

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



*The first service in
church is on 16th May*

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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

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Contributions always welcome.

Worship in May

Worship in church resumes for two Sundays in May then every Sunday from 6th June onwards.

Most restrictions remain in place until at least 17th June: these include no singing, no drinks, masks and social distancing.

Sunday 16th May 10.15 Holy communion led by Rev. Fran Rhys

Sunday 30th May 10.15 Worship led by the local worship team

See the weekly newsletters for Sunday morning Zoom services.

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

Bible breakfast Sunday 16th May at 8.45 via Zoom. Continuing restrictions mean that food cannot be shared in the building.

The log in details for all Zoom services and Bible breakfast will be in the weekly newsletters or e-mail mail@swmchurch.org.uk

Annual Church Meeting
Tuesday 18th May 7pm via Zoom

All welcome!

The link will be in the weekly newsletter



A message from our minister

At a recent evening Circuit service on Zoom led by Rev Daniel Yovan, one of the thoughts that stayed with me is that sharing our faith with others can become too complicated. With that in mind, I was struck by the simplicity of two phrases from my morning Bible reading from 1 John 3:23, the gist of which are: we should believe in Jesus Christ (and all he stands for) and love one another. Jesus Christ is of course part of the Trinity, and it may be that the more 'general' descriptions of 'God' or 'Holy Spirit' or 'higher power' or any other number of ways of trying to describe the great 'I AM' of Exodus 3:14 will be more accessible to some people. I like the phrasing in the South Wigston Mission Statement on this same twofold theme: 'We strive to be a place where understandings of Jesus Christ can flourish. We're called to be good neighbours...'

As I prepare to leave the Leicester Trinity Circuit in late July, and as South Wigston Methodist prepares to reopen for face to face worship and to receive a new minister, Liam Dacre-Davis, from 1st September, it's a good opportunity to share a few thoughts and reflections. It is a very challenging time for many mainline churches. Church-going as known to many of us is not fashionable. The churches that seem to be flourishing are those which draw from a wide geographical (or digital) area, and which have a pop-concert style of worship and a rather either/or theology which asks people to subscribe to a particular formula in order to be considered a Christian.

(I contrast this with the South Wigston mission statement which emphasises that ‘understandings – plural – of Jesus Christ can flourish’.)

One of the admirable things about churches which are attracting large numbers is that they have been willing to change style and try something new, recognising that people who haven’t grown up with mainline church style can find it strange and intimidating to try out or become part of. At the Lent group the size of the church building was called into question. Since there are many mainline churches in the South Wigston / Wigston area, is it time for South Wigston Methodist to try a different style of outreach which may not seem so alien to so many people? What about a shop-front / cafe, for example? Rev Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church said: one of the definitions of insanity is to go on doing the same thing and to expect the results to be different!

Hopefully the General Church Meeting on May 18th on Zoom at 7pm will be an opportunity to share some thoughts together. Meanwhile, go on believing in Jesus Christ and love one another!



2nd May *Harriet*

9th May *Estelle*

29th *Ann R.*

Talk at the Chapel: Baby Krishna, Infant Christ (St Philip's Centre), Thursday 13th May 2021, 6.15-7.15pm via Zoom

Led jointly by James Blackhall & Nima Suchak. The birth narratives of Krishna & Christ have points of contact as well as points of difference. This interactive session will enable participants to learn more of the stories of Baby Krishna, and reflect on the echoes, resonances and differences with the stories of Baby Jesus. Topics covered will include: birth stories, dealing with difficulty and miracles and will help those who participate to reflect more deeply on our faith story as well as learn some of the faith story of those from a Hindu faith. The Zoom link is the one used for Sunday morning services at Bishop Street – or e-mail mail@swmchurch.org.uk

Christian Aid Week 10th – 16th May 2021

Inevitably the pandemic will have a big effect on Christian Aid week this year. However, we can be certain that the work of Christian Aid is as vital as it has ever been. The Leicester committee members encourage churches to support Christian Aid week in whatever way they can.

At SWMC we are hoping to have donation envelopes available on Sunday 16th May – our first service in church.

As more of us, our family, friends and neighbours receive their Covid vaccine we give thanks to God and are both joyful and relieved. However, we are aware that many communities around the world are suffering and do not have access to vaccines, and many of them lack the basics they need to protect themselves, like clean water for handwashing.

As you, or a family member, are protected please give to help those who do not have access to vaccines.

<https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/leicesterca>

With thanks for your support. Margaret is our CA representative.

On yer bike! Psalm 23

I watched from the window as our paper boy rode slowly up the hill towards our house. He delivered our paper, and then turned and rode back down the hill. That's funny I thought. Two minutes later up the hill he came again: he'd forgotten to deliver number eleven's paper!

I smiled and my memory went back a long, long way, and I remembered when I did my paper round on my bike. The papers in 1946 were a lot thinner! I remembered that saying "once you've done it you'll never forget how to ride a bike". I didn't feel very confident to try! Nor did I honestly want to!

Things are now slowly coming back to normal and I feel very unsure about how I will cope – mixing with people – the changes that have happened. The words of that hymn keep coming back "when I'm confused Lord show me the way". Rather mawkish I admit.

Again and again I turn to reciting the 23rd Psalm, not just because of the Vicar of Dibley, but because God is such a wonderful shepherd. He will lead me. After all he is my Father!

Ar the Ull



Image by [Jason de los Santos](#) from [Pixabay](#)



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

News from the Compassion website
www.compassionuk.org/

Unfortunately the collections for Mariam have dried up over the last few months because the church has not been open. The donation box will be available when the church re-opens for worship on 16th May – your contributions will be gratefully received.

Mariam's latest letter, translated from French

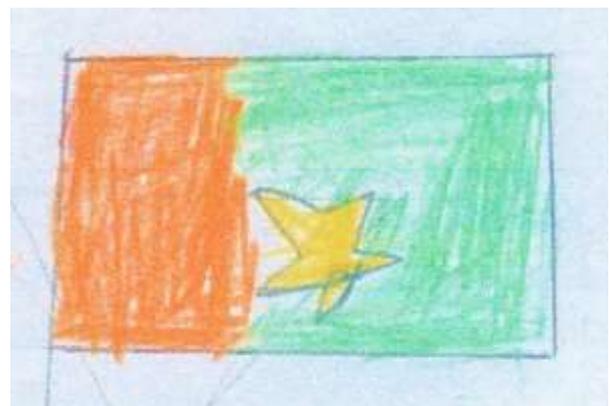
My whole family and I are excited to send this letter to you. We are happy with your benefactions towards us. Thanks a lot for the gift I received from you [Christmas gift]. May God bless you. I was able to buy some rice some loincloths, some clothes and some sweets.

My school year is progressing well thanks to your prayers. We are in the dry season at the moment but god has given us first rain. That makes us good because the freshness abode for weeks. We will have a medical check-up at the project this week. It takes the whole day. I really thank God for his multiple favours towards us.

Do you know lizards? They are too much here. We see them on trees during the daytime.

Please pray for my CEP exam.

Mariam has drawn the flag of her country.



Audrey Smith 1932-2021

Audrey was born in Middlesbrough, a lovely lady with many talents, and a wonderful sense of humour, which was often directed against herself.

She was a teacher and taught for several years at Rolleston Primary School on the Eyres Monsall.

One of her hobbies was origami, we have a Father Christmas that she made for me several years ago, which comes out every year. She also made a lovely Nativity Group, which we had in the Church display window - does anyone know what happened to it?

When we were fund raising for the church stair lift, Audrey vowed that she would never use it, but she gave a generous donation and wrote a poem about her fears of lifts of any sort. I still have the original copy.

She was an active member of the Ladies Circle, and her talents for decorating were much in use at Bazaar time.

She brought Janice's mum to church each Sunday and to Ladies Circle. When she was no longer able to drive, she walked to church from Glen Parva, bringing her beloved dog Sam with her.

Living independently was becoming difficult and she went into a Nursing Home in Blaby, by which time she was suffering with dementia. Fran visited her in the Home and asked me if there was anything she could talk about. I said "Yes, get her to tell you about when she was an evacuee in Yorkshire." A time she remembered with great affection.

My friend, Audrey, who would have been 89 on April 14th.

Brenda

Six members of Ladies' Circle were pleased to be able to join four members of Audrey's family, and two staff from the care home, at her funeral on Friday 16th April.

Audrey's poem about the stair lift

Up ~ lifting sentiments

In a large department store I'm neurotic to the core
When directed to a floor and the elevator door.

I'm afraid the very thought of a lift of any sort

Has me feeling overwrought - oh it's not my kind of sport

No, I'd rather climb the stairs with me burdens and me cares
For I never ever dares to face up to all the scares ...

With the battle nearly won and me "Nora Dattys" on

Bags and parcels by the ton and the money almost gone

(~ Oh! The creaking of me knees in the January freeze

And me chest upon the wheeze) - the lift you say? Oh please

Not the lift - well not today - I'll er - find another way

And see you ~ oo ~ o ~ ooo ~ w ~ hoops I SAY

← LIFT



From a nervous lift-user.

The Quiz for Aigburth raised £170, thank you for taking part. My new quiz is for Christian Aid, if you have not received a copy and would like one, please get in touch. It is on the THEATRE, still at £1 a copy, donations for Cristian Aid accepted by cash or cheque payable to Christian Aid. I will be charging £1 for the answers this time for this very worthy cause. *Brenda*

How well do you know Leicestershire?

Answers to the quiz in the April Oracle

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1 | The yield is heavy | 8 | Cropston |
| 2 | Accommodation for Henry | 7 | Halsted |
| 3 | Muscle pebble | 10 | Braunstone |
| 4 | A forest dwelling | 9 | Woodhouse |
| 5 | A Soya product | 5 | Quorn |
| 6 | Speckle leg joint | 8 | Fleckney |
| 7 | Pale rudeness | 6 | Wanlip |
| 8 | Select carefully | 8 | Pickwell |
| 9 | Animal with a weight | 6 | Foxton |
| 10 | Small sack value | 8 | Bagworth |
| 11 | Valley meadow | 9 | Glenfield |
| 12 | Get rid of dwelling site | 9 | Scraptoft |
| 13 | Opener meat | 6 | Keyham |
| 14 | Used for sharpening tools | 9 | Whetstone |
| 15 | Net boulder | 10 | Snarestone |
| 16 | Monarch's motor bike | 5 6 | Kings Norton |
| 17 | Coloured distance | 7 | Redmile |
| 18 | Weaken pigeon shelter | 7 | Sapcote |
| 19 | Shakespearean king | 5 | Leire |
| 20 | Where Greengrass grew | 5 7 | South Wigston** |

** Greengrass was a character in "Heartbeat", played by Bill Maynard, who grew up in South Wigston

Beyond Exile: A service to celebrate a return to public worship

Three prayers from the liturgy

Gracious God, you are our host and guest.
We gather today, in your house,
knowing that you are with us.
As you have welcomed us,
help us to be a welcoming community.
Send your Spirit to blow through our worship
as a breeze blows through the open windows
of a long-closed house.
Amen

God of life and love,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of the bread.
Open our eyes that we may see him
in his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Loving God, you built your church,
the body of Christ, as living stones.
As we gather in your house today,
help us to remember that we are your church in every
place.
Unite us in your Son, and send us out in the power of
your Spirit,
to witness in your world. Amen

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/>