

# South Wigston Methodist Church

# The Oracle



**Shoebox  
service 25<sup>th</sup>  
October**



**Cover photo:** From Link to Hope 2019

## **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

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Contributions always welcome; deadline 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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

## A message from our minister



I'm sure that those who attend the Tuesday 'Knit and Natter' group must miss that gathering. I trust that you are nevertheless continuing to knit and make crosses. One of the other churches for which I have oversight is Cosby Methodist. The whole village it seems has been continuing to knit during the lockdown, getting ready for the September

'Yarn Bomb'. Walking round the village enjoying the brightly coloured and phenomenal knitted craft-work made such an uplifting afternoon. Of course I was biased in favouring the Noah's Ark in front of the Methodist Church, with its ever significant messages of the dangers of species'



extinction and flooding in these days of climate emergency and habitat destruction, due in turn to our high levels of consumption. I also loved the

amazing knitted vegetables with the exhausted allotment holder snoozing in her deck-chair.

The simpler 'hugging' of a tree with a patchwork



blanket and pompoms placed all around was another favourite. I enjoyed the Yarn Bomb theme of stories, which can be such a comfort at a time like this. Do you remember how children's literature

was one of the things celebrated about our country during the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics?

In their book, 'So What's the Story' by Barbara Glasson and Clive Marsh, Clive asks us to think about the canon of stories and books that have helped make us who we are. I wonder which bible stories have made the greatest impression on you?

One of my favourites is the Emmaus Road story (Gospel of Luke 24:13-35) where, as I'm sure many of you remember, after Jesus' crucifixion two downcast disciples are returning to their village. Joined by a stranger who tells them stories, they invite him to share some food with them. Only once he has gone do they realise they've been talking with the risen Christ! The story encourages us, among other things, to seek to encounter Christ in one another, even if that is over the phone, or walking the dog.

Rev. Fran



## *Sunday worship from October to November*

### **October**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Rev. Fran Rhys ~ Holy communion

Fran has prepared an order of worship that will keep us distanced. The elements will be brought to us in our places by Fran and the communion stewards who will wear masks, and sanitise their hands as usual.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Local worship team ~ shoeboxes

**Please bring your shoeboxes with you and leave them in porch as you enter.** Labels are available. See also pages 8 & 9.

### **November**

8<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday ~ Rev. Fran Rhys

Time to be arranged – it is uncertain how the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial will be organised.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.15 Local worship team

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



**Thank you for supporting our Harvest appeal.** You raised £239 which is being divided equally between WaterAid and the Lions Food Bank.

It was an enjoyable, but very different, service. A thoughtful presentation by Diane drew attention to food poverty, and we listened to Lutterworth Town Band as the service ended.

## *Church family*

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

4<sup>th</sup> Sue C.    6<sup>th</sup> Narush    12<sup>th</sup> Eric    21<sup>st</sup> Janet L.

*And a Happy Anniversary to*

1<sup>st</sup> Julie & Mick    3<sup>rd</sup> Janet & David    4<sup>th</sup> Margaret & Tony

## *Flower rota*

**Please let Margaret know** (0116 278 6616) if you would like flowers in church on 11<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The original rota cannot be adhered to.

The names Margaret has had confirmed for October are Sue C, and Margaret.

The names on the original rota were:

4<sup>th</sup> Margaret for Mum    11<sup>th</sup> Janet & David  
18<sup>th</sup> Martyn for Dad, Malcom    25<sup>th</sup> Pat for Mum & Dad

*We remember these special people.*



Autumn flower arrangement by Petr Kratochvil (publicdomainpictures.net)

## **Food glorious food ~ Exodus 16: 1-18**

Well we know the story of how the Jews managed to escape from Egypt – crossed the Red Sea and found themselves in the Sinai desert – and they were hungry. Where was their food going to come from in such an awful place – they couldn't pop down to Tesco. The Lord provided. They had manna in the wilderness. The trouble is you can get bored with the same thing day after day. I found I've gone off jacket potatoes, corned beef and baked beans - one of my fond memories of *Oliver* is "food glorious food, hot sausage & mustard, pease pudding & saveloys". So the Israelites started chuntering & grumbling. It wasn't only the food. There was MOSES, "Never here when you want him. He's always up that mountain. Worse still, when he comes down, he tells us all the rules have changed!" Well we haven't got Moses – we've got Boris! Yes, I know the rules keep changing, but what we are fighting is so unknown. The virus seems to be changing and no one really knows for sure how we will come through it, BUT WE WILL. One thing I can promise you – it won't take us 40 years to find a new normality!

*Arthur*

## **A friend of mine has been doing the Concern Worldwide Ration Challenge.**

For a week in September people who signed up were asked to eat the same as a Syrian refugee living in a camp in Jordan, based on food packs distributed by the Ration Challenge's local partner organisation. By raising money, they helped to bring emergency food, hygiene kits and life-saving support to the people that need it most.

<http://go.rationchallenge.org.uk/20-01/>



**Your weekly rations include:**

- Rice 1.92kg\*
- Flour 400g
- Lentils 170g
- Dried chickpeas 85g
- Tinned sardines 120g
- Tinned kidney beans 400g
- Vegetable oil 330ml

\*420g represents the rice distributed by the Ration Challenge and its partners. The rest represents additional rations refugees might receive from other organisations and agencies such as the UN.

You'll eat the same rations, in almost the same quantities, as our local partner distributes in Jordan

For the week of the challenge, you'll drink only water and eat only the rations and a multivitamin (optional).

That's right, no coffee, meat or alcohol!

Like some refugees, you'll also be able to earn additional ingredients, like tea bags or a vegetable, to add to your rations.

Wendy posted daily photos of what she was eating and how it tasted. The food didn't look very appetising! She raised over £1000 for the charity's work. *Mary*



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

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:



**Worship to celebrate the work of Link to Hope, lead by the local worship team, will take place on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**. Please bring your shoeboxes with you and leave them in porch.**

These are the requested items:

**Link to Hope**

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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.

<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>FAMILY</b> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Colouring Pads (A5)  <input type="checkbox"/> Crayons/Pencils (with rubber and sharpener)  <input type="checkbox"/> Small Toys (yo-yo, skipping rope, toy cars)  <input type="checkbox"/> Soft toy/teddy (with CE label)  <input type="checkbox"/> Tape Measure/DIY Tool  <input type="checkbox"/> Head Scarf (lightweight)  <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo (max 300ml)  <input type="checkbox"/> Solar-Powered Calculator  <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Razors  <input type="checkbox"/> Hairbrush/Comb  <input type="checkbox"/> Other Gifts .....            .....            .....         </div>	OR	<div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>ELDERLY (UNISEX)</b> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Glasses/Magnifier  <input type="checkbox"/> Mug/Wooden Spoon/Cuffery  <input type="checkbox"/> Sensory Item (eg Lavender Bag)  <input type="checkbox"/> Hot Water Bottle  <input type="checkbox"/> Work Gloves  <input type="checkbox"/> Pen/Paper  <input type="checkbox"/> Socks/Tights (NEW)  <input type="checkbox"/> Wind-Up Radio/Torch  <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo (max 300ml)  <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors/Nail Clippers  <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Razors  <input type="checkbox"/> Other Gifts .....            .....            .....         </div>
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**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.

In my last letter to Mariam I spoke briefly about coronavirus, and, as there wasn't much church news, I told her about my garden. I also sent one of the two extra financial gifts we send each year: one mid-year and the other for Christmas.



Here is Mariam's reply, translated from French:

Hello South Wigston Methodist Church,  
I am also grateful to God for sparing you and your family members and friends from coronavirus. May God continue to protect you. I feel like the disease has killed many people. Thanks so much for the lovely pictures of the baby and flowers [*it was of swans & their babies on the canal*]. If possible, I would like to get a picture of your small apple tree. I can imagine how you take care of it. I have got to know that you know frogs and hedgehogs. The school year went well and thanks to your prayer supports I am moving up a year. I have received your gift and I thank you. I got a bag of rice, a complete clothing, two round soap, cookies. We are currently in the rainy season and one can find snails everywhere in the bush. How do you do laundry? Do you use hands as we mostly do here in Africa? What is the most popular food there? Pray for our [*school*] resumption and for the exam I have to take.

She also drew a picture of a bowl for To – but it was in very faint pencil.

Tô (food) (*Saghbo* in Mooré), cooled polenta-style cakes made from ground millet, sorghum or corn. The tô is served with a sauce made from vegetables sometimes supplemented by a piece of meat like mutton or goat. Eaten by hand, this traditional dish is the staple of the Burkinabè diet. (From Wikipedia.)



More photos from  
Cosby yarn bombing



## **Historic Churches Ride and Stride day**

This did take place, unfortunately we were not able to take part this year, which means that our Church will be missing out on at least £150. Many of you would have sponsored Brenda, Janet or Sylvia. If you would like to make a donation to Church funds for what would have been your sponsorship money, please sent it to Mary Bryceland, who will pay it in to the church account. (Cheque made payable to South Wigston Methodist Church).

Many thanks

Brenda

## **Churches Together in South Wigston**

The other churches in South Wigston have re-opened for services, unfortunately the college has closed the Multifaith Centre so, after 2 services, the URC is not able to meet.

The United October Social Event has been cancelled. This was to have been a quiz evening.

## **Boating holidays**

We sat musing one sunny afternoon and Alan said "I would like to be sitting on a riverbank fishing and watching the float bob up and down. This reminded me of the holidays we spent boating on the Thames. Over the years we travelled the length of the non-tidal stretch from Lechlade to Hampton Court, there was plenty of opportunity for fishing, but we never caught anything.

Margaret and Rosemary wanted to row from Lechlade to see how far they could get to Thames Head at Cricklade. We followed them along the tow path, until it ran out. The girls had to turn back as the river narrowed and became too overgrown to continue. The holidays were very relaxing and there were

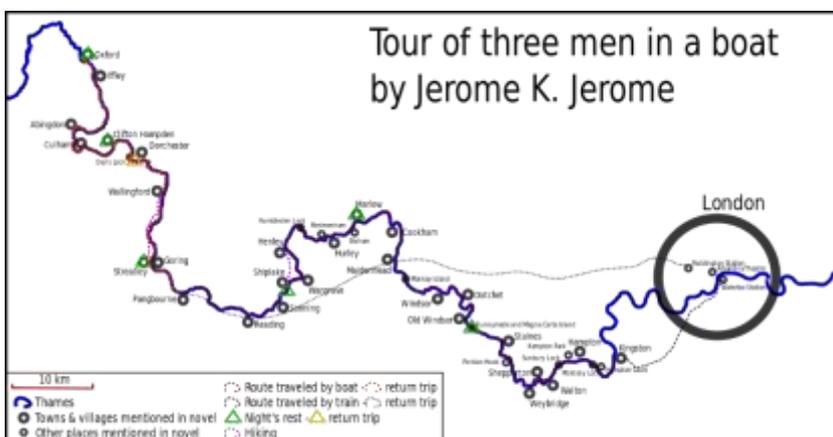
so many lovely places to see and to visit. We moored at Windsor, with just a short walk into the town and to the Castle. The twin towns of Goring and Streatley either side of the river. Streatley, was where Danny La Rue owned the Swan Hotel and restaurant.

We moored at Cookham and visited the artist Stanley Spencer's Gallery and of course bought a painting, a copy of "Christ carrying the Cross".

At night time we would batten down the hatches and make ourselves comfortable to the gentle rocking of the flow of the river. That was the time for me to introduce the family to two of my favourite books as I read to them – *"Two Men in a Boat"* and later *"The Wind in the Willows"*. We laughed at the three men getting lost in the maze at Hampton Court, reminding us of the time we went into the maze. I thought it was looking very tatty and said "Who on earth would get lost in this? - we **did** and needed help to get out.

I am now re-reading *"Three Men in a Boat"* and still laughing at their numerous antics. One of my favourite quotes is *"Work fascinates me, I could sit and look at it for hours"*.

We stopped at Pangbourne, this is the part of the Thames that Kenneth Grahame wrote about in *"The Wind in the Willows"* We moored up for the night and were delighted to be greeted by a water vole peeping out of his hole in the bank – our real live Ratty.



So many lovely memories. *Brenda*

Do you have holiday memories, you could share?

Map author: Grzegorz Bednarczyk. Wikimedia Commons

## Missing sounds

Do you have sounds in your house that you notice more when they stop? My house is very quiet and I always notice when the clock which sits on the mantelpiece in my sitting room stops. It isn't a valuable clock; I inherited it from my aunt who said it was a loyalty gift from their local butcher in Bristol many years ago.

We all noticed the lack of traffic noise during lockdown, the people setting off for work, and if, you live near a school, you may have missed the cheerful sounds of the children at playtime. Do you remember the clinking of milk bottles?

I've told you about building my garden pond. This came about because I damaged the water feature which had been in my garden for several years. I missed the gentle sound of the trickling water and wanted to replace it – the garden centres were closed and I couldn't find one I liked on-line – so I thought of building a pond with a small fountain. I only switch it on during the day and, if I've forgotten, I really notice the lack of sound.

Are there are sounds you remember from the past or which you notice more when they're absent? Do let me know. *Mary*



**Theological Book Club!** I host a Theological Book Club for the district. I'm sure those who have been a part of it for the past few months will agree that it has become a fun, stimulating and thought-provoking thing to be a part of. As the club is coming to the end of our first book and planning on starting a new one in October, we're re-opening for new members!

If you'd like to join us for our **fortnightly** sessions please would you email me [wadsworthm@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wadsworthm@methodistchurch.org.uk) to register your interest. Please note that in order preserve the quality of conversation and ensure opportunities to participate, membership is limited to 30 and will be given on a first come first served basis.

**Sessions happen every other Tuesday afternoon  
4-5:30pm – on Zoom!**

Our new book is *The Prophetic Imagination* by Walter Brueggemann (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). You can buy a copy for around £12 on Amazon or seek one out from a local Christian Bookshop. There are 7 chapters and we will work our way through one a fortnight over 14 weeks. Whilst we appreciate you might not be able to make every week, please make sure you can commit to the regular time slot if you are going to sign up.

The First Session is planned for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of October. This should give participants enough time to sign up, get the book and read the first chapter.

I look forward to hopefully welcoming you into the book club in a month's time! Until then, stay safe and well and happy reading!

Best wishes *Michael Wadsworth* | Regional Learning and Development Officer

## A prayer for children

Let us pray for the children of the world.

We pray for those who have never known peace and live in constant fear of war and conflict;

for those living in refugee camps, suffering in the heat or the cold, with not enough to eat and no clean water;

for those whose lives are blighted by illness or disability;

for those who are growing up in areas where natural resources are being decimated and where traditional lifestyles are being lost.

Lord, we pray for all children living in circumstances that deprive them of the right to grow up in a happy world surrounded by a loving family. May they know your love.

Amen



Prayer: Tina Hackett, steward, Court Oak Methodist Church, Birmingham (West) & Oldbury. From *The Earth is the Lord's* – this year's prayer handbook. © 2020 TCMP

Picture: [www.needpix.com/photo/668512/](http://www.needpix.com/photo/668512/)