

**South Wigston Methodist Church**

# **The Oracle**



*Bible month - Gospel of Mark*

**June 2021**

**Cover photo:** Feeding of the 5,000 by Carys Tait for Bible month 2021

## **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 Rev. Fran Rhys.

**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

**Senior Steward:** Mary B. 0116 281 2625

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Contributions always welcome.

## *Worship in June*

Worship in church will take place on the following dates:

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.15	Mr Richard Gill
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.15	Rev. Fran Rhys
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.15	Mr James Blackhall
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.15	Local worship team

June is Bible Month when preachers will be looking at the Gospel of St Mark. See page 8.

**Sunday morning services** continue via Zoom for those who cannot go to church, and the Circuit evening services continue at 6.00 pm.

**Bible breakfast** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 8.45 via Zoom.  
Continuing restrictions mean that it is still difficult to share food.

The log in details for all Zoom services and Bible breakfast will be in the weekly newsletters or can be obtained by e-mailing [mail@swmchurch.org.uk](mailto:mail@swmchurch.org.uk)

**Covid-secure church** Please be reassured that keeping you safe in church remains our priority.



## *A message from our minister*

What would you do if your church burned down tonight? What would you like your church's legacy to be? What are the great things your church has done in the past? What energy efficiency steps could be taken at church and in our homes? These were some of the questions considered at the General Church Meeting in May this year. The questions mainly came from the publication 'Our Church's Future Story', which is available on [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk).

Some of the responses to the first question were: Cry! Call the Insurance Company; Join another congregation (in person, or on Zoom); Rebuild it as a community building rather than as a church; Meet as a congregation somewhere else, such as Bassett St Community Hub; even somewhere in Blaby Road Park, if that would be allowed.

Question two about legacy included the desire for more younger people to be in the church; for the church to still be open, since not all churches should close; to be welcoming; the character of the church would need to be different, such as at 'The Hive', a drop-in church at Great Cressingham, Norfolk; A weekday morning drop-in for parents after taking their children to school; enthusiasm and presence; a place where children can get used to church.

Great things from the past include the vision to adapt the church building; exhibitions, such as the hobbies and nativity ones; Girls and Boys Brigades and their camps; Sunday School anniversary with the church full of children singing, 'He's got the whole world in his hands'.



*The church interior prior to conversion.*

In terms of energy efficiency measures: windows in the church need to be double-glazed, but would it merit doing that for one hour's worship a week?! Increase the use of the church building; LED lights are replacing the old-style light bulbs.

We closed in recognition that these (and other ideas) will need to be assessed and taken forward in partnership with the new minister at South Wigston Methodist, Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis.

## *Church family*

### *In memoriam*

We are sad to report that three people who were associated with the church passed away in May:

4<sup>th</sup> May Janet Leek. Our condolences go to her daughter Karen Dunkley, other members of the family, and friends. Janet was our church cleaner for several years.

6<sup>th</sup> May Nev Taylor died at LOROS. Our thoughts are with his wife Shirley, and family. Nev was a senior steward at SWMC, and together with Shirley, ran the praise group.

15<sup>th</sup> May Steve Bishop's wife Lynn passed away, peacefully, at the LRI. Our prayers are with Steve and their family.

We send *Happy Birthday* greetings to the following people who celebrate in June:

6<sup>th</sup> June P.

29<sup>th</sup> Ian S.

and we wish Trish and Trevor a very *Happy Anniversary* as they celebrate on 26<sup>th</sup> June.



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

News from the Compassion website  
[www.compassionuk.org/](http://www.compassionuk.org/)

Thank you to everyone who made a special effort to donate following the appeal in the May Oracle. The collection box is now being put out on Sunday mornings.

## Did you get a ticket?

Were you there at Wembley? Did you see that wonderful goal! Leicester City have won the cup. Lucky you if you did get a ticket. Did you get a ticket for Coronation? Did you get a ticket for the wedding of William and Kate? Silly questions.

I'm going to ask some even sillier ones. Did you get a ticket to stand in that stable at Bethlehem to be alongside the shepherds? Did you get a ticket to stand at the foot of the cross and watch the crucifixion? Of course not. **BUT YOU CAN GET A TICKET FOR PENTECOST.**

We are Methodists and we remember how our founder John Wesley went to an evening service in Aldersgate Street and, as the preacher read from a Bible Commentary, "he felt his heart strangely warmed." His Pentecost.

This can happen to you. **YOUR PENTECOST**, when you feel the love of God filling your heart. You know you are a child of God, and his love dwells in you. Your ticket to Pentecost.

*Av the UVA*



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay



## What is Bible Month?

Bible Month has become an annual highlight in the Methodist Church calendar. Each year, you and your church are invited to join the rest of the Connexion in digging deep into a particular book of the Bible over four weeks.

In 2021 the chosen book is Mark's Gospel.

If you are able to visit the webpage

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/bible-month/>

you can download some resources and watch videos. There are links to the Bible Month Youtube channel and Facebook page.

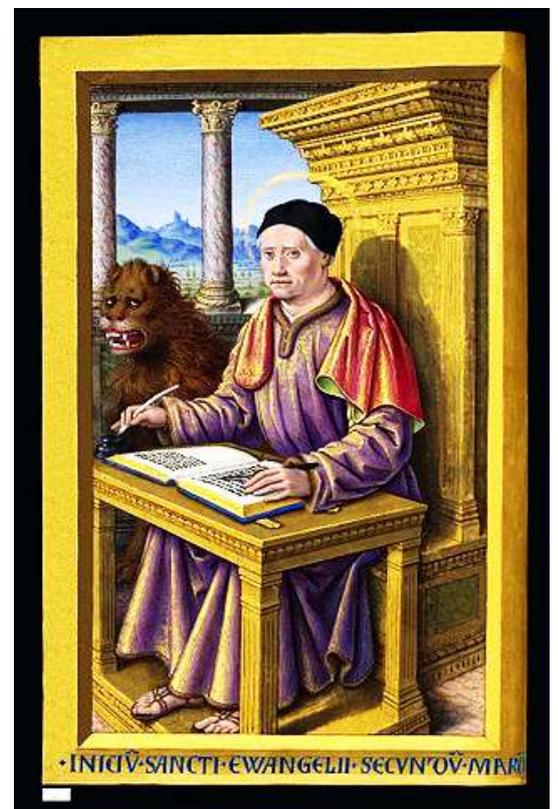
Week 1 Mark 1: 1 – 3: 35 Identity and mission

Week 2 Mark 4: 1 – 8: 21 Mission and boundaries

Week 3 Mark 8: 22 – 10: 52 On the way

Week 4 Mark: 11: 1 – 16: 8 Passion week

**Image** Mark the Evangelist, miniature from the *Grandes Heures of Anne of Brittany*, Queen consort of France (1477-1514).



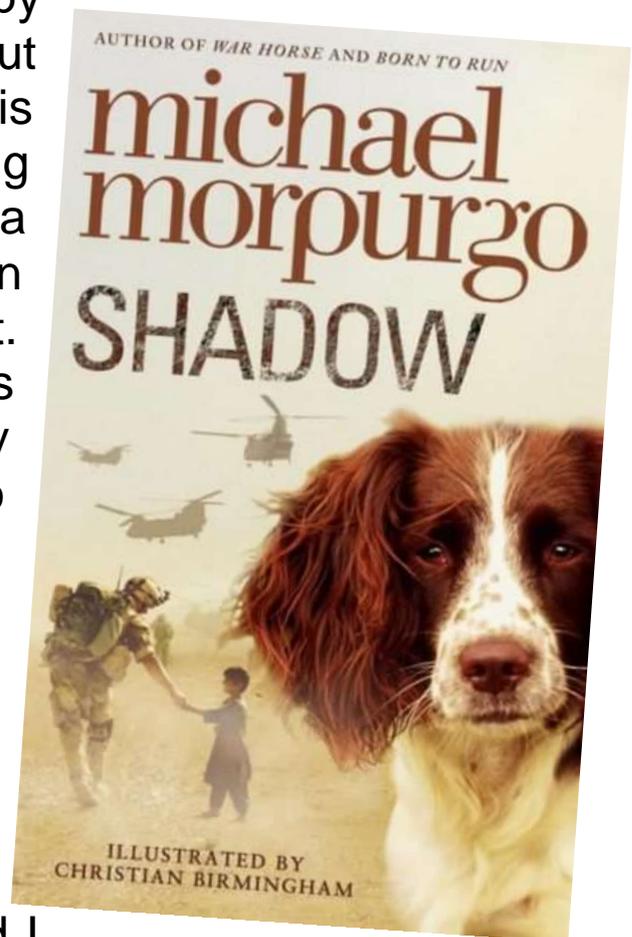
The lion in the desert is an attribute of St Mark – although it's not very clear in this picture.

## A good read

I have just read “*Shadow*” by Michael Morpurgo. It is about Aman, an Afghan boy and his mother, who have lost everything and have resorted to existing in a cave, but life becomes even more dangerous by the moment. Eventually, Aman and his mother, with Shadow, a stray dog that he has nursed back to health, find the courage to escape from war-torn Afghanistan and begin a journey to safety, to try to get to Uncle Mir in England, but is anywhere really safe?

This is a children’s book, suggested for ages 9 plus, and I

think I fit into that. It is a good read and I can thoroughly recommend it. *Brenda*



Michael Morpurgo was the author of ‘*War horse*’ which became such a successful stage show and film.

One of Morpurgo’s proudest achievements was the foundation of *Farms for City Children*, a charity which gives children from inner cities the chance to spend a week on a farm. His farm in Devon was the first, and there are two more – in Gloucestershire and Wales. You may have heard him talking on the radio about his sadness that the scheme hasn’t been able to run during the pandemic.

Another recommendation is “*Many different kinds of love: a story of life, death and the NHS*” by Michael Rosen. Like Morpurgo, Rosen is a former Children’s Laureate. On 28<sup>th</sup> March last year his wife, on the advice of a GP friend, took him to an A&E department. He was admitted with Covid and spent time in an induced coma on a ventilator:

“A doctor is standing by my bed  
asking me if I would sign a piece of paper  
which would allow them to put me to sleep  
and pump air into my lungs.  
‘Will I wake up?’  
‘There’s a 50:50 chance.’  
‘If I say no?’ I say,  
‘Zero.’  
And I sign.

He was left with multiple problems, and spent time in a rehab hospital. The book was compiled using his memories, messages from his wife to the family, and notes made by staff caring for him.

Some of his words made me cry – *Mary B.*

If you would like to  
recommend a book  
please let Mary know.

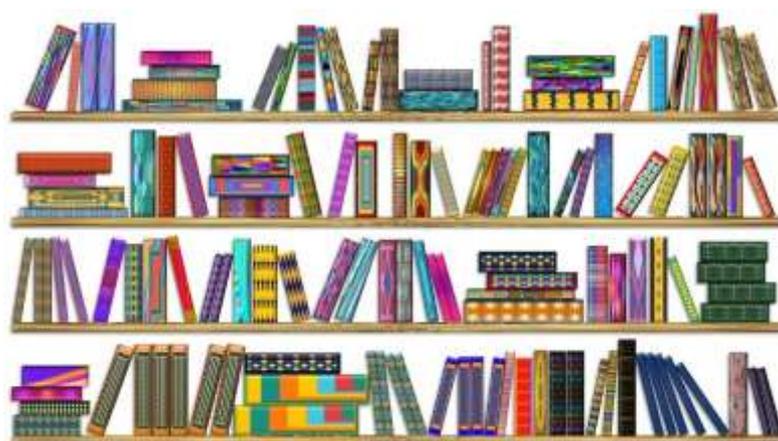


Image  
by [ecassells](#) from [Pixabay](#)

## Quizzes

The quiz for Christian Aid is already up to £120, with still more to come in. If you wish to send a donation there is still time, and don't forget to pay for the answers please.

The next quiz is on THINGS FOUND IN THE HOME. This is for The Leicester City of Sanctuary and will be ready later this month.

*Brenda*



**Leicester  
City of Sanctuary**

Leicester City of Sanctuary is a charity dedicated to welcoming Asylum Seekers in and around Leicester. Helping them to rebuild their lives, provide for their basic and social needs, develop their skills and helping them to feel part of the community.

A range of services and opportunities are offered. There is a central Hub with welcome support services and a hot meal.

There are classes including English for speakers of other languages, a football session, sewing and IT. These services are delivered by a team of volunteers. More than half of the volunteer team running the drop in at the Hub are Asylum Seekers themselves.

With the Covid 19 issue still very much with us, the services are more restricted than usual, but are continuing as much as possible. <https://leicester.cityofsanctuary.org/>

## Features in Leicestershire & Rutland

- 1 VETERAN RETAINER (3 4)
- 2 FIND THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CHAPEL HERE (7 5)
- 3 WORK A GRISWOLD HERE (7 9 8 6)
- 4 ON THE AIRWAVES (5 9)
- 5 SEE WATER WATER (8 9)
- 6 HAS 10 LIFTS (6 5)
- 7 KEPT ITS HEAD ABOVE THE WATER (9 6)
- 8 HAS A HOLE IN THE MIDDLE (3 8 5 6)
- 9 NOT AN 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY HOSPITAL (5 12 6 6)
- 10 WITH 4 FIGURES OF HISTORY (3 5 5)
- 11 HAS 47 BELLS (12 8)
- 12 DESIGNED BY LUTYENS (9 3 8)
- 13 CHILD'S GAME (7)
- 14 BONFIRE MOUND (6 4)
- 15 SEE THE HORSESHOES HERE (6 6)
- 16 WHERE A KING LOST HIS CROWN (8 11)
- 17 COUNTY H<sub>2</sub>O (7 5)
- 18 BEND (3 5)
- 19 FLY AWAY (4 8 7)
- 20 PERIODICAL (3 8)

Answers next month.

Thanks to Brenda for another challenging quiz.

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