

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle

Welcome

back to church!

First service Sunday 13th September

Cover photo: Alexander Ignatov “Welcome Lobster Text Title” Public Domain licence

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.

South Wigston Methodist Church
Blaby Road, South Wigston LE18 4PB
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: pmmmbry@gmail.com 07891 917768
Contributions always welcome; deadline 20th of each month.

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

Good news ~ welcome back!

- The Church Council met on 11th August and agreed that Busy Bugs pre-school could resume from 2nd September, and that Girls' Brigade and worship could also start.
- Junior Church is not yet able to meet but preachers will make their services child-friendly. Services will last no more than 45 minutes. Sadly we will not be able to sing.
- All the decisions taken by the Church Council members follow Government and Methodist Church regulations and guidance.
- The rear of the building (corridor, toilets, schoolroom, kitchen etc) is dedicated to Busy Bugs – do not use the back door. Busy Bugs staff won't come into the rest of the building.

A cleaning rota has been agreed with Donna, please don't go in when she is there:

Thursday evenings after GB: quick clean of lounge, coffee bar, foyer & toilets.

Saturday mornings: downstairs (including schoolroom area)

Mondays (sometime between 3 and 8) upstairs worship area after worship on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

These changes will make a visit to church a very different experience from what we were used to. *Welcome back to church* – a leaflet explaining the changes will be distributed to members and other worshippers in early September

Worship will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from September to November ~ see page 6

A message from our minister



At the start of a new Methodist / school year, it seems a good time to remind ourselves of the church's mission statement, and how this is put into practice through the church within the community. Of course, most of the face-to-face groups are unable to meet at the moment. Some, such as bible breakfast and church meetings are taking place online. Girls' Brigade and Busy Bugs Preschool are intending to resume in September. It will be good to resume worship services on 13 and 27 September, recognising that not everyone will be able to attend. Many thanks to all who have been preparing risk assessments and who are offering to help staff the church when it reopens with its new safety arrangements.

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We seek to put this mission statement into practice in the following ways:

1. By holding Sunday morning worship which is varied, led by ministers and local preachers from the Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit, worship leaders, and the local

worship team. Worship reflects Methodist character and principles.

2. By running regular and one-off activities which embody the love of God, such as: the Saturday Coffee Morning; Girls Brigade; Ladies Circle; Knit and Knatter.
3. By deepening our understandings of being Christian, through preaching, prayer, Lent study group, bible breakfast, membership classes, and our participation in services held jointly through Churches Together in South Wigston.
4. By following the Safeguarding policies and practices of the Methodist Church.
5. By a strong commitment to children's Christian education through Junior Church and The Bang; Girls Brigade, and assemblies at Parkland and Fairfield Primary Schools.
6. By living as an inclusive community, expressed through its ethnic diversity; its willingness to offer marriage for those who've been divorced; prayers of thanksgiving for same-sex couples; welcome of people with special needs.
7. By seeking advice from the Joint Public Issues Team of the Methodist Church and its ecumenical partners, and by endeavouring to support individuals and families going through hard times.
8. By fundraising and donating to organisations that support others, such as Age UK, Helping Hands, Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal, Methodist Women in Britain, the Lions Foodbank, Kennedy House for those seeking asylum, Compassion International Child Sponsorship.
9. By hosting other groups on the premises which serve the community, such as Busy Bugs Preschool; the

Wigston and District Male Voice Choir; Let's Walk South Wigston; Weightloss Support Group; Pilates.

10. By communicating through the Church website, the monthly "Oracle" magazine, and weekly email notices.

Sunday worship from September to November

September

Sunday 13th 10.15 Rev'd Fran Rhys

Sunday 27th 10.15 Harvest ~ led by the Local Worship Team (*note change of date*)

It will not be possible to accept the usual tins, packets, fresh fruit & vegetables. Instead we will be collecting donations for the Food Bank at the Congregational Church, and WaterAid.

October

Sunday 11th 10.15 To be arranged

Sunday 25th 10.15 Local worship team ~ shoeboxes
see page 8

November

8th Remembrance Sunday ~ time and preacher to be arranged

Sunday 22nd 10.15 Local worship team

Please see the weekly newsletters and *Oracles*, for updates and changes.

Church family

We wish a Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrates in September

2nd Stuart

3rd David H

14th Arthur

21st Steve B

24th David G

And a Happy Anniversary to

18th Estelle and Charles

19th Maxine and Peter

23rd Sam and Steve C.

Flower rota the following people were on the rota for September. However, flowers will only be placed upstairs on 13th and 27th. Please contact Margaret to discuss your requirements.



6th Beryl for Bill *AND* Sue H for Mum & Dad

20th Brenda and Alan

27th Janice for Mum and Peter



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. Look out for updates in the weekly newsletters.



Shoebox appeal <https://linktohope.co.uk/>

Margaret has received a letter from Link to Hope:

Firstly, we hope you & your family are well & you have not been too affected by the recent troubles that we have all experienced. As for Link to Hope we are not quite out of the woods yet. Our main source of income comes from our 6 charity shops (one of which we haven't been able to re-open yet). With footfall down by 50% we are praying for a return of customers in order for us to continue to support our projects.

Secondly – and we don't like to pre-empt your support – we wanted to ask if you would consider supporting the Family & Elderly shoebox appeal this year. We have valued your support in the past and we realise that we will have to work extra hard this year to send as many shoeboxes out to Eastern Europe as possible. We have project managers already asking for them and we don't want to disappoint them.

The situation in Eastern Europe currently is worse than ours as they are without the health care and support that we are fortunate enough to have in this country. We would love to bless as many people as possible. To this end, rather than people feeling they can't join in because they can't get out to shop, we have other options for people to join in with the Shoebox Appeal this year:



The church has not yet considered the practicalities of collecting shoeboxes this year BUT we will go ahead in some way.

Worship to celebrate the work of Link to Hope, lead by the local worship team, will take place on Sunday 25th October. However, we may not be able to receive shoeboxes during the service and will have to look at other ways of collecting them. These are the requested items:

Link to Hope

CONTENTS LIST

1. We want everyone to receive a fun and useful box of new and unused gifts so every shoebox should contain all items in this blue box.

<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves or Scarf or Hat (new or knitted)	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & Toothpaste
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweets or Chocolates (BB June 2021 EU Origin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Candles & Holders*
<input type="checkbox"/> Soap & Flannel	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Games (Travel Size Draughts/Dominoes/Playing Cards)

*Holder is for safety and stability

2. Then please ADD 5 or more Items (at least one of each item) from the Red Box for a Family Shoebox OR from the Purple Box to make a Unisex Elderly Shoebox.

<input style="border: 2px solid red;" type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	OR	<input style="border: 2px solid purple;" type="checkbox"/> ELDERLY (UNISEX)
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- Colouring Pads (A5)
- Crayons/Pencils (with rubber and sharpener)
- Small Toys (yo-yo, skipping rope, toy cars)
- Soft toy/teddy (with CE label)
- Tape Measure/DIY Tool
- Head Scarf (lightweight)
- Shampoo (max 300ml)
- Solar-Powered Calculator
- Safety Razors
- Hairbrush/Comb
- Other Gifts

- Reading Glasses/Magnifier
- Mug/Wooden Spoon/Cutlery
- Sensory Item (eg Lavender Bag)
- Hot Water Bottle
- Work Gloves
- Pen/Paper
- Socks/Tights (NEW)
- Wind-Up Radio/Torch
- Shampoo (max 300ml)
- Scissors/Nail Clippers
- Safety Razors
- Other Gifts

PLEASE TRY TO REDUCE THE PACKAGING YOU PUT IN YOUR SHOEBOX

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



From the Compassion August newsletter:

From the overwhelming response of our COVID-19 Emergency Appeal to the continued support of children in poverty, we're so grateful for the generosity and care shown by our supporters.

We're thankful to God for your provision and prayers because we've seen them change lives.

Donations to our [COVID-19 Emergency Appeal](#) have enabled our church partners to go further in their care. Supporters have helped fund the distribution of food, hygiene kits and provided shelter to some of the most marginalised people in the world at a critical time.

This life changing work can only be done in partnership with you. And we cannot thank you enough.

God bless you.

Devotion to duty!

Stewards' meeting in the rain on 15th August.



What we've been doing during lockdown

Helen wearing her Grandad's army jacket on VE Day.

He would have been wearing it 75 years before somewhere in Europe.



The Big Butterfly Count

Did you take part?

I managed to find 15 minutes on the last day of the survey. Sunday 9th

August was hot and sunny and there were several butterflies in the garden.

I spotted 3 small tortoiseshells, 1 gatekeeper and 1 small white.

Interestingly they were all on different flowers; the small tortoiseshells were attracted to the Buddleia – also known as the butterfly bush. *Mary B.*



'Bread'

*Slice it, toast it, fry it, make it into a pudding, make a sandwich...
or just spread it with butter and enjoy it.*

It might be white, brown, fruited, malted, seeded....

So many ways to enjoy our staple food - a loaf of bread.

Bread, so important to our life.

We are reminded of Jesus saying "I am the bread of life"

(John 6:35)

Father God, thank you for the bread which we enjoy day by day.

For bakers producing it fresh every morning.

We thank you especially for your Son, Jesus, the 'bread of life'

*help us to 'feed on him' daily as we read his words and follow his
teachings and example.*

The picture and words are from a booklet "*Prayers, Photos and Reflections around the Home*" by Rosa West, and reprinted with her permission.

Rosa is a member of Sheringham Methodist Church.

Her introduction to the booklet:

"My inspiration for writing the booklet was started by the challenge from Action for Children, who, because the London marathon was cancelled, challenged people to do 26 things instead.

I thought I'd try and find 26 things to take photos of in my home to say thank you God for these things.

Here are my thoughts, prayers and reflections.

Proceeds from the sale of the booklet will go to Action for Children.

Let us all try and Count our Blessings and find something to say Thank you to God every day."

Rosa

The booklet is very inspirational and contains pictures from "a Pin, a Plate of Food to a Vase of Flowers – all with reflections and prayers.

Rosa has produced 6 other similar booklets, mainly of different places and wildlife.

If anyone would like Rosa's details to purchase a copy at £3, plus p & p, please get in touch with me.

These would make wonderful presents.

Brenda

Alpha House on Countesthorpe Road (next to St Mary's Church) has a planning application for change of use from offices to 18 apartments.

The Greater Wigston Historical Society has produced a new DVD and books. They can be purchased from publications@wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk

Wigston historical DVD4 £10 per copy

“From fields to a town” the development of South Wigston

The fourth in our series of historical DVDs about Wigston, This time following the development of South Wigston in photographs and maps again narrated by Dave Andrews from BBC Radio Leicester

“Made in Wigston” £7.99 per copy

Two reflections of growing up in Wigston 1943-1969
By John & Stephen Marquis - A5 size, 109 pages

GWHS 2021 calendar £5.00 per copy

The society has again produced a new calendar for next year, with 12 A4 sized historical “then and now” photographs of Wigston Magna, South Wigston and Kilby Bridge

“Champion of the people” £8 per copy

Updated edition of the biography of Orson Wright, the builder of South Wigston and much, much more.....
Since the publication of the first edition in 2013 research has continued, and this second updated edition contains much more information on Orson and his businesses, his children, as well as previously unseen house and family photographs. Now A5 size, 150 pages, dozens of local pictures and illustrations.



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Book_of_Ruth_Chapter_2-1_\(Bible_Illustrations_by_Sweet_Media\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Book_of_Ruth_Chapter_2-1_(Bible_Illustrations_by_Sweet_Media).jpg)

During Bible month, earlier in the year, the chosen book was Ruth. We read the story of how Ruth was gleaning in the field after the grain had been harvested.

Gleaning, the gathering of surplus crops, is still going on. Food Cycle is just one group which is encouraging farmers not to let crops go to waste:

“Thousands of tonnes of fruit and vegetables are rejected every year because they do not meet supermarkets’ strict cosmetic criteria. Gleaning is a way of saving this food and putting it to good use. In ancient times, gleaners went around fields after harvest to gather produce that had been left behind. Now, in the 21st century, volunteers collect leftover crops from farmers’ fields after commercial harvest: fruits and vegetables which have been discarded because they are a bit wonky or misshapen (yet are still perfectly good to eat) are collected and sent to charities and food projects.”

<https://www.foodcycle.org.uk/news/lets-go-gleaning/>

A litany from the Liturgy & Worship Subcommittee

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.
Day followed night, every week had a Sunday
and that was the day for church.

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.
We made our plans, held our meetings,
kept the roof on the church and the show on the road.

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.
We would see colleagues, friends and loved ones once
again,
and we would embrace, laugh, and share stories as we
always have.

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

And now, we know something new.
We know that the world is not ours to control,
and that our plans are confounded by the smallest
microbe.

God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

And now, we know something new.
We know that church is not committees, agendas and
buildings, it is us in homes, streets, hospitals
throughout the world.

God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

And now, we know something new,
We only have today with those we love,
today is the day to say "I love you",
to mend an argument, to hold on tight.

God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

*Litany by Past President, the Rev'd Michaela Youngson, Chair of the
London District. Rainbow glass by the Rev'd Rachel Parkinson,
Chair of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District.*

