

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



June 2020

Cover photo: “Despite all that’s going on isn’t God’s creation wonderful!” Flowers sent with love from one of our church families.

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.

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.

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Contributions always welcome; deadline 20th of each month.

You can see *The Oracle* in colour on our website.

Our church is still closed for the foreseeable future

We continue to seek guidance from the Methodist Church and our Circuit. Updates will be put on the church website and in the weekly newsletters.

Church family

We wish a Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrates in June

6th June P.

13th Brenda F.

29th Ian S.

And a Happy Anniversary to Trish and Trevor who celebrate on 26th June.

Congratulations to Richard Mackey who became engaged to Emma in May.

Our condolences go to Janet H. whose sister, Margaret, passed away in the George Eliot Hospital on Wednesday 27th May. Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet and the family, and with Margaret's friends.

Our condolences also go to Steven Q. whose mother, Beatrice, passed away, after a short illness, on Tuesday 26th May in Ghana. We met Beatrice in the summer when she worshipped with us for a few months. We remember Steven and his family in our prayers.

Although the flower rota has been discontinued for the moment, the following people would have donated flowers in June:

7th Sue and the girls for Granny

14th Margaret



Letter from our minister

Dear Kindred Disciples of Christ,

Sunday 31 May marks Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the strong manifestation of the working of the Holy Spirit among the first followers of Christ. We read in Acts 1:17-18 “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.” We read here of a very inclusive experience of everyone being able to experience the way that the Holy Spirit of God empowers people. The word “prophesy” carries the meaning of: being able to read the current times, with the benefit of divinely inspired truth and insight, as a way of being able to see clearly ahead to the next steps for all of us.

We need a lot of that Spirit-inspired truth and clarity at the moment! We need the ability to see clearly the way ahead... As you'll have heard, the soonest that the some of the churches in England will be able to reopen is from early July, providing the infection rate of the Coronavirus stays very low and the country doesn't enter a second peak in infections. We're reminded of the continuing importance of social distancing and hand-washing in keeping the infection-rate low.

The requirements for being able to reopen churches are very strict. You can find them on the Methodist Church website. I understand the need for this, because around the world there have been instances of church services creating a lot of opportunity for spreading of infection. For example, after each service, all surfaces that people are likely to have touched will need to be disinfected. Special advice has been issued by 'Historic England' for disinfecting surfaces in listed buildings. Risk Assessments will need to be done for church buildings to ensure that social distancing can be adhered to if a congregation starts to meet again. No singing will be allowed, because of the way that singing sends so many water droplets into the surrounding air, which could constitute infected 'spray'. Also, no mingling for coffee afterwards can be allowed, and regulations for communion and the collecting of an offering are also yet to be clarified. Children's activities will need to adhere to social distancing guidelines. I'm aware that many congregation members also have underlying health conditions which will mean they are required to go on self-isolating at home.

Based on all of these completely understandable restrictions, the Circuit is trying to work out which churches would be easiest to clean, and which have the most number of stewards not in 'at risk' groups, to enable reopening. The current plan is to try to reopen 3 or 4 churches out of the 19 in the Circuit. Why not let any of the stewards or me know of your 'prophesying' in this question! We'll have a meeting soon to determine the best way forward.

In Christ,
Rev'd Fran



We are continuing to support Mariam and her family who live in Burkina Faso.

Every year, thanks to your sponsorship, Mariam receives a medical check-up.

Physical health check

All children have a physical examination to make sure they are growing healthy and strong. For those who need additional help or follow-up Compassion staff are ready and willing to see them through treatment of any kind, even if they need to be driven all the way to hospital

Lice

Part of the check-up is a search for lice which can carry deadly diseases such as typhus, as well as causing itchy skin and rashes. Doctors take note of the number of children affected and teach local staff & volunteers how to treat lice in children's hair. Sometimes prevention can be as simple as getting a short haircut.

Hygiene education

Prevention is the best avenue to good health and is best started young. Children & their care-givers are taught about a range of hygiene practices including how to brush your teeth, wash your hands, and how often to take a shower.

You can read more about how the virus is affecting people in Burkina Faso:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_in_Burkina_Faso

www.compassionuk.org/

What we're doing during the C-19 pandemic

Maxine writes 'I have been locked down with my lovely husband and daughter. My daughter got excited by the little girl in the crochet top. We looked for scraps of wool from around the house and from Aunty Estelle's house and we managed to put together the design on the right. Emma loves it and I enjoyed making it.'

Lock Down Crochet Project

Inspiration



To Final Piece



Another virtual holiday

We had a lovely virtual holiday on the Isle of Wight, staying at Shanklin and enjoying our walks down the tree lined Chine to the beach.

We visited Godshill, a lovely village with its thatched cottages and medieval church, and once again went round the delightful model village.

The next day we took the train from Shanklin to Ryde Pier and went on the hovercraft for the ten-minute journey to Southsea, there we met up with my cousin from neighbouring Portsmouth.

The trains are 1938 tube trains from the London Underground. Five replacement trains are due to come into service this year, again London underground trains.

We did the journey again the following day, this time stopping at Ryde station. We walked along the promenade and continued along the coastal cliff path to the village of Seatown and sat watching the yachts in the harbour. Back to Ryde to walk up the steep high street to the shops, where we had a cream tea.

We went to Calbourne Water Mill, one of the oldest water mills in the UK dating back to the Domesday Book. The mill is still working and provides flour for shops on the Island and many shops in Southern England.

Unfortunately, being a virtual holiday, we couldn't bring any flour home with us.

We played pitch and putt in the spacious grounds, but we had to be careful not to lose the ball in the fast-flowing stream.

So many places to visit, Alum Bay, with its coloured sandstone cliffs, the Needles, Carisbrook Castle, where Charles the first was held prisoner, Osborne House, Queen Victoria's home, where on a previous visit we had a ride on the horse drawn carriage down to the vegetable gardens and saw the Royal children's individual gardens, and the Swiss Cottage where the children learned to cook and entertained their parents.

So many more places still to visit we are looking forward to another holiday there. *Brenda*

Diane has been growing mushrooms

For many years I've had a fascination and interest in picking wild mushrooms, and growing some, too. My interest began on a walk in Devon when Fran spotted a patch of chanterelles. We picked some and fried them up in some butter when we got back to our tent. I have never forgotten how delicious they were. When picking wild mushrooms I stick to the advice of Fran Rhys' father who said just get to know 3 or 4 varieties really well, so you don't have any chance in getting them muddled with those that are poisonous. So I've stuck to lepiota, shaggy ink caps, horse and field mushrooms.

From time to time I've ventured into growing my own on homemade straw 'logs'. So during this lockdown time, I've had a whale of a time growing the very common summer oyster mushroom, in a spare room. It's a bit of a process: first chopping straw, then pasteurising it. I made a solution of hydrated lime and submerged the bale of straw in it for about 18 hours. The high alkaline solution kills bacteria. After the straw is drained, I mix it with mushroom spawn and pack it into bags. I wait and wait and then, almost out of the blue, they appear, sometimes doubling in size each day! I've got to mist them twice a day, as they like high humidity. The picture below is of the second 'fruits' to this batch — the first which was triple the amount in this picture came about 3 weeks ago -- making a total harvest so far of about 12kg. In other words, a lot of mushroom soup. And stroganoff. And pasta sauce. And pizza topping.

As mushrooms move from the first flush to the second to the third, they get less prolific. So the third fruiting I plan to leave

on the straw so they just dry out, and that will be our dried mushrooms for future recipes. *Diane Allen*



Brenda challenged Mary to write about a virtual holiday – past or imagined.

My holiday this year was booked for 3rd July – 7 days at the HF Holiday house at Malhamdale – it has been cancelled. I would have been visiting Fountains Abbey, Malham Cove, Saltaire and other places in the Yorkshire Dales.

The precursor to Holiday Fellowship started in 1891 when T.A. Leonard, a minister of the Congregational Church in Colne, Lancs. wanted to provide an alternative to the sea-side holidays available to working families during their factory fortnights. A walking holiday in the Lake District was held for 30 people. In 1913 some of the members, together with T.A. Leonard, formed Holiday Fellowship as a co-operative venture.

My parents were members before they met and married but we only had one HF holiday as children – to Marske near Redcar. I was about 7 years old and vividly remember my rather staid father wearing a school beret with plaits made of yellow wool – I don't know whether he was in a play or a fancy headdress competition. My father did the hard walks whilst mum and I, with my little brother who was in a pushchair, walked locally. The children of the family with whom we played got measles – which my brother and I had developed by the time we got home.

HF now runs holidays in 18 country houses in the UK, and also organises holidays across the world. Walking holidays provide three different levels of walk each day so are suitable for individuals, couples and families who may have different levels of fitness but still want to holiday together.

There are also activity holidays including singing, photography, dance and yoga.

For me the big advantage is that I can go on my own and be sure of a friendly welcome. In the evenings meals are taken at large tables, and optional activities are laid on: my 4-night holiday last year included a talk about the area, a quiz, skittles, and gin tasting. HF is keen to use local produce and each week they lay on a special meal with a talk from a local producer and the chef.

I was really looking forward to my holiday in July but hope to book something next year. In the meantime I can remember the holidays which I've enjoyed in the past. *Mary B.*

Walking with the easy group on the Cheviots last year.



A post by Gary Hopkins found on the UK Methodists Facebook page

I couldn't switch off last night until I'd expressed some anger at the current situation. It came out in the form of a hymn. I stayed up until the early hours, prayerfully writing and rewriting, letting the words come together. Today, I've mulled it over and tweaked it. I offer it to the church as an expression of our anger at injustice. It's been a while since I've written a hymn, so I'm a bit rusty, but it did allow me to channel my thoughts. If it resonates with your thoughts at this time, please feel free to share and use it.

God, our anger at injustice
swells from deep within our core:
anger at decision makers
for oppression we deplore;
anger at the ones who lead us
for indifference to the poor;
anger at the lies, deception,
selfishness that we abhor.

Systems made to serve the privileged,
tightly gripped by those with power -
stripping others of life chances -
edicts from an ivory tower.
God our anger fires within us:
bring your justice, liberate;
come and shatter worldly systems;
take the least and make them great!

Channel grief and anger in us;
let us be your voice and hands.
Spirit, guide our justice-seeking,
take us where your love demands.

Christ destroys the powers and forces,
chains of bondage, unjust strife,
not by might and raging violence
but a sacrificial life.

How long, Maker, Word and Spirit,
till such evils are reversed?
How long till your reign is finished
and the last become the first?
Hear us God, we pray for justice,
hear our cries for those oppressed,
hear our voices, never silenced,
till the least are truly blessed.

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Suggested Tunes: Abbot's Leigh or Scarlet Ribbons

(Permission given to use in the Oracle)

Thank you

Our grateful thanks to Mary for keeping us so well informed with the weekly sheet and sending an Order of Service each week. This has been most helpful; it is good to know that we are sharing together in Worship.

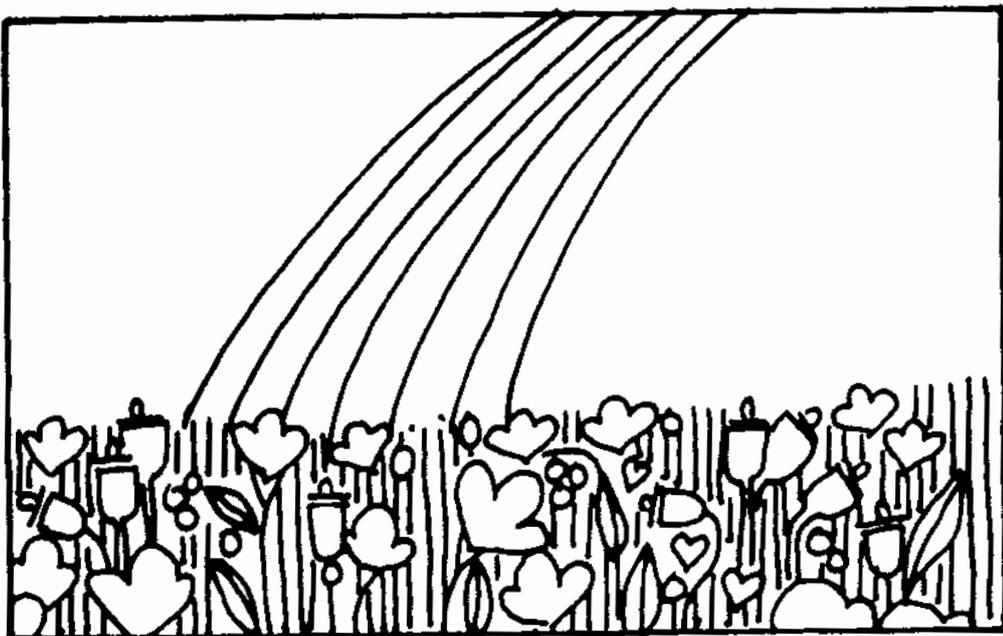
God bless us and keep us until we meet again in fellowship. This was the Benediction from Mrs. Betty Brooks' Service on Aldersgate Sunday.

And thanks to Brenda for sending me plenty of articles each month, and others who have sent contributions this month – please keep it up! *Mary*

LOCKDOWN Quiz The answers have “lock” or “down”
eg Heavy rain (8) = downpour (from Hazel Clarke)

1. He makes doors safe (9)
2. She had dealings with three bears (10)
3. Old pistol (9)
4. Topsy turvy (6,4)
5. Slang for face (5)
6. A stupid person (9)
7. A church congregation (5)
8. Low spirits (4,2,3,5)
9. Tetanus (7)
10. Beautiful area in S. England (5,5)
11. You'll find me in N. Ireland (11)
12. Australia? (4,5)
13. The bottom on the sea (4,5,6)
14. Very tall case with a face (11,5)
15. Hairstyle (10)
16. Come a cropper (8)
17. Transfer computer data (8)
18. Very popular period drama on TV (7,5)
19. Cosy bed cover (9)
20. Forthright (4,2,5)
21. Everything? (4,5,3,6)
22. Someone important lives here (7,6)
23. Swiss timepiece (6,5)
24. This will keep you in or out! (7)
25. Long film or book (11)
26. Soft feathers (9)
27. Low spirits again (8)
28. Authors dread this (7,5)
29. A musical instrument (12)
30. In very bad repair (10)

31. Children's favourite timepiece (9,5)
32. Reduce possessions (8)
33. Air current from above (4,7)
34. A severe scolding (8,4)
35. Plain speaking (4 2 5)
36. End to summer time (3,3,5,4)
37. Can't afford it outright? (4,7)
38. A building material (6,5)
39. The married state (7)
40. Alcoholic drink after sunset (9)
41. Machine stitch seam to prevent fraying (8)
42. Commercial building (6,5)
43. Very miniature mountain (7)
44. Town in Norfolk (7,6)
45. In Scotland, made famous by terrible air crash (9)
46. You'll find me also in N. Ireland (9)
47. Wrestling hold (8)
48. Has no coastline (10)
49. Did this poison kill Socrates? (7)
50. Former South African cricketer (5,7)



Rainbow
and
flowers to
colour

From:
*Instant art
for the
church
magazine, 3.*

Last month's Bible quiz

Trevor didn't have the answers but they've been found on the internet: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/answer.htm>

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a **most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends...One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **john** boat. Another friend studied it while playing his **banjo**, Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving, **she brews** a cup of tea to help her nerves. **There** will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact**. **Some** people, however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**, **especially** since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. **Truthfully**, **from** answers we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or a scholar to **see** some of them **at the worst**. Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phi lemonade** booth set a new record. The local paper, The **Chronicle**, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel** Humana **humbly** puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." **Those** able to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are **normal**. **A chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**. There really are 30 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Note: Osee appears in the King James Version translation (often listed as KJV) of Romans 9:25 as a variant spelling of Hosea.