

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



March 2020

Cover photo: Lenten cross – watercolour by Helen Butler

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: [pmmbry@gmail.com](mailto:pmmbry@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 March

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 10.15 Rev. Fran Rhys ~ Holy communion  
Junior church
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 9.00 BANG with breakfast ~  
for children & families  
10.15 Mrs Audrey Baker & Mr James  
Blackhall
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Bible breakfast  
**10.30 We are joining the members of the  
URC for their Communion service**  
(In South Leicestershire College)  
*Junior church are making their own arrangements*
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> *Mothering Sunday*  
10.15 Mrs Suzanne Kelly  
Junior church
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Café-style worship for everyone

## World Day of Prayer

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2.30 pm at St Thomas' Church**

This year's service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe. More details on page 7 and in last month's Oracle.



## Letter from our minister

Lent mainly fits into the month of March this year, which is helpful for reflecting on the question: what can I do differently for the month of March? A carbon fast is one idea through [www.LivingLent.org](http://www.LivingLent.org), doing things such as using more public transport (or feet) or having a day a week when you don't use any electronic equipment. Fasting is one of the traditional self-disciplines of Lent. The other two are prayer and charitable giving. The Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6 is the source of these three disciplines.

Whether we have a lot or a little so-called disposable income, how we use money is one symbol of God's transforming power in our lives. How we use money reflects how pivotal in our life is God's gracious self-giving in Christ.

Some people at this church grew up in times or places of much greater hardship than exist for the majority of people in this country now. Parts of South Wigston are in the 10% most disadvantaged areas in this country, so there is a lot of poverty among households in the area. Conversely, many of us have come to accept as the norm much higher standards of living, with more exotic holidays, entertainment, transport, food and drink. Jesus Christ wants fullness of life for everyone (John 10:10) but the Methodist Church is asking us to consider whether our amount of giving to the Church and Circuit have gone up in proportion to the amount of money we may spend in other ways? Or are we just giving a small amount to the Church and Circuit, which may not match the cost of fish and chips or filling up the car with petrol, or going to a concert,

depending on your circumstances? Last year it cost around £700 per week to run this church, but we're facing a small deficit every week. Could you increase your regular giving by 10%? So, if you give £5 per week, could you increase that to £5.50? If you give £20 a week, could you make that £22? This would make a big difference to the church's income. I recognise that not everyone is in a position to increase their giving, but please give it some prayerful consideration. Lent is a good time to consider this. South Wigston Methodist Church has a lot of good news to offer to the community it is in. Let's help make sure that continues and grows.

Blessings this Lent,  
Rev'd Fran

**The Lent group** starts on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 10 to 11. The five sessions will use the York course '*Superstar*' and copies are available from Mary B. at £3.80.

If you can't attend there are other Lent courses in South Wigston:

**St Thomas** Mondays 7.30 pm, starts 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The theme is '*Everyday Faith*'.

**URC** Thursdays 7pm Based on the film '*Mary Poppins returns*'

### **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.

## *Church family*

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Gaynor and Lisa

*And a Happy Anniversary to*

16<sup>th</sup> Alan & Yrena

30<sup>th</sup> Ann & Arthur

If you would like your birthday or anniversary to be included in the *Oracle* please let Mary know – we enjoy sharing our special days.

## *Flower rota for March*

1<sup>st</sup> Sue & the girls for Ann      8<sup>th</sup> Margaret

15<sup>th</sup>      22<sup>nd</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> David for Eric & Norah



The rota 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.

## **Requests from Fran & the stewards**

**Social Events** The church has enjoyable social events throughout the year, such as the “Christmas” meal at the end of January, quiz nights, ploughman’s lunch for Christian Aid, etc. A new group is needed to help sustain these social events and identify people who can help organise them. Would you like to be part of a re-formed Social Committee? Please have a word with a steward or Fran if you would be interested.

**Locking Doors** Please be extra-vigilant about ensuring the back door or the front door of the church are locked, once members of your group have all arrived. Latecomers can always ring the bell. Thank you.

## **World Day of Prayer**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 pm at Saint Thomas' Church**

“Rise! take up your bed and walk.”

The theme is “reconciliation and love.”

During the service, we will be making commitments, but these commitments need to be prayed over and discussed if they are to become prayerful actions that really make a difference. The committee has decided to invite everyone who takes part in the service to meet together to pray and talk about the commitments we have made. **This will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March from 3.30 to 4.30 at the Methodist Church.**

The rehearsal for the choir will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 7.30 pm at the Congregational Church.

**Word search** Can you find sixteen books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph?

“I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.” Thanks Trevor! Answers at the back.

## **News from The Gideons**

Just before Christmas, on a very wet Friday, we set out to distribute New Testaments on Gallowtree Gate in Leicester. The weather appeared to be against us, but nevertheless 800 scriptures were given out to shoppers.

The Saturday was drier and, with help, over 2,000 scriptures were given out on that day.

Meaningful conversations took place on the street and it was encouraging to see the enthusiasm of our young people, as they took part in this practical way, being part of a team and showing the relevance of God's word to all age groups.

Please pray for the Easter Street Distributions in Leicester City Centre on Good Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April and Easter Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April. Pray that people's hearts will be prepared to receive God's word.

## **Count Your Blessings**

The 40 days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> and continue until Holy Saturday on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The 40 days do not include Sundays.

More than 150 years ago the Reverend Thomas Bowman Stephenson helped homeless children living under the arches of Waterloo Bridge Station. He gave them a home and showed them kindness. He also gave them hope for the future.

Action for Children continues the work of Thomas Bowman Stephenson and is asking us to count our blessings during Lent.

There is a sheet of the 40 days with a request on each of the days. Some days request us to donate for a blessing we have, others for a blessing we can give.

Day 12 "Donate 20p for each bed you have in your home"

Day 14 "Donate 20p for every hot meal you have had today"

Day 19 "Make time to help someone this week"



## **Wray's Shop** by Mary Herbert, née Wray.

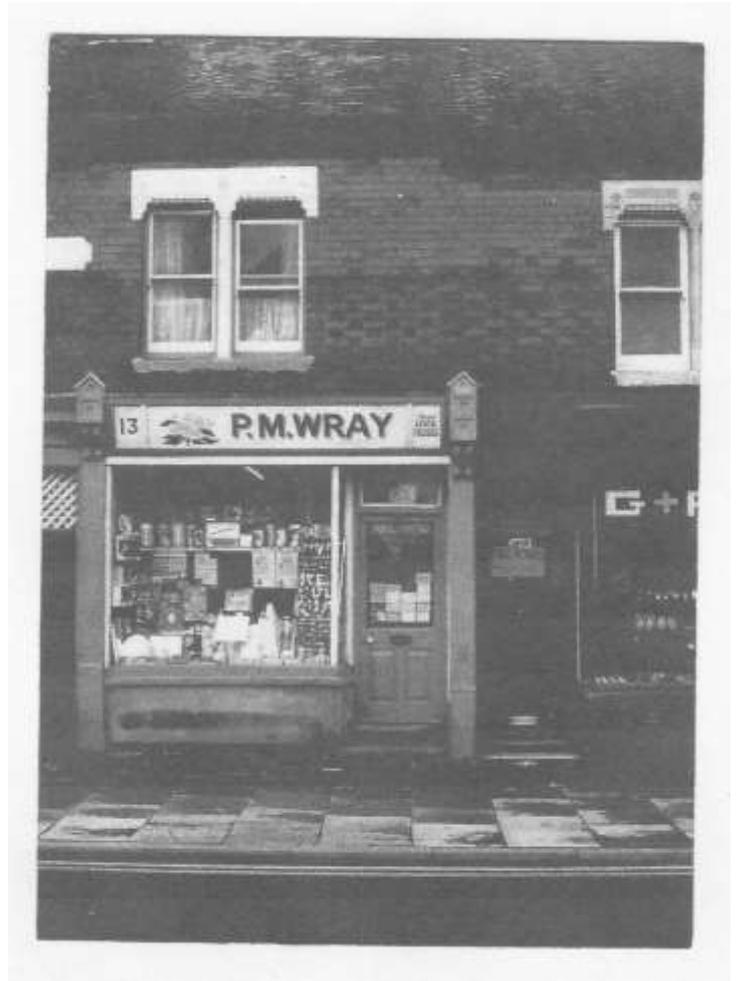
My grandfather, William Hall, was a Home Office prison photographer, he came to Leicester prison, where he met my grandmother, Mary Jane, who was a wardress there. Leicester prison had female inmates as well as male, in those days. William served in the forces during the First World War and he returned to Leicester prison at the end of the war.

He left the prison service in 1921 and he and Mary Jane moved to Porter's photographic shop on Blaby Road where he continued with photography.

Sadly, my grandfather died of a heart attack in 1928 aged 39. My grandmother was left with 3 children and a photographic business to run. She used to go out taking photographs with her daughter Primrose, (my mother) They had a studio and dark room in the garden at the back of the shop and did all their own processing.

My grandmother left the shop in 1933 and moved with her daughter Nancy and son Billie to a flat over Worthington's cash stores.

My parents, Primrose and Cyril Wray, took over the business, which then became a photographer's and a stationer.



One half of Worthington's store was for provisions and the other half was where the male assistants weighed out flour, sugar and other goods. My grandmother shopped there. My aunt Nancy said they had many special offers, which included broken biscuits and cracked eggs, all at "bargain prices". Once when my grandmother went in for some bargains, the manager told her that he had sold out, but he would crack a few eggs for her.



### Word search answers

**Word search**  
 Can you find sixteen books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph?  
 I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

## **The Church**

**Services:** Sundays 10.15

**Junior Church:** 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

## **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)

**Gaynor's slimming class** (6.15), followed by Pilates (7.15) on Wednesdays.