

# South Wigston Methodist Church

# The Oracle



**July 2020**

**Cover photo:** Our doors remain closed

## **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.**

**Our church is still closed for the foreseeable future**

Please see Fran's letter on page 4. 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. (There will also be an August edition of The Oracle)

Further guidance will be issued after Conference which meets virtually from 25<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

*Circuit services* via Zoom

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 11 am Rev'd Daniel Yovan's  
testimony service

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 6 pm Rev'd Edson Dube's leaving service.  
Edson is moving to Milton Keynes.

*Church family*

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

2 <sup>nd</sup> Andy J.	7 <sup>th</sup> Ella	12 <sup>th</sup> Beryl
17 <sup>th</sup> Tony E.	18 <sup>th</sup> Pat	25 <sup>th</sup> Frankie
	30 <sup>th</sup> Brenda K.	

*And a Happy Anniversary to*

	24 <sup>th</sup> Mary & Eric	
28 <sup>th</sup> Brenda & Alan	Helen & Chris	Hannah & Peter

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

12<sup>th</sup> Gill Kummerehl    26<sup>th</sup> Martyn for mum ~ Dorice



## Letter from our minister

The Methodist Church has an article on re-opening churches from Jude Levermore, the Head of Mission, who writes of her hopes for how the Church will move forward, by being ‘the pilgrim people of the moment’:

“As we begin to think about ‘going back into our buildings’ I am hopeful that we will take time to consider what we have learned from being out of them. I am hopeful that we will have solidified our understanding that church is not a building - we teach that to our children, but do we hold that in our hearts? We, the people are the church, the body of Christ meeting together in community, acting together in mission, longing together for the transformation of our world, responding together to our calling.

I’m praying that as we share a road map for leaving lockdown, with all its needful risk assessments and procedures, we will guard against entering another lockdown, that of being so caught up in our buildings that we miss the opportunities to be church without them.

First undertake a spiritual assessment; to what is God calling this church, this chapel? I believe the Spirit might be asking us to be brave, to not cling to the old but to be the pilgrim people of the moment. Let’s be a people of vision, let’s not long to get back to normal, let’s see what God might do if we allow ourselves to be led somewhere new.” These are inspiring thoughts, and they support the Leicester Trinity

Methodist Circuit's concern that a return into our buildings (once that is given the go-ahead by Government and Church) should not be done in a hurry.

Recent news from the Government and from the Methodist Church on reopening churches (whether for private prayer or for a worship service) involves at least a team of 4 people per church (who are not in the four 'at-risk' categories). These roles are: a Covid-19 Responsible Person; a Steward at the door who registers people as they arrive; a Steward introducing the service, as usually happens; and someone who is mindfully aware of people's pastoral needs, and whether there is anything which needs following up.

A deep clean is currently being required before and after each event, which basically involves a thorough clean of all frequently touched surfaces. Reducing people's contact with surfaces and objects is better than relying on cleaning once contact has taken place. The risk assessment therefore involves thinking about how a church (or other premises) can limit the movement of people as far as possible and reduce people's need to touch surfaces or objects.

At the moment the risk assessment, procedures, and volunteers needed for reopening are rather daunting. As time progresses, if the virus recedes, these demands may lessen. What we're being encouraged to consider in the face of these demands is: what has been learned about Church and about being people of God during the past 3 months? What is God asking us to take forward from these experiences, rather than simply trying to resume things as they were before (which isn't

really possible at the moment.) Let's share together our thoughts and insights on these questions.

Rev'd Fran Rhys

## **Stationing news**

After a period of prayerful discernment, Fran and Diane have decided that August 2021 will be the right time for them to move on to a new Circuit. During the 2020/21 Connexional year, Fran will continue in ministry in the Leicester Trinity Circuit at South Wigston, Bishop Street, Cosby, and Nativity churches. During this Connexional year two new ministers will be sought for the Leicester Trinity Circuit, as the Revd Saidu Kanu is also entering stationing.

The Leicester Trinity Circuit says farewell this year to the Rev'd Edson Dube and Sami who are moving to the Milton Keynes Circuit in August. An online Circuit service to say goodbye to Edson is planned for Sunday, 26 July, at 6pm. Details will follow. Please pray for all involved in the stationing process.

Here's a lovely prayer from the Irish Methodist Church:

*Loving Lord, we remember all those involved in Stationing. We pray that they would sense your leading and guiding as they meet, discuss, discern and consult. May they be prompted by your Holy Spirit and may there be a real sense of your guiding presence among them. We pray for those ministers and their families who will be stationed and for the circuits who will be receiving them. Be at work among us we pray.*

*Amen.*



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

Donations are still needed. If you would like to donate, cheques, made payable to “South Wigston Methodist Church”, can be sent to Mary Bryceland who can pay them into the church account.

(26 Parkstone Close, Wigston LE18 2GH)

## **Social distancing advice if you don't have a tape-measure**



From the RSPB: 5 stoats *or* 10 hedgehogs *or* 13 moles = 2 metres apart

From an African country: you need to be at least 1 lion away from other people – but not an actual lion, or at least 3 elephants away from a lion - but not actual elephants.

From The Lost Gardens of Heligan:

2.5 pigs	4 watering cans
15 robins	1 Gunnera leaf
1 highland cow	6.5 welly boots
2.5 barn owls – in flight	12 pineapples

## What we've been doing during lockdown



### **Margaret writes:**

The best time I have had during lockdown was gardening; just half an hour at a time with chairs all round the garden for a sit down.

Then I loved watching and listening to the birds – what a lovely sound! Then they swoop around getting food for their babies.

We also have squirrels playing in the garden – first we had two, then four – they made us laugh as they chased around. We have a nut box with peanuts or seeds in it; to make it a little harder for them they have to lift the lid to get any out. Once mastered they would get the nuts and eat or bury them in the garden. When it rains they will run to the box and shelter inside. We have been so lucky to have the lovely weather so that we could get into the garden and watch God's creation that he has given us. How majestic is your work Lord!

**Subash has been working hard, when he's not at work, to improve his front garden.**

It looks very pretty at night as there are lights embedded in the design.



*Before*



*After*

**At the end of April Mary decided to build a pond.**

I researched the subject and settled on a pre-formed plastic pond which I ordered online on 25<sup>th</sup> April. It arrived a few days later together with a pump/fountain. I had started digging out a hole in a raised flower bed – less subsoil to remove. I dug, and dug, and dug, and scraped away at the hard subsoil at the bottom – I felt like an archaeologist but the only find I made was a plastic sack of pebbles which a workman had used to fill part of the bed. The raised bed was built in the 1970s and the plastic was still there! I also discovered that the tyre on my ancient wheelbarrow had a slow puncture and I had to keep pumping it up every time I wanted to move it. At times I wished I'd ordered a smaller pond, but I persevered and soon made the right size hole. As the pond has moulded shelves I then

had to fill in under them – I discovered 3 small sacks of sand in the garage, so that was fortunate. I still needed more sand so on 20<sup>th</sup> May, a few days after garden centres re-opened, I went to Cherry Lane (Glebe) and was able to get sand and topsoil.

I filled the pond from my two water butts and got the pump working. The fountain sparkled in the sun and I went in to dinner. When I went out again the pond was half-empty! Oh no! Was there a leak? No – the fountain had sprayed water over the edges. I used the last of the water in the butts to top it up again. I've removed the fountain top and just let the water bubble.

My friend Marilyn had offered me some pond plants and I came back from a half-hour walk to find she'd delivered them – with full instructions. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May I paid another visit to Cherry Lane to buy plants for the border and edging stones – I bought the last (damaged) sack of large cobbles, and half a dozen



wildflower & alpine plants from the nearly empty racks. I noticed that they had run out of compost, grow-bags. etc. By the beginning of June the pond was more or less complete. I'm glad that I persevered and managed to overcome several problems.

I also participated in "no mow May" – I just mowed around the edge of the lawn and left the rest – as you can see in the background of the photo. With the dry weather the grass hasn't grown much; the only tall bits are the feathery seed-heads which are very pretty.

### **More memories of VE Day**

Hi – this is Beryl! On the anniversary of VE Day in May it stirred up some memories for me. I was born and lived in Bassett Street, South Wigston. I was 6 years old when we had our Street Party. My Dad, who was in the RAF, was in Germany at the time. My Mum and the other ladies made lots of jellies for the party. It was hot weather and they did not set (no fridges in those days!) so they poured them into cups and we drank them! We thought that was great fun. There were lots of celebrations – singing, dancing, and games for the children. I was in a race for the girls, and my friend Christine ran so fast that she could not stop, ran into the air-raid shelter and knocked herself out! Poor Christine, anyway she won the race and received a prize!

### **Alan's memories of V J DAY August 15<sup>th</sup> 1945**

V E Day was of course to celebrate the end of the war in Europe. For many there was a different meaning; those in concentration camps, many suffering and fearing death, families who would not see their loved ones returning and there were many still serving in the forces, including those in the Far East Theatre of War against Japan.

I was in India, newly posted to an Indian Infantry Division, in encampment at Satpur close by the Godarvi River and Nasik City, which was out of bounds to all ranks.

Our task was training for a sea-bourne landing on the west coast of Malaya.

Then on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945 it was “all over.” An atomic bomb had been dropped on Nagasaki and another on Hiroshima. The landing on Malaya took place, and we marched 20 miles from the coast at Port Dickson to Seramban, where a Victory Parade was held. Within a few days we were in Malacca and then back to Port Dickson to join landing craft transport for the journey to Batavia, the capital of Java, the former Dutch East Indies. This was now September 1945. The objective was to ensure the safety of prisoners of war and Dutch Nationals – I could go on with our Java escapades, but I will stop there, except for one story, which is much nearer to home.

We had a church member at the time of my call up - Mrs Greuter, the family came from South Wales to live in Waverley Road off Marstown Avenue. Ray Greuter had been called up and served in the RAF in the Far East. When I was on embarkation leave, Mrs Greuter told me that they had no news of Ray, but wouldn't it be good if I were to meet up with him. It was not to be, Ray had been taken prisoner by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore in 1941. He died of beriberi on board a Japanese troop ship on its way to Java in 1942 and was buried at sea.

We found this information when we visited the Far East Forces Pavilion at the National War Memorial at Alrewas in Staffordshire, a few years ago.

*Alan*

**Brenda's Uncle Will was in the regular army.** In 1939 he was stationed in Hong Kong, where he was living in married quarters with his wife and three-year old daughter.

As the war against Japan escalated Aunty Olive and Maryan were evacuated to Singapore, fortunately they were sent from there with the other military families to Sydney, Australia and returned to England at the end of the war.

Uncle Will remained as part of the Hong Kong Defence Force. The Japanese invaded on December 18<sup>th</sup> 1941 and Hong Kong capitulated on Christmas Day. Most of the military personnel were sent to P O W camps in Japan, Uncle Will ended up in a camp at Sendai, next to the Nippon Steel Works. The factory was fire bombed during an allied (British and American) bombardment on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1945, several of the bombs fell on the P O W camp. Uncle Will was badly injured by this "friendly fire" and died from his wounds on August 10<sup>th</sup>, just five days before the end of the war.

On a visit to the National War Memorial Arboretum we met up with Uncle Will's granddaughter, Tracy and her husband. We visited the Far East Forces Pavilion, where we saw a Book of Remembrance which was opened each day with the names of service personnel who died on that day. Tracy arranged for Uncle Will's name to go in the book.

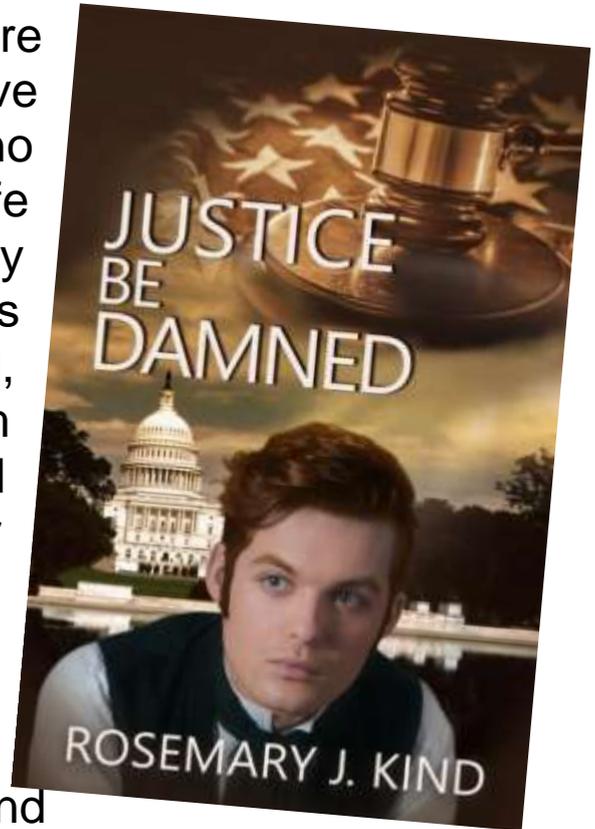
We went again on the 10<sup>th</sup> August the following year to see Uncle Will's name in the book: a poignant reminder of a young life lost in the futility of war.

*Brenda*

## **Book launch on 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Rosemary Kind's 4<sup>th</sup> book in the "Tales of Flynn and Reilly" series comes out on July 15<sup>th</sup>. This is entitled "Justice Be Damned."

1870 – William Dixon will not ignore injustice, the Reece brothers have been released from prison, and no one has been made to pay for the life they took, nor the damage they caused to Cochran's farm. As his sister Molly and her husband Daniel, set out to rebuild the farm, William takes the fight onto the political stage, and sets out to speak for those who have no voice. He stands on a ticket of equality and fairness.



The story is very apt at the present time, with people speaking out and demonstrating for justice on the death of George Floyd. Similarly, in Rosemary's book. will justice be found for the death of Daniel's friend Ben, the black farmhand?

## **Pandemic! The Black Death in Kibworth**

In the July issue of the magazine "History", there is an article by Michael Wood entitled "Do pandemics change us for ever? Or does life just go on?"

Some years ago. He presented a television series on the *Story of England*, telling the story of one village through history, this village was Kibworth.

The story has become startlingly typical: Kibworth had the heaviest known losses from the Black Death of any village in England, with two-thirds of the inhabitants dying.

People tried to keep things going “as normal” as possible. In the aftermath of the Black Death, two local farmers put a house and some land in trust to pay for a village guild, with a chaplain to distribute charity to those in need, and to teach the young. Through the years, more grants were made by villagers and in the fifteenth century, the land gifted provided an endowment for a free school, the land still provides support for students from Kibworth today. This school was the fore runner of Kibworth Beauchamp Grammar School, which many South Wigston children have attended, including two of our present Church members.

The lessons of the Black Death in Kibworth are – that life went on, and that people rebuilt the economy on which they depended, but no one in Kibworth forgot, that everything rested on communal cooperation, kindness and solidarity. It was no accident that in the aftermath, in nearby Lutterworth, John Wycliffe composed his version of the New Testament, including one of the most enduring passages in the English language. “Now dwelleth faith, hope and charity, these three; but the most of these is charity.” *Brenda*

## Quiz

The following quotations come from the Bible or from Shakespeare. But which is which?

1. There were giants in the earth in those days.
2. His hand will be against every man and every man’s hand against him.
3. There is a divinity that shapes our ends.
4. Love sought is good but given unsought is better.
5. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under Heaven



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6. In the twinkling of an eye.
7. The milk of human kindness.
8. More sinned against than sinning
9. Tattlers also, and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.
10. A living dog is better than a dead lion.
11. What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason
12. A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.
13. Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
14. Can one desire too much of a good thing?
15. Little better than one of the wicked.
16. You shall know my breach of promise.
17. We have piped unto you and you have not danced.
18. As is the mother, so is the daughter
19. They that go down to the sea in ships.
20. More in sorrow than in anger.

*Answers on page 19*

**The “Gold” quiz** in aid of Age UK Oadby and Wigston ends on August 9<sup>th</sup>. I will send out the answers after then. My next quiz is for the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum and is on “Things to do with Holidays,” I will send this out later in August.

I hope you are keeping a note of the money you owe, as both of these charities are in need of funds.

Thank you for your continuing support.

*Brenda*

# COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

1 	2 	3 	4 
5 	6 	7 	8 
9 	10 	11 	12 
13 	14 	15 	16 
17 	18 	19 	20 
21 	22 	23 	24 
25 	26 	27 	28 
29 	30 	31 	32 

Can you name the countries above, from the cartoon clues?  
and can you spot the odd one out?

Answers in the August Oracle.

## LOCKDOWN Quiz Answers

1. He makes doors safe (9) Locksmith
2. She had dealings with three bears (10) Goldilocks
3. Old pistol (9) Flintlock
4. Topsy turvy (6,4) Upside down
5. Slang for face (5) Clock
6. A stupid person (9) Blockhead
7. A church congregation (5) Flock
8. Low spirits (4,2,3,5) Down in the dumps
9. Tetanus (7) Lockjaw
10. Beautiful area in S. England (5,5) North/South Downs
11. You'll find me in N. Ireland (11) Downpatrick
12. Australia? (4,5) Down under
13. The bottom on the sea (4,5,6) Davy Jones Locker
14. Very tall case with a face (11,5) Grandfather clock
15. Hairstyle (10) Dreadlocks
16. Come a cropper (8) Downfall
17. Transfer computer data (8) Download
18. Very popular period drama on TV (7,5) Downton Abbey
19. Cosy bed cover (9) Eiderdown
20. Forthright (4,2,5) Down to earth
21. Everything? (4,5,3,6) Lock, stock and barrel
22. Someone important lives here (7,6) Downing Street
23. Swiss timepiece (6,5) Cuckoo clock
24. This will keep you in or out! (7) Padlock
25. Long film or book (11) Blockbuster
26. Soft feathers (9) Swansdown
27. Low spirits again (8) Downcast
28. Authors dread this (7,5) Writer's block
29. A musical instrument (12) Glockenspiel
30. In very bad repair (10) Tumbledown
31. Children's favourite timepiece (9,5) Dandelion clock



## Celtic ornament to colour

Public domain: <https://freesvg.org/celtic-ornament-v1-by-merlin2525>

