

**South Wigston Methodist Church**

# **The Oracle**



**July 2021**

**Cover photo:** Collage created by Junior Church members in 2016

## **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

Leicester Trinity Circuit, Charity registration number 1129943

**Editor:** Mary B. contact: [pmmmbry@gmail.com](mailto:pmmmbry@gmail.com) 07891 917768  
Contributions always welcome.

## *Worship in July*

Worship in church will take place on the following dates:

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Mr Graham Tomkinson

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

This is Fran's last service at South Wigston so light refreshments will be served following worship and we can say our farewells to Fran and Diane. Weather-permitting we will be able to sit outside. If the weather isn't good pre-school will have broken-up and we can use the schoolroom as well as the lounge.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Rev. Kate Cook

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> NO SERVICE at South Wigston.** There will be a Circuit service at 10.30 at Mayflower Methodist Church. This will be a farewell service to the ministers who are moving out of the Circuit: our minister Fran, Jenny Impey and Saidu Kanu.

**Bible breakfast met for the final time in June, so there is no meeting in July.**

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

The log in details for Zoom services 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*

As Diane and I prepare to leave Leicester/shire, it feels like seven years have passed very quickly. But when I reflect back to all the life that I have experienced with you through South Wigston Methodist Church, I'm made aware that a lot has happened in that time. What follows are some of the highlights of my memories with you, so please join me on a trip down memory lane. You'll have your own favourites from the past seven years too.

Above all I've delighted when members of the local (and wider) community have been welcomed onto the premises for events and activities such as: Girl's Brigade gatherings and Awards Evenings, Little Angels Parent and Toddler groups, Coffee Mornings, Christmas Fair and Capers, South Wigston Residents and Stakeholders Forums, Marion's great-granddaughter Maizie's baptism with Subash on keyboard, Funeral Teas, Junior Church and Busy Bugs Nativities, *Raise the Roof* Fundraiser for the Circuit Superintendent's home church in Zimbabwe, the Big Lunch, Churches Together get-togethers at home and away. I also enjoyed 'away fixtures' at Parklands School Assemblies and the BBQ parties at Kennedy House for Asylum seekers.

Then there have been some special worship services marked by the community, such as the Harvest Lutterworth Band services, and the monthly Local Worship Team services which Diane would often enthuse about over Sunday lunch.

Communion services have always touched me, as Junior Church (including Debbie of course) comes upstairs and helps lift the hearts of those of us already in the church. Then there have been the delicious bring 'n share meals after certain services.



*Quiet day at Kilby URC, August 2016*

Bible Breakfasts early on Sunday mornings, either face to face with tea, toast and marmalade, or more recently on Zoom have been particularly meaningful, as were Ladies Circle evenings when members of other faiths have come along to talk about their faith. There were some special membership sessions mid-way through my ministry. There was the sharing of faith from one generation to another which took place at Girls' Brigade Camp in Derbyshire.



*Diane speaking at the Raising the Roof event, July 2019*

Of course, all these highlights have been sustained by the faithful rounds of meetings, minute-taking, newsletters, documentation, counting and banking the collection, and liaising with property contractors and rental groups. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment to sustain a local church and to foster links with other churches and community groups. There has been plenty of both in the past seven years. So well done and thank you God for our praying and working together. May you continue to discover how God is calling you into the future to serve each other and the community of South Wigston and beyond.

## *Church family*

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

7<sup>th</sup> Ella  
12<sup>th</sup> Beryl  
18<sup>th</sup> Pat  
25<sup>th</sup> Frankie  
30<sup>th</sup> Brenda

And *Happy Anniversary* congratulations to  
24<sup>th</sup> Mary & Eric  
28<sup>th</sup> Helen & Chris *and* Hannah & Peter

*Very special congratulations*  
to Brenda and Alan who celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on  
28<sup>th</sup> July

**Circuit Youth Project** The Circuit plans to start a fortnightly or monthly youth gathering for teenagers. It is currently seeking volunteer helpers for the project. Please contact Rev'd Daniel Yovan [jervis.daniel@methodist.org.uk](mailto:jervis.daniel@methodist.org.uk) or Rev'd Debra Chidakwa-Akue [Debra.Chidakwa-Akue@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Debra.Chidakwa-Akue@methodist.org.uk) if you would like to be considered for involvement. Please remember this important initiative in your prayers.

**The Chapel Cafe at Bishop Street MC, Town Hall Square, is open again, Monday - Saturday 10am – 3pm.** The Cafe has introduced two new tables out of doors which have the best view of Town Hall Square of any cafe in the city! Masks are needed, until you are seated at a table. Table-service will be provided. Groups of up to six can gather at a table - or two households of any size.



Summer suns are glowing over land and sea,  
Happy light is flowing bountiful and free;  
Everything rejoices in the mellow rays,  
All earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.

*Written by William Walsham How (1823-97)*

Image: A man hands holding sun at the beautiful sunset in Kigali, Rwanda on March 29, 2020. Emmanuel Kwizera



**We are continuing to support Mariam and her family who live in Burkina Faso.** Thank you for your contributions. News from the Compassion website [www.compassionuk.org/](http://www.compassionuk.org/)

Excerpts from Mariam's latest letter ~ translated from French (received 20<sup>th</sup> June)

Hi Dear South Wigston Methodist Church

I was very happy to receive your recent letter. I appreciate your prayers much. We also pray for you here, just like in our country the covid is extraordinary. One thing is certain that God will always answer our prayers according to the time he will decide against this disease.

Everyone is fine in our family. Our Christmas celebrations went wonderfully. in the Centre we received wonderful clothes, shoes and ate fried rice which we enjoyed. In addition each class performed a song of its choice. the teaching of the Pastor was about "Jesus the greatest gift who God gives to mankind."

I am very stressed about my Primary School leaving exam, whenever I remember it. Now I am in the preparations and I do my best. God will do the rest. It is on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

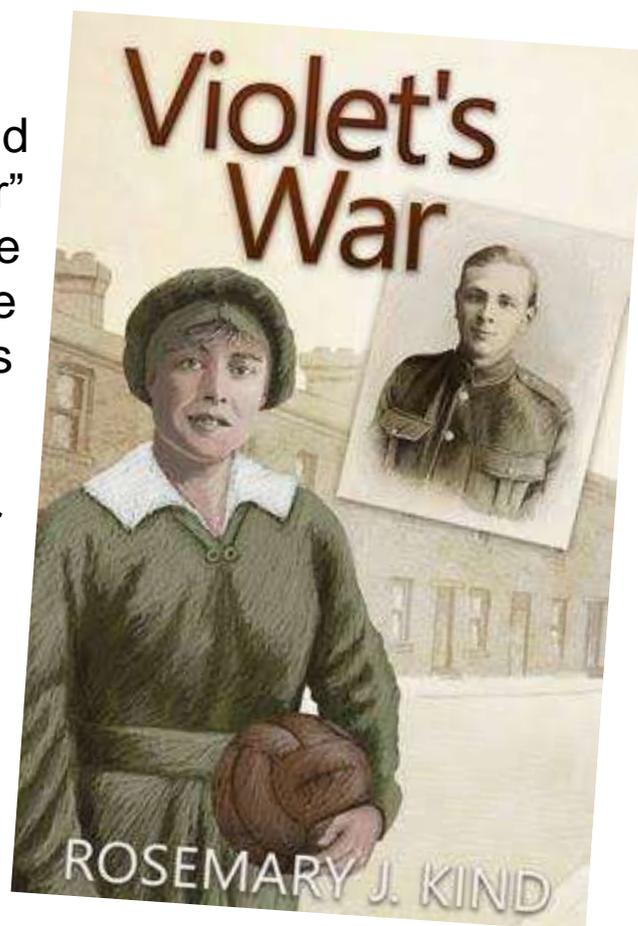
Have you ever been scared like me at some point when faced with a situation? If so what situation was it? Please pray for success for all the candidates from the Centre.

With love, Mariam

## A good read

Congratulations to Rosemary Kind whose latest novel "Violet's War" has obtained a 5 star rating in the US Amazon store and is the number one book in the sports section.

1915: Violet is horrified when her husband Billy signs up to fight for King and Country. As Billy heads to France, Violet has her own battles to fight, living with Billy's mam and dad.



To Violet's surprise, teaching her young son Tommy to play football proves to be a pleasure rather than a chore, but when she's invited to coach the women's team at work Violet is not so sure. In Billy's mam's opinion, nice women don't play football and married women certainly don't.

Caught between her mother-in-law's old-fashioned views and her own love of the game, Violet is coming under growing pressure to play. The team is raising money for the local military hospital. What if Billy was one of the wounded?

As Billy is fighting for King and Country Violet is fighting for the right to play football.

## Answers to features in Leicestershire & Rutland

- 1 VETERAN RETAINER - OLD JOHN
- 2 FIND THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CHAPEL HERE - ROTHLEY COURT
- 3 WORK A GRISWOLD HERE - WIGSTON FRAMEWORK KNITTERS MUSEUM
- 4 ON THE AIRWAVES - RADIO LEICESTER
- 5 SEE WATER WATER - EYBROOK RESERVOIR
- 6 HAS 10 LIFTS - FOXTON LOCKS
- 7 KEPT ITS HEAD ABOVE THE WATER - NORMANTON CHURCH
- 8 HAS A HOLE IN THE MIDDLE - THE NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE
- 9 NOT AN 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY HOSPITAL - SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH FOSTON
- 10 WITH 4 FIGURES OF HISTORY - THE CLOCK TOWER
- 11 HAS 47 BELLS - LOUGHBOROUGH CARILLON
- 12 DESIGNED BY LUTYENS - LEICESTER WAR MEMORIAL
- 13 CHILD'S GAME - CONKERS
- 14 BONFIRE MOUND - BEACON HILL
- 15 SEE THE HORSESHOES HERE - OAKHAM CASTLE
- 16 WHERE A KING LOST HIS CROWN - BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD
- 17 COUNTY H<sub>2</sub>O - RUTLAND WATER
- 18 BEND - THE CURVE
- 19 FLY AWAY - EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT
- 20 PERIODICAL - THE MAGAZINE

Image: Wikimedia commons [NotFromUtrecht](#)



## Summer memories

I came across the photo used on the front cover when looking through my collection of church photos. The large collage was on display at the Harvest and Junior Church awards in September 2016.

Do you like to collect shells on the beach?



We used my collection of shells at Aigburth care home in June. Residents enjoyed handling the shells, drawing them and talking about their memories of going to the beach.

There will be an August edition of The Oracle – I would love to include your holiday memories and photos.

Please let me have them by 26<sup>th</sup> July. *Mary B.*