

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020

Cover photo: South Wigston War Memorial (see page 9)

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
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Minister: Rev. Fran Rhys 0116 257 1069

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Contributions always welcome; deadline 20th of each month.

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



Worship in November
Remembrance Sunday 8th November
10.15 Rev. Fran Rhys

If it goes ahead it is likely that the service at the War Memorial will be for limited numbers with priority given to those who will be laying wreaths.

As the area around the War Memorial gets very crowded it is suggested that members of our congregation don't leave the service to go to the memorial, as they have done in previous years, but participate in the Act of Remembrance in our service.

Sunday 15th 8.45 Bible breakfast led by Fran – on Zoom

Sunday 22nd 10.15 Local worship team

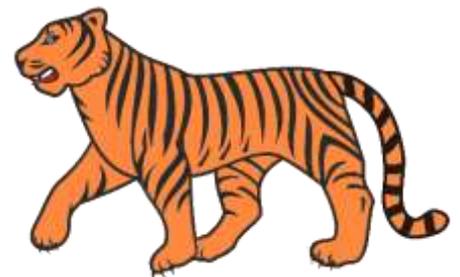
Please see the weekly newsletters and *Oracles*, for updates and changes.

Look out for tigers!

Just a gentle reminder that everyone coming to church services should remain at a distance of 2 metres (unless in a family or bubble).***

Please don't stay chatting in the church building after worship – leave the building quickly and continue your conversations outside.

This will also help the stewards to tidy up and go home.



***If you're not sure how far this is ~ female tigers measure upwards of 2 metres.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:TigerVector.png>

A message from our minister



I was asked by a Community Liaison Officer at the County Council to write something for Interfaith Week (8 -14 November) about how my faith is helping me get through the coronavirus crisis. I wonder how you would respond to that question?

The first thought that comes into my mind is that my faith gives me a sense of perspective. Life is especially challenging now and more restricted and full of Covid risk assessments but I still have the basics I need for survival, and even for flourishing. So my faith stops me from being too sorry for myself or for the situation we are all facing. When I ministered in Yorkshire there was this phrase people would say a lot to me: 'there's always somebody worse off'. I'm not certain this is the best way of looking at things, but if it can help me be mindful of the needs of others, perhaps it is helpful.

My faith is like a constant steady heartbeat a lot of the time. Most mornings I manage to read a bible passage and some prayers and remember people in my churches and their surrounding communities. Many evenings I try to reflect back on the day to see what stands out as things for which to be thankful and for something from which I need to learn. So my faith helps provide a secure framework, and in carrying out my daily devotions I'm reminded of the values of the Kingdom of God and of Christ's companionship and to be open to the blowing of the Holy Spirit. In a time of crisis such as we're

going through, this routine punctuated by prayer feels so important to hang onto.

The community of saints is another really important aspect of faith, and it's been a genuine joy to be able to meet in person again with some of those who are trying to follow Christ in their lives. So, with Mother Julian of Norwich (who ministered through the worst plague years) I say, 'All things shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.'

Fran

#GodsWithUs Christmas Campaign 2020

The Methodist Church-wide Christmas campaign in 2020 **#GodsWithUs** seeks to share people's stories about their walk with God in this extraordinary year. The campaign will offer the following content:

- Shareable social media posts every day in Advent on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- A video released on 1st December on YouTube and shared on social media.
- Campaign posters and postcards available for local churches to order from the end of October to share locally.

The materials ask questions which encourage Methodists and non-Methodists alike to consider their own story of faith in 2020 and to share it with one another or online. The campaign aims to encourage Methodists to reflect, **share their stories**, and reach out to others outside the church and encourage them to do the same. (See back cover)

Please send Mary your stories of faith in 2020 to be included in the December Oracle. Thank you



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

In October we sent her an online birthday card and a gift of money. She will be 12 this month.



At Girls Brigade we have been working on the badge called “Co-operation “

Through YouTube videos, songs, and craftwork we have been learning about Noah’s Ark.

We have enjoyed being back together on a Thursday evening and sharing stories of what we did during lockdown.

Quiz

Thank you to all who took part in the Seaside quiz, which ended on Sunday 1st November; it raised £125 for the Framework Knitters Museum. Thank you for your generous support.

My next quiz, in aid of Church funds, is on NAMES and is now available, *Brenda*

Notes from Churches Together in South Wigston

As it is not possible to hold large gatherings, the United Service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, will not take place, although wreaths may be laid. The United Service for Advent Sunday has also been cancelled.

World Day of Prayer We are hoping to be able to go ahead with this service on Friday 5th March at 2.00 pm at our Church.

Communications

My mind goes back to the job I did in the army during the war, de-coding and en-coding messages. Get it wrong and the damage done could cause confusion within the units.

The Oracle reminds me of this, as it is an effective message for all units. Congratulations to Mary for getting it right and keeping us all informed.

The Church moves forward into a different phase of life. We would do no better than to identify the important things in our lives, one that stands out as an important form of communication is "The Power of Prayer." Use it individually or corporately. There are many issues for which we need to pray and, remember, there are many for which we need to thank God. *Alan*

Bible stories

In the October *Oracle* Fran asked us which Bible stories have made an impression on us. One of mine is from the beginning of the First book of Samuel.

Each year Elkanah, would travel from Rhama with his 2 wives to worship and make a sacrifice at the Temple at Shiloh. Hannah was childless and Penninah had 2 sons, yet she was jealous of Hannah because she was the favourite wife. She would continually torment and humiliate her and wondered why Elkanah kept her.

One year when they reached the Temple at Shiloh, Hannah was so distraught by the taunting, she was weeping and praying to the Lord, she poured out the anguish of her soul saying that if she had a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord all his life. Eli the priest in the Temple, saw her and thought she was drunk. When Hannah told him, she was so distressed that she was praying to the Lord, he said he was sure the Lord would grant her request.

Hannah did have a son, Samuel, and when he was weaned, she and Elkanah took him to Eli in the Temple. How brave of Hannah to keep her promise to give up her longed-for child, what a sacrifice to return home without him and only see him once a year when they went to the Temple in Shiloh. What faith, not knowing if she would have more children, which she fortunately did.

Brenda

War memorial

The War Memorial by St Thomas' Church was designed by The Leicester architects Pick, Everard and Keay, and built in 1923. It was unveiled by Major General Sir E M Woodward on Sunday November 11th, 1923 and dedicated by the Archdeacon of Leicester the Venerable F B Macnutt. It records

the names of the 106 men of South Wigston and Glen Parva who died in World War 1.

There was an addition after the Second World War, which records the names of the 51 men who died in that conflict

The Inscription on the Memorial reads:-

IN SACRED SLEEP THEY REST

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

IN MEMORY OF THE MEN OF SOUTH WIGSTON AND
GLEN PARVA

WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE WARS OF 1914-1918 &
1939-1945

In 2001, Alan organized the refurbishment of the Memorial and set up “The War Memorial Renovation Fund” to access funds for the repair, cleaning and to replace the gold leaf on the lettering where necessary. The Memorial was rededicated on October 25th 2001.

Alan undertook to see that the surrounding area was kept clean and tidy, Pat Cadney now continues this work.

The Memorial was given Grade 11 listed status in 2019 by Historic England. One of the reasons for the listing given is that “It is a good example of a War Memorial featuring good quality carved panels depicting cricketing and military equipment and using high quality materials, namely, Portland stone, Swithland slate and gold leaf on the lettering.”



The Council has placed a seat inside the area, this is a wonderful place to sit in quiet contemplation, and, if allowed at this time, to sit and watch the world go by.

The inquisitive mind of a child [Author unknown]

Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
Why not a beautiful rose?
Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.

But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.
Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.

But why, Mummy are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.



GOD IS WITH *us*



Our buildings have been closed this year but we have been at work and God's love is uncontainable.

The Methodist Church Christmas campaign **#Godiswithus** shares people's stories about their walk with God in this extraordinary year.

To find out more about this year's Christmas campaign and to help us promote it, visit

www.findingourhope.co.uk

To order resources for your church, visit www.methodistpublishing.org.uk



The **Methodist** Church 