

**South Wigston Methodist Church**

# **The Oracle**



**August 2021**

**Cover photo:** Mary B.

## **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. Liam Dacre-Davis will start 1<sup>st</sup> September

The interim minister for August is Rev. Debra Chidakwa-Akue  
[debra.chidakwa-akue@methodist.org.uk](mailto:debra.chidakwa-akue@methodist.org.uk)

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

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

## *Worship in August*

Worship in church will take place on the following dates:

We look forward to welcoming friends from Wigston Magna to the first two services:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 10.15 Mrs Audrey Baker

*Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Songs of praise* using hymns and readings suggested by members of the congregation.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Mrs Jean Thornton

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.15 Led by the local worship team

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> NO SERVICE at South Wigston.** There will be a Circuit service at 10.30 at a venue to be arranged. This will be a welcome service for the ministers who are joining the Circuit: including our minister Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis, Rev. Israel Selvanayagam and Deacon Sharon Dilley

**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. See back page for further information.



*A message from our new  
minister*

Hello Future Friends,

We're looking forward to our move to the Leicester Trinity Circuit with a healthy dose of apprehension, but much excitement. We'll be coming to you from Walsall, which was my first appointment as a Methodist Minister and became somewhere we really enjoyed living with all the life of an urban environment and an arboretum on our doorstep. We could have happily stayed put but felt a nudge and decided to see where it might lead us.

Holly and I met while studying at Aberystwyth University, and married shortly after completing our undergraduate degrees. We have two young children, which means our main experience of Leicester thus far has been through the school admissions process. We wait and see on that one. You'll most likely find us on walks in search of wildlife, sitting around a table huddled over a boardgame, or sprawled across the sofa watching a good film with handfuls of popcorn.

In ministry I have a strong emphasis on growing together in faith whether that happens drinking cups of coffee together or opening our Bibles and seeing where the conversations lead us. I enjoy finding the opportunity to sit with others and hear their story, and love surrounding myself with difference. A large part of my role in Walsall was spent among people of different faiths, and it will be exciting to see how my ministry is shaped by a new context.

We visited the manse in May, and we're looking forward to making it our home. I made the mistake of arranging our visit on the same day as the FA Cup final, which probably reveals that I'm no follower of football. You're far more likely to find me at Welford Road watching the Leicester Tigers playing Rugby Union, but I'll be cheering on the Bristol Bears when they visit (I'm originally from Bristol, and my family are season ticket holders).

So, that's a little something about me, and I'm looking forward to learning a whole lot more about you!

May we all find ourselves blessed by God, so that we might become a blessing to others.

Liam.

**Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis** starts work in the Circuit on 1<sup>st</sup> September. His first service at South Wigston will be Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 10.15. This will be the Covenant service to start the new Methodist year. Liam's other church is Bishop Street. His usual day off will be Saturday.

**The welcome service** for Liam will be on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30 am – see page 3 for more information.

## *Church family*



We send *Happy Birthday* greetings to  
Mary B. who celebrates on 28<sup>th</sup> August

And *Happy Anniversary* congratulations to  
4<sup>th</sup> Donna and Andy  
25<sup>th</sup> Gaynor and Chris  
26<sup>th</sup> Rachel and Jason

The new flower rota starts on 1<sup>st</sup> August and Margaret would be delighted to receive your donations. Do you have someone to remember or something to celebrate? “Say it with flowers” as the old advert used to say. If you aren’t in church please phone Margaret with your dates 0116 278 6616.

Each month Brenda forwards the Oracle to about 30 people and received this comment from our former minister Patricia Grudgings:

The Oracle gets better each edition. I really enjoyed the articles and photos. God bless you all.

I have memories from South Wigston which will be with me for the rest of my life.

Memories like the first Jesus after school club – Jaffa – Jesus a friend for all.

Going to camp with the Brigades. The camp was water logged on the Isle of Wight and I slept through it all as I had a sewn in ground sheet. Thank you Janet and David.

My greatest memories are the people, some gone to Glory others still with us. God bless you all.

Carry on God’s work and He will continue to bless you all.

Love, Patricia

*To All at South Wigston Methodist:*

Thank you very much for a poignant farewell on Sunday 11th July. We were both very touched by the thoughtful gifts and messages you gave, and also by the generous cheques. It was special to be able to share for the first time in 16 months in some face-to-face fellowship, albeit with careful safety restrictions in place, and we were impressed by the beautiful and delicious cake made by Janet.

We hope and trust that South Wigston will continue to be a flourishing community of God's grace, and we anticipate this will be the case with your new minister, Liam Dacre-Davis. Well done with all your varied ministries and witness in Christ's name. With God's help, keep going!

*Fran and Diane*



We gave Fran a new rucksack, made with recycled materials, from the Just shop. Diane received a beautiful book of vegetable cookery. Janet made one of her tasty cakes which we were able to share together with tea, coffee and biscuits.



**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/)

An excerpt from her latest letter written, in French, on 14<sup>th</sup> May

I am happy to have you as my sponsor and read your letters. At school everything is going well and we have done our last evaluation before the mock exam and I passed it well. Here Ramadan was good for Muslims and Ascension for eth Christians. We had also a baptism for the first Eucharist. I ate well and paid a visit to my parents with my friends.

Mariam included a drawing of the Burkina Faso flag.

In my letter I included a photo of the Union flag and said a little about the different crosses. *Mary*

From the latest *Compassion* magazine

In 2013 Martyn Langton discovered that his sponsored child, Amélie, was learning her lessons either outside, in the patchy shade, or in a tiny thatched shed. In memory of his wife who had died suddenly, family and friends raised the £11,500 need to build two classrooms and in 2015 were able to visit the project in Burkina Faso.

According to UNESCO, Burkina Faso has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, 41%. While about 50% of men can read and write this figure plummets to about 33% for women. Providing classrooms can break the cycle of poverty

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

WEAR YOUR MASK

WASH YOUR HANDS

(Mark chapter 5 verses 21-43)

For how many months have we been following these rules! I feel my hands would be washed away at times – and all to be clean! This poor woman in our story felt so unclean. The problem with the bleeding that never seemed to stop. Self-isolate – she didn't need to – people just avoided her. The smell was enough.

My last main church was in South Wales as you know. It was a very lovely church called St Julian's. Amongst the congregation was a very formidable lady known as "Sister Bennett". Underneath she was as soft as clarts as they say in my wife's home county. I got to know her quite well because she put me right about flower baskets which were all the rage at the time. I visited her home, and met her husband, an old soldier – Dunkirk, North Africa, Normandy. After a while he said "Mr Rowe you will NEVER see me in church. I've seen some terrible sights and I've done some AWFUL THINGS! It would be blasphemy for me to go to church". I tried very hard to persuade him - to encourage him. He just felt so UNCLEAN.

Throughout my ministry I have come across couples who, during the Communion Service, will divide. One or other will come forward to the rail while the other will remain firmly in their pew. When I've got to know them well enough, I ask the WHY? Again and again its because something in the past that makes them feel UNCLEAN. They see the bread and wine as being special PERKS for the first eleven – those who made it. The Lord's Supper is FOOD FOR FAILURES. When we take

bread and wine we long to be made clean, to be renewed, to believe, to know the love of God for us. “Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling”.



Coincidentally the theme chosen by this year's  
Presidential team is

*God's table: an invitation for all*

*The new President of Conference is Revd Sonia Hicks and  
the vice-President is Barbara Easton.*

**Historic Churches Ride and Stride Day  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

Last year's Ride+Stride was amazingly successful, despite the challenging Covid-19 circumstances. The event raised £37,900 in total – shared as always between churches and chapels nominated by participants and the Trust.

The Trust's share of the funds, plus a grant from The Jack Patston Charitable Trust, means that there is up to £30,000 available to award in grants to churches in 2021. In May the Trust awarded £11,750 in grants to eight churches and further grants will be made later in the year.

We were unable to take part last year, however, I have registered with the Trust to open our church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00am – 4.00pm.

Janet, Sylvia and I have agreed to visit other churches and we will be looking for sponsorship, so be prepared for us to be getting in touch with you. Hopefully this will all take place and we go forward in faith.

Brenda

## Quiz

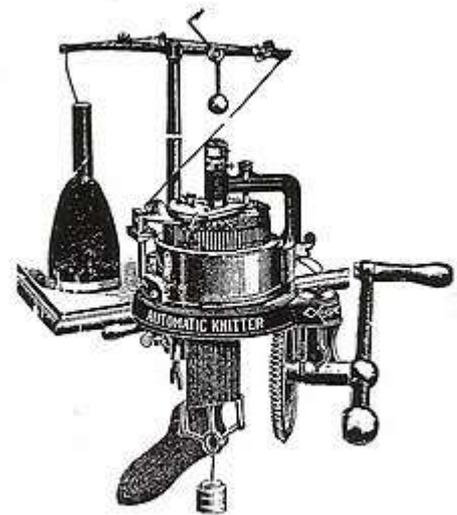
The quiz on “THINGS FOUND IN THE HOME” in aid of Leicester City of Sanctuary, ends on Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>, this has raised £100 so far with still more to come in. If you haven't paid yet there is still time!

My next quiz is “Something to do With Birds” and will be in aid of Wigston Framework Knitters' Museum

## Wigston Framework Knitters' Museum

The garden at the Museum is open for visitors on Tuesday afternoons, 2-4 pm while the garden volunteers are working there. If anyone would like a guided tour of the garden outside museum opening hours, contact Chris Huscroft on 07814042889.

The museum is open each Sunday from 2.00pm to 4.30 pm.



**Rent Day** is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 am.

Originally Oadby and Wigston Borough Council owned the Museum, which was leased to the Trust at the peppercorn rent of one sock, knitted on one of the museum knitting frames. The Museum is now owned by the Trust and is a registered charity. It was decided to continue the Rent Day and now a framed pair of socks are presented to the mayor each year.

This is a lovely occasion with all the County Civic Dignitaries attending and is an open invitation.

This is always an opportunity for me to sell quizzes in aid of the museum. Brenda

Image:

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c1/Griswold%27s\\_stocking\\_knitting\\_machine.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c1/Griswold%27s_stocking_knitting_machine.jpg)

## Latest Covid guidance

The Government relaxed the regulations from 19<sup>th</sup> July and passed much of the responsibility for keeping safe to individuals and organisations.

Following government, Methodist Church and Circuit guidance we will:

- ❖ Continue to encourage the use of sanitizer & hand-washing
- ❖ Invite people to wear masks in the church building
- ❖ Only sing if wearing a mask
- ❖ Encourage people to distance themselves in the building and follow the one-way system
- ❖ Continue to ventilate the building

We request that people do not come to church if they are at all unwell, and to take regular lateral flow tests which are free from pharmacies.

*We are reminded that we all need to look out for each other*

