

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



August 2020

Cover photo: Part of a prayer station at the church Quiet Day in 2016.

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.

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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

We are working towards re-opening the building for Busy Bugs pre-school who hope to open on 2nd September. Updates from the Government and the Methodist Church have been received and are regularly updated as new scientific evidence emerges.

When will we be able to meet for worship or fellowship? At the moment we are not sure. Please see the weekly newsletter for the latest news.

There is to be an extraordinary meeting of the Church Council on Tuesday 11th August at 7.30 (via Zoom). Margaret and Mary B. will be reporting on the risk assessments etc. which they will be carrying out at the beginning of August.

It has already been decided that the Lutterworth Town Band will not be able to play for Harvest Festival.

Church family

We wish a Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrates in August

18th Fran

28th Mary B.

And a Happy Anniversary to

4th Donna & Andy

22nd Lynne & Steve

25th Gaynor & Chris ~ Diane & Fran

26th Rachel & Jason

Congratulations to Jerin, Johnsi & Subash's son, who has gained a first class Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Circuit News

The following people are moving on from our circuit:



Rev Edson Dube is moving to Milton Keynes circuit – a farewell service was held, via Zoom, on 26th July.

Prof. Clive Marsh, who is, among other roles, a local preacher in the Circuit, is taking up the post of Principal at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham.

Juliet Kisob, a local preacher who has taken several services at South Wigston, is also going to the Queen's foundation where she will study for the ministry.

We wish all of them well as they continue their journeys in faith.

New minister to the Circuit with responsibility for The Church of the Nativity and Christchurch

The Circuit Leadership Team is delighted to announce that the Rev. Debra Chidakwa-Akue has been stationed to the Leicester Trinity Circuit with effect from 1 September 2020 for 5 years.

Debra will have pastoral responsibility for Christchurch and shared responsibility for the Church of the Nativity with the Rev. Ivan Bennett.

Born in the Midlands District of Zimbabwe, Debra came to Britain as a teenager and lived in the East End of London.

Debra trained for ministry at Wesley House, Cambridge, alongside the Rev. Saidu Kanu. Having served as a circuit minister in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit, she has spent time serving in a variety of ministries in Houston, Texas.

Prior to ordination, Debra served in the Orpington and Chislehurst Circuit as a Circuit Youth Worker and has also served as a Civil Servant in the Treasury Solicitor, Bow County Court as a Lay Magistrate, and an Advocate for Mental Health at Goodmayes Hospital. She brings to us a wealth of experience in prison ministry, hospice ministry, practical outreach ministry and evangelism. She is also a good cook! Debra describes herself as “a highly experienced ordained church minister and spiritual director; bilingual (English and Shona) with a positive attitude and excellent communication skills with a distinctive gift of pastoral care and being a people person ... quick at embracing and learning people’s culture and expectations”. She is a careful listener and story teller, a preacher and teacher, who brings passion and enthusiasm to the work of ministry and who values the diversity of God’s people. Debra is in the final stages of completing her PhD in Education in Organisational Leadership with an Emphasis on Christian Ministry.

Debra is married to Jonas Adote Benjamin Akue. She is a mother to Tarisai Peter, Nyasha, Munyaradzi, Chidochashe Francesca, Makanakarshe Angelique and Tendaishe Dzidzisai Jordan and grandmother to Panashe, Sambulosenkosi, (Sambulo), Sindisiweyinkosi (Sindi), Padiwanashe (Paddy) and J-zon Craigie (J-zon).

Debra writes, I greet you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is such a privilege to be invited to come into the beautiful grounds of Leicester to become one of your extended family members. I bring you myself, friendship, my style of worship, which is infused with storytelling, my culinary gifts, and my life experiences.



[Image from LinkedIn]

I am not coming as a finished person; God is still working in me as His Servant, and coming to Leicester is part of this growth, learning new ways of being a minister and advancing God's kingdom.

I believe the Church has been ushered into a new age of growth and engagement with each other and with the world around us. I believe the future is bright for the Church and we will be witnessing, or we will witness a huge turning after God. As COVID19 brings the world to its knees, we as a Church must minister from our knees. Being humbled is a place where we can receive and release grace. I pray for God to continue to bless you and I am excited to meet you all soon! Shalom.



Quiz

I have been given a BIRD quiz, if anyone would like a copy, free of charge, please let me know. Brenda

Brian Scott A quizzical purple glossy starling. Flickr. Wikimedia Commons.



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

2nd AND 30th Subash, Johnsi & Jerin for Sharon

16th Beryl for Freda

23rd Trevor

Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride Saturday 12th September

Last year almost 400 churches and chapels across Leicester and Leicestershire opened on the day and over £42,000 was raised.

Our Church was open, and we had 19 visitors.

Our 3 walkers, Brenda, Janet and Sylvia, raised £356 between them, half of this money came back to our Church, the other half goes to provide grants to churches for various projects.

We have had a grant of £1,000 in the past.

It is hoped that this year's event will go ahead, sadly, we have decided that we are unable to take part.

Macmillan Coffee morning. Janet is hoping to run this on Friday 25th September between 10 and 12. We will have to see if this will be possible, but please put the date in your diary.

A message from Arthur

“You have nothing to fear but fear itself.” Well we’ve all heard that quotation, but these past few weeks I have been battling with fear. Fear that this awful virus might get me, and I would be wearing that awful mask, and fighting to breathe just like when I watched our Colin before he died. Fear for my Ann as she fights the big C. And yet in the midst of it all God sent his messenger. An unexpected phone call – Ann says “Arthur, it’s Chris Cory”. I answered the phone – “Hello Arthur, can you remember what you were doing 25 years ago today?” I had to admit I couldn’t. “Well” says Chris “you were in a little chapel in Midsomer Norton helping to ordain me”. Oh how I remember Chris – a member of my church in Wales. I helped him candidate because I KNEW God had plans for him. We chatted and I told him about my Ann, who he knows very well. Two days later we received a card from Chris. Chris knows his Bible, and knew what we needed to be reminded of: “So do not fear for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”. *Isaiah 41, verse 10.*

I hope these words will speak to your own fears as they have to mine. The Lord is with us. We send you our love, and we miss you all very much. We are grateful for all the love and support you give us. You are our family.



Love to you all
Ann and Arthur

A Methodist Way of Life

A Methodist Way of Life is a way of living. It is how we try to live our lives in response to God's love, made known to us in Jesus.

Like the early Christians ([Acts 2.42-47](#)), we seek to express what it means to follow Jesus in the regular, practical actions of worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.

In this sense, A Methodist Way of Life is both new and old. It is new, in that Methodists first discussed such a way at the 2018 Conference, although it is based on [Our Calling](#), agreed in 2000. That, in turn, was built on what Methodists have always done, since the days of John Wesley, in trying to follow Jesus and live out the Christian faith – just as those first followers in Acts did.

The commitments of A Methodist Way of Life remind us of, and provide a compass for, Christian living.

These commitments are on the back page of the Oracle where we can see them easily throughout the day.

A prayer from the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2019-20

Lord Jesus, may we feel your presence in all we do today,
to be calm when we feel anxious,
to be strong when we feel weak,
to be gracious when tempted to respond inappropriately,
and when the day is done may we feel at peace in your presence.

Robert Mortimer, local preacher, Teddington Circuit



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

Thank you for donations sent to Mary following the appeal in last month's Oracle.

Mariam's latest letter was written in May – it is translated from French.

I am happy to hear that you are doing well. I have received the latest letter you have sent to me, a great relief. When I have heard about coronavirus, we have been

sensitized on it [??], like meningitis, measles and also coronavirus. We talk about the wicked sickness almost everywhere in the world but we rely on God to overcome this contagious disease.

We have celebrated Easter and it was in the period of heat. There are currently savage [wild] fruits like liana and grapes. Do you know liana?

Please pray for our studies and for the business of my mother. Thank you and goodbye!

Note: "A liana is a long-stemmed, woody vine that is rooted in the soil at ground level and uses trees, as well as other means of vertical support, to climb up to the canopy to get access to well-lit areas of the forest." <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liana>

So there are lots of different lianas with differing fruits.

In Burkina Faso, from Mar 11 to 26 July 2020, there have been 1,081 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 53 deaths.

World Health Organisation <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/bf>

What we've been doing during lockdown

Pat writes: As you know I have been taking Lulu (our dog) out everyday for her walkies during the lockdown. Mostly along the canal, which this year has been quiet due to the lack of boats because of the virus. Its been lovely to see the numerous baby ducklings and swans actually surviving on the canal. But one bird I always look for, and would love to see, is a kingfisher, but so far this is the only Kingfisher I see.



I've also been busy doing some crochet. My granddaughter Rebecca, while she is on furlough from work, decided to pass the time doing something constructive. Having sent for some crochet to do, she took one look at the instructions and hadn't a clue what to do, so grannie got the job. So cute!

Tony has been model-making

As you might know I am into model trains, so with lock down as it is, what do you do with the time?



So into the workshop to see what I can do. First of all on to the internet to find a model, then think what size I will make. Then about 6 weeks later I have completed the model, which is made of steel and the top of plywood, then I set about putting the radio control into it.

The model is about 6" high and about 12" long ready to run at Abbey Park when we can get there.

Frogs!

Although my pond was only finished at the beginning of June I spotted my first frog on 25th June and see it regularly. A second, much paler, frog appeared on 4th July but hasn't been seen again.

Mary B.



Games we used to play

Margaret Edwards was telling me about the collections of cigarette cards she has, and we talked about how we swopped cards with our friends and how we encouraged our parents to smoke, to try to get complete sets.

We talked about playing “faggies” to win cards from our friends.

This led me to thinking about the games we used to play as children.

We played marbles, again trying to win them from our friends. Did you play snobs? These were also called “jacks” or “fives”. If we didn’t have the wooden cubed ones, we fastened a cluster of shoe buttons together, the ones with the metal loop underneath.

We played “cat’s cradle” with a loop of wool round our hands. We played out in the street at tag or releasio, we became very proficient at ball games, using two balls together. We did handstands against the house wall. We skipped with mum’s old washing line.

If there was a group of us, we played ring games or ones like “so many men come seek work”, a kind of charades.

There were seasonal games like conkers and whip and top. I remember once my top flying up and breaking a neighbour’s window. I ran home hoping that no one would know, but my dad made me go back and own up. Dad payed for a new window and I had no pocket money for a long time.

We made winter warmers, a can with pierced holes, half filled with burning coals and a string fastened at the top. We would then whirl the can round and round to make a wonderful glow.

What price Health and Safety?

What games did you play, or what did you get up to?

Brenda

Countries of the world picture quiz – answers

1 Canada 2 West Indies 3 Iceland 4 Russia
5 Mozambique 6 Bahamas 7 Taiwan 8 New Zealand
9 Holland 10 Columbia 11 Brazil 12 Cuba
13 Wales 14 Portugal 15 Romania 16 Japan
17 Lichtenstein 18 Bali 19 Iraq 20 China
21 Belgium 22 Singapore 23 Bahrain 24 India
25 Hungary 26 North Korea 27 Kampuchia 28 Sweden
29 Italy 30 Hong Kong 31 Botswana 32 Grenada

The odd one out was The West Indies

There's nothing new...

Have you ever been embarrassed by your mobile phone going off in a service? Or amused or irritated by someone else's?

In 1838 *The Musical Times* related how a musical snuffbox in a man's pocket was accidentally activated during a service. Apparently it played one of the latest Viennese waltzes.



[Adapted from an essay by Derek Watson on chapel music]

A minister was walking home from an ill-tempered Church Council meeting, as he walked, he carelessly kicked a discarded can. To his amazement out popped a genie, who said “Hello, I’m the genie of the can, I’m only a junior genie so I don’t have a lamp yet, and I can grant only one wish not three. What will it be?” The minister was tempted to wish for something for himself, but he said, “ I wish for world peace and love.” “Hey” said the genie, “I’m only a junior genie that’s a bit much.” “All right.” Said the minister, “how about peace and love in my Church Council?” The genie paused, frowned and asked, “What was the first wish again?”



The Big Butterfly Count is a UK-wide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) we see.

Between **Friday 17 July** and **Sunday 9 August** choose a place to spot butterflies and moths. Watch for **15 minutes**. Then record which species you see and report on the website <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/> which also has a useful chart to download.

Picture to colour from: SVG Openclipart <https://freesvg.org/butterfly-in-nature>

A Methodist Way of Life

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

Worship

- We will pray daily.
- We will worship with others regularly.
- We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

Learning and Caring

- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- We will learn more about our faith.
- We will practise hospitality and generosity.

Service

- We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- We will challenge injustice.

Evangelism

- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We will share our faith with others.

May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church, for the transformation of the world.

