

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



Easter Sunday 4th April 2021

Cover photo: <https://pixy.org/4362375/>

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

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 07891 917768
Contributions always welcome; deadline 20th of each month.

Worship in April

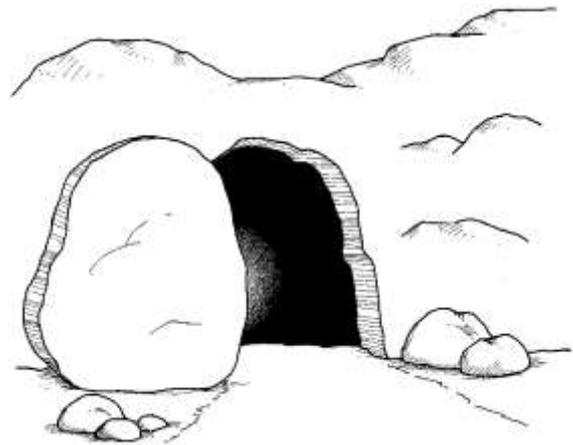
Worship at South Wigston and most other churches in the Circuit remains online but it is hoped to resume services in church in May.

Log-in details for the following services and Bible breakfast will be in the weekly newsletters or from Rev. Fran.

Holy week services are detailed on the back page.

Easter Sunday

Please see Arthur's helpful article on page 7.



Weekly Sunday morning services for South Wigston, Cosby & Bishop Street continue via Zoom. Log-in from 10.30 for 10.45 start.

Weekly Circuit services are held on Sunday evenings. Login from 5.45 for 6pm start.

After both these services participants move into small groups in break-out rooms. This is a great opportunity to chat with old friends and meet new people from across the circuit.

Bible breakfast Sunday 18th April at 8.45.

Image: <https://pixy.org/4290674/> CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

A message from our minister



Letter to Neil O'Brien, MP for Harborough

We are a people who believe in resurrection. This is a key part of our faith; we have experienced this in our lives through our understandings of Christ and our belonging to the Methodist Church; we also see this powerfully around us at this time of emerging springtime.

We are meant to care for God's creation as God cares for it. God has made us responsible for creation; we are accountable to God. We desperately need to reduce our human impact on the earth.

During Lent, members of South Wigston and Wigston Magna Methodist Churches have studied the York Course 'Caring for Creation'.¹

As a result of the course we are increasing our commitments, such as: considering as a church and as church members how we can reduce our carbon footprints through more insulation and solar panels; talking with family members, friends, and colleagues about these issues; eating less meat and buying food with less plastic packaging; walking more; perhaps buying an electric car or mobility scooter. If we fly to visit family members, we will contribute to carbon-offsetting programmes, such as planting trees or donating to charities which are already supporting those affected by climate heating, especially in countries with much smaller GDPs than our own.

¹ Brian Davis, *Caring for Creation, An ecumenical course in 5 sessions*, York: York Courses 2020

We're also aware that government strategy is needed. Use of fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil), steel, and cement need to be drastically reduced, because these are some of the biggest producers of global heating. We are heartened that, during the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government has acted quickly and decisively, for example over collective safety, homelessness, and the furlough scheme. We have seen how government strategy can be employed for the good of all.

We are seeking to speak up and make changes to help reduce our collective and individual carbon footprints, and we urge you as our elected representative to do what you can to get the Government to recognise and act on the urgency of the climate crisis. It needs to be at the forefront of government policy in order for resurrection for God's earth to happen.

Yours sincerely,
Rev'd Fran Rhys

The Final Call

At last, to the racecourse we go
To receive the final blessing.
Church bells may now ring out
Across a nation weary of "lockdown's" oppressive rules.
For some, however, there can be no celebrations,
As, sadly, caught up in the pandemic they are no more,
Mourned by those whose love sustained them in their hour of
need.

Be with those in sore distress,
God bless them as they pray, for a new world,
A new world for today and evermore.
Glory, Glory, Halleluiah!

Alan

Church family

We send Happy Birthday greetings to

6th Vanessa

7th Sylvia B

8th Rachel

9th Nicholas

16th Diane

26th Helen R

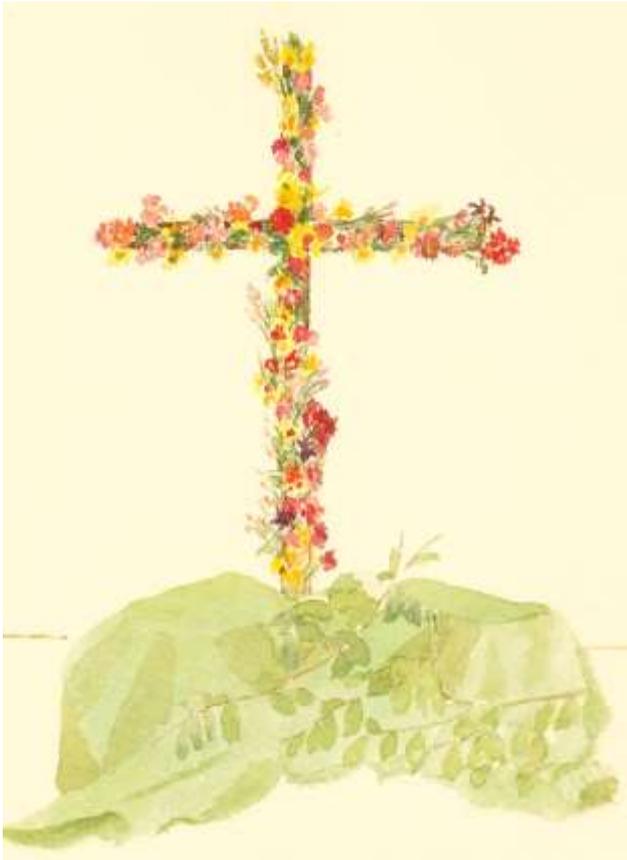


Nicholas' half-term project was building this magnificent AT-AT *Star Wars* model.

Well done Nicholas - it must have taken a lot of patience!

DIY Easter (Luke chapter 24 v 13-38)

We are going to miss it again! Easter morning in our church. The church filling up with people bringing spring flowers to decorate the Lenten cross and make our church beautiful. The singing! Those wonderful hymns, THINE BE THE GLORY. The children arriving as we gather round the table –



our family – and the bread is broken “ body of Christ broken for you.” Crowding out into the streets afterwards to sing and tell the world “Jesus Christ is risen today – alleluia!”

So I invite you to get yourself a bread roll, cob, baguette, baton, whatever, and on Easter morning read this passage: Luke 24 verses 11 to 35. When you come to these words in verses 30-31 “he took the bread, broke it and gave it to them. Then their

eyes were opened and they recognised Him” let’s do this together in our homes and He will come. He has been with us all the time as we fight this pandemic. He has been with Ann & me as she fights her battle with cancer, and next year we will be free to SING of a risen Lord, to great one another on this special day and GIVE EACH OTHER A HUG!

Happy Easter

from Ann & Arthur

The Lent group has been using a York courses booklet “Caring for Creation”. Some interesting discussions have taken place about we can do as individuals and as a church.

This evening session, organised by the Northampton District, looks relevant to Lent group members and others.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

zoom

**ECO CHURCH IN THE
NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT**

Celebrating what we're doing and looking forward with hope.

April 12th 7:00-9:00 pm

Are you interested in Eco church?

Join us to discuss

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Northampton Methodist District

You can sign up to one of the areas of interest as shown above.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eco-church-in-the-northampton-methodist-district-tickets-141994191449>

Zero waste • Litter • Plastics • Chemicals • Energy • Food



**Environmental
Forum**
Oadby & Wigston

Transport • Recycling • Wildlife • Water • Sustainability

The church has been invited to attend the Forum. If you are interested the next meeting Tuesday 20th April 5 – 6.15 on Zoom. Contact Chris for the link.

O&W Environmental Forum is a group bringing together individuals, schools and faith, community and voluntary groups from across the borough to look for ways in which our projects and ideas might find win/wins through networking and partnering together.

Everyone, of all ages, welcome.

For more information contact Chris on ow.environmental.forum@gmail.com



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

News from the Compassion website www.compassionuk.org/

Quizzes

The quiz on “TIME” ends on Sunday April 25th. My next quiz is on things to do with the “THEATRE”, this is to raise funds for **Christian Aid** and will be ready by the end of April.

Christian Aid

Fighting Global Poverty and Climate Chaos, which is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we can STOP this climate crisis. More news in the May Oracle.

Brenda

Good News for Everyone

formerly known as GIDEONS UK

Normally the local Friends’ Rally is held at the Salvation Army building on Saffron Road. This was unable to take place this year, however, we are invited to join the Friends’ Rally on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/uSDyIF49zYE> - or go to “Leicester South and Rutland Branch Friends’ Rally.”

The speaker is the Nation President, W E Thomas.

If you would prefer to watch it on DVD or listen to a CD, please contact John and Judith Kirby with your details, e-mail, kirbyjb35@gmail.com or phone 07954709593.

Praise, that John Kirby was able to take four Christmas Day Services at Leicester Prison and a number of Bibles were taken by the prisoners.

Please pray for members as they continue to contact schools, that ways will be found to distribute New Testaments to pupils under Covid 19 conditions.

Please pray for a time when we can all work together to distribute Bibles in Leicester once more.

How well do you know Leicestershire?

A quiz of Leicestershire towns and villages

- 1 The yield is heavy (8 letters)
Cropston
- 2 Accommodation for Henry (7)
- 3 Muscle pebble (10)
- 4 A forest dwelling (9)
- 5 A soya product (5)
- 6 Speckle leg joint (8)
- 7 Pale rudeness (6)
- 8 Select carefully (8)
- 9 Animal with a weight (6)
- 10 Small sack value (8)
- 11 Valley meadow (9)
- 12 Get rid of dwelling site (9)
- 13 Opener meat (6)
- 14 Used for sharpening tools (9)
- 15 Net boulder (10)
- 16 Monarch's motor bike (5 6)
- 17 Coloured distance (7)
- 18 Weaken pigeon shelter (7)
- 19 Shakespearean king (5)
- 20 Where Greengrass grew (5 7)



Answers next Month

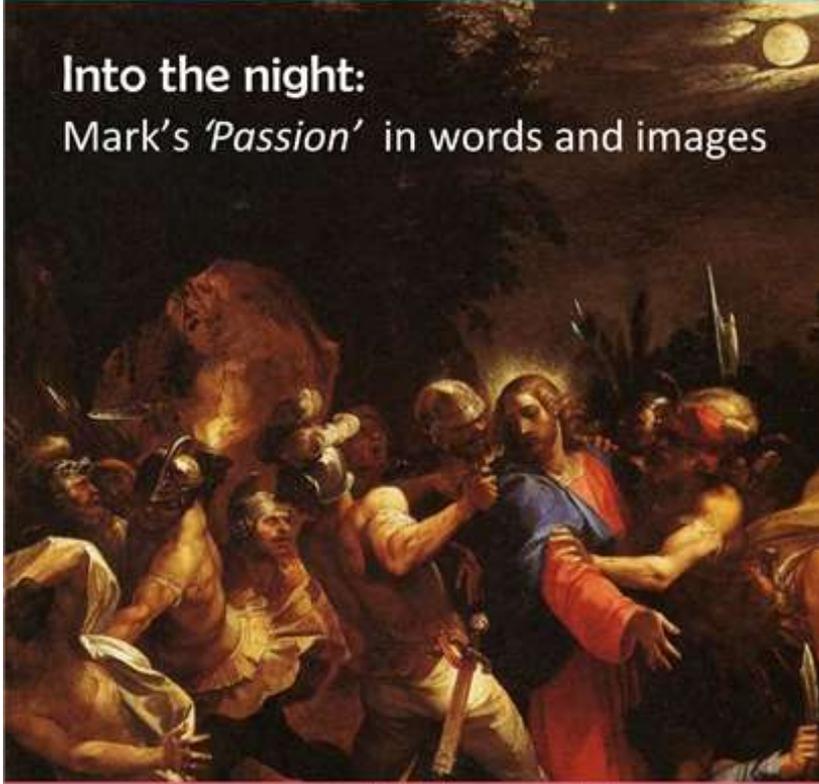
Image: Wikimedia Commons

Holy week

Maundy Thursday 1st April 7.30pm Love feast via Zoom.

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH, LEICESTER
ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
10.00am ZOOM SERVICE, Friday 2nd April 2021
for the Leicester Methodist Circuits

Into the night:
Mark's '*Passion*' in words and images



For zoom access details please email either
the Church office: office@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk
or Minister: fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk

Easter Sunday 4th April 10.30 for 10.45 am led by local preacher Richard Gill, via Zoom.

Zoom log-ins for all services will be in the weekly newsletter

An Easter celebration CD from the Methodist Church is being distributed to those not on e-mail. It can also be downloaded in MP3 format from

www.methodist.org.uk/media/20747/easter-cd-for-download-0321.mp3