to our charity for the year.

The **Methodist** Church 

## **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)