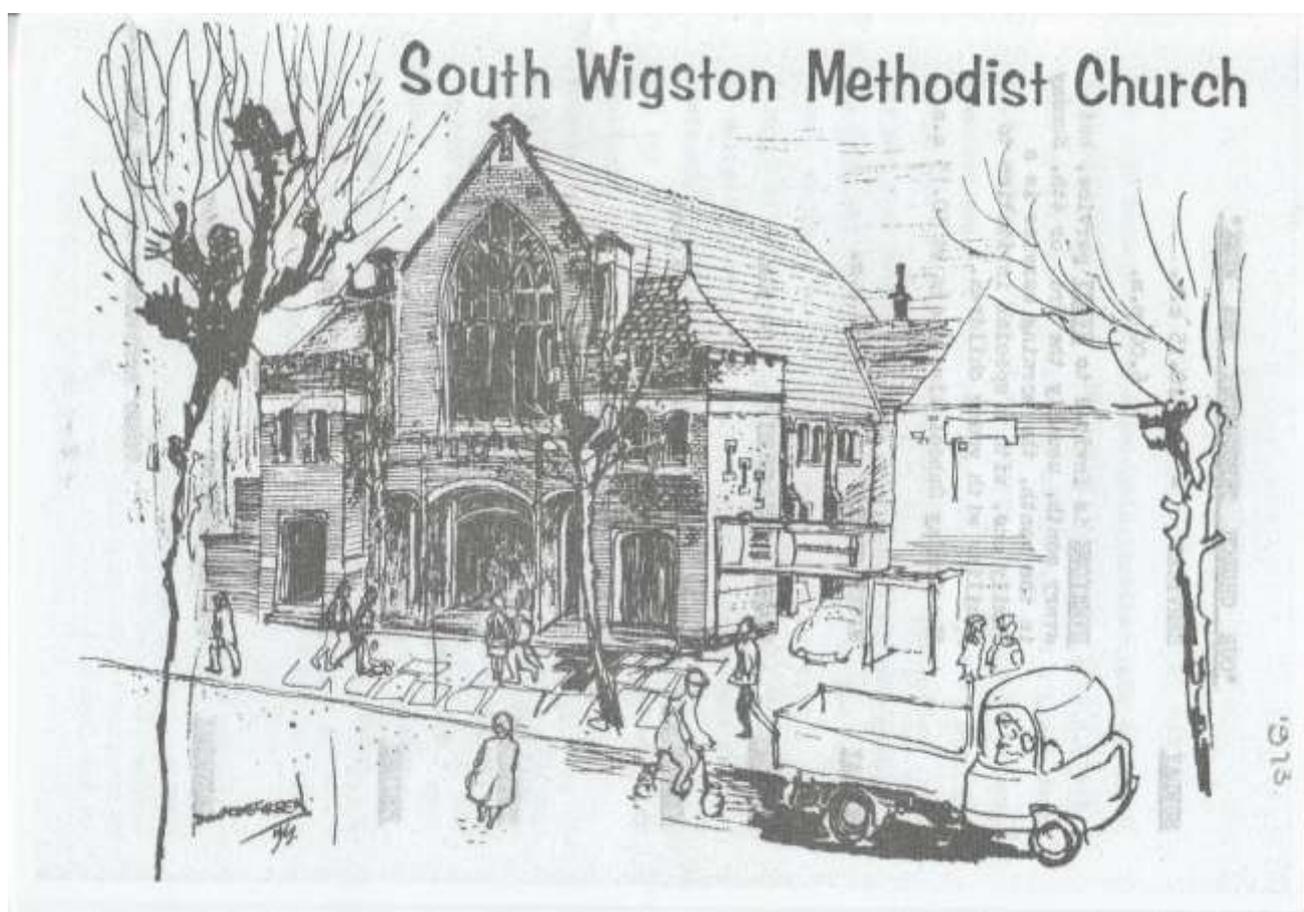


**South Wigston Methodist Church**

# **The Oracle**



**September 2021**

**Cover photo:** Drawing by Don Green from the cover of the Church's Annual Report, 1973

## **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 Johnsi Solaman.

**South Wigston Methodist Church**  
Blaby Road, South Wigston LE18 4PB  
[www.swmchurch.org.uk](http://www.swmchurch.org.uk)

**Minister:** Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis 0116 257 1069

[liam.dacre-david@methodist.org.uk](mailto:liam.dacre-david@methodist.org.uk) (usual day off Saturday)

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

Leicester Trinity Circuit, Charity registration number 1129943

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

## *Worship in September*

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis  
Covenant communion service  
Followed by tea/coffee/biscuits in the lounge.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Rev. Debra Chidakwa Akue

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Howard Smith

*Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Harvest service*  
led by the local worship team

Tinned and dry produce will be donated to the Food Bank and there will be a monetary collection for WaterAid.

The Lutterworth Town Band, which has added so much to previous services, is not able to come this year.

**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 minister*

Hello Friends,

An unhealthy amount of stress can often accompany a house move, but the process of packing and unpacking can also be a cathartic experience as one takes the opportunity to dispose of those unwanted somethings that have somehow accumulated over the years. Relocating is an abrupt shift in one's life, and there aren't many other life experiences that offer quite the same opportunity for such reconfiguration. At times it's been difficult to know what to let go of, painful even. At other times, each act of disposal has felt like a small act of freedom; letting go in preparation for something new.

However, having recently been through this process – a week into our lives in Leicester we've eventually unpacked the final few boxes – it's surprising how quickly things start to become familiar. We've probably already started accumulating more unwanted somethings without even realising it. I wonder whether we'll find an opportunity to sort through our lives before moving again.

Familiarity can be a blessing, but it can also be a millstone. Familiarity often brings comfort and reassurance; sitting in familiar seats at the dinner table, singing the same familiar hymns, or journeying along familiar routes whether to visit the

local shops or to call in on loved ones. However, familiarity can also leave us stuck in a rut as we go about our everyday lives without really thinking too much about it.

Perhaps those familiar somethings are no longer the blessing they once were, and in letting go of them we can find space for new treasures, or simply find space to breathe afresh and unburden weary shoulders.

Perhaps we need to unpack our lives a little bit. Not only to see what needs disposing of, but to also learn to cherish far more deeply that which we could do with keeping hold of. It's not simply out with the old and in with the new. Some treasures are newly discovered while others need dusting off. Jesus once said, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old" (Matt. 13:52). As disciples, let us enter the storerooms of our own lives, and the life of our faith community, to ensure things haven't become so familiar that our storerooms have become full of unwanted (by which I think I mean 'no longer beneficial') somethings. Instead, let's go in search of treasure!

I'll close with words from Psalm 8, and the reminder that you are treasured by God. Try to read these words with the same awe and wonder that we might imagine the psalmist had when they first wrote them:

"What are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honour" (Ps. 8:4).

Blessings,  
Rev Liam

## *Church family*

We send *Happy Birthday* greetings to

2<sup>nd</sup> Stuart

3<sup>rd</sup> David H

14<sup>th</sup> Arthur

21<sup>st</sup> Steve B

24<sup>th</sup> David G

And *Happy Anniversary* congratulations to

18<sup>th</sup> Estelle and Charles

19<sup>th</sup> Maxine and Peter

23<sup>rd</sup> Sam and Steve C

## *Church Flowers*

If you would like to have flowers in church to celebrate a special occasion or in memory of someone please contact Margaret Edwards.



## *September Sundays*

5<sup>th</sup> Sue C

12<sup>th</sup> Beryl for Bill

19<sup>th</sup> Mary B for her parents

26<sup>th</sup> Janice

**Meetings in September** – Zoom or at church to be decided.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Property & finance (7pm or 7.30)

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Safeguarding group (7pm or 7.30)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October Church Council – to be confirmed



**We are continuing to support Mariam and her family who live in Burkina Faso. Thank you for your contributions.**

As you can see we have a new photo of Mariam – she's certainly grown since last year. She will be 13 in November.

Her profile on the Compassion website has been updated and we learn that she lives with her parents and has two siblings.

She is in the UK equivalent of school year 7 and her favourite subject is science.

Her hobbies are playing with dolls, and group games.

### **From *Tried Recipes*, Bishop Street Mission 1955**

#### *Angel whispers*

Basic recipe: Love – all you have

Kind looks, words and acts – NOT A FEW

A warm handshake [perhaps not at the moment!]

Don't forget the well-known raising agent – a smile

Mix together, distribute, even in small quantities it will spread beyond your comprehension.

Can be served at all times of the day and night.

*From Mrs W Darby, Scraftoft Lane.*

## **New beginnings**

As we welcome Rev. Liam as our minister, and look forward to the gradual resumption of activities at church, the service on 22<sup>nd</sup> August was led by members of the local worship team with the theme *New Beginnings*. It was an opportunity for all those present to discuss how they would like the church to move forward whilst acknowledging that Covid is still endemic. A copy of the church's 1973 annual report was distributed. It gave a snapshot of the church community nearly 50 years ago and we were able to see how activities had continued, evolved or ceased over the following years. Copies will be given to those who were not present.

The Society Report (on page 4) served to remind us that an *"inward looking church, ignoring the needs of people outside, is a dead church"*.

If you have any suggestions or comments please contact a steward

The discussion looked at what we can do in church and how we can serve the wider community. Any activities are dependent on retaining a covid-secure environment.

Happy with morning worship at 10.15 on Sundays.

Might we try Walking Church where people go for a walk and stop for prayers and maybe sing hymns?

Only one child attends church regularly: he misses Junior church.

Would after-school clubs encourage children/families?

Possibly a science-based club.

Café Church to be reinstated when possible

Lent Group to meet again in 2022

Try to have fewer meetings eg Finance and Property to combine with Church Council

Ladies' Circle will probably not resume. Is there a demand for a daytime group in addition to Knit & natter? It is hoped to re-start Knit & natter on Tuesday afternoons.

Saturday coffee morning: 2 people will be needed to run it each week. It is a good place for people to chat.

Try to get more men involved: possibly to garden down the space along the unused left side of Church

Church windows to advertise events at Church, charities etc.

Suggestion from Rev. Jill Marsh that media students at NWSL College could be asked to design a window.

Re-advertise rooms to let; there is a lot of competition from other halls for hire in the village.

Possibility of exhibitions or events which bring people in eg The Big Lunch in June

To join with Radio Leicester's Sing Christmas at the Club next door or in church – perhaps alternate years.

Promote Fair Trade through sales

School uniform swap

Make space for people to meet informally with the possibility of a Counsellor being present

Christingle Service after school with refreshments

There is nothing for older young people (early 20s) who need a space to meet and share their faith.

The church is gradually, and cautiously, re-opening for groups but there is concern that there may be a surge in Covid cases as schools and colleges go back.

The Male Voice choir is meeting on Tuesday evenings.

Busy Bugs pre-school starts on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Gaynor's slimming group resumes in September.

Girls' Brigade starts again on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The healthy walking group hopes to return on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

## Helicopter versus Parachute

When Ann and I returned to live in Leicestershire on our retirement, we were amazed at the number of charity shops there were in South Wigston and Wigston Magna! Every time a shop closed it seemed to re-open as a charity shop. In addition there were all those strange envelopes that dropped through the letterbox for questionable “good causes”.

Ann and I decided that we couldn't support all the charities, so we settled on one – the Air Ambulance. How many lives have been saved when people have been lifted out of the most horrific circumstances on the motorway or hillside and within minutes brought to hospital.

I guess that sometimes when we pray because of the pain we feel we want God to helicopter us out of what we are experiencing.



Sometimes that does happen BUT more often than not, what happens is that God parachutes down to join us in the situation. Truth be told, he's been beside us all along and He makes His presence felt in all sorts of ways, through doctors, nurses, relatives, yes, but also sometimes, unexpectedly, our own particular good neighbour.

*Ann & I*

Image: <https://pixabay.com/vectors/silhouette-helicopter-flying-travel-3216478/>  
Mohamed Hassan

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

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.

Brenda

### WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY PUBLIC ILLUSTRATED LECTURE



TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

### ***“The Lost Houses Of Stonegate”***

Speaker: Neil Crutchley

Talk Starts at 7.30pm

Open From 7.00pm For Tea/Coffee

#### VENUE

The Main Hall, The Menphys Hub,  
Bassett Street, South Wigston LE18 4PE

Price £5.00 Per Person

Including Tea/Coffee Before The Talk

Book Your Place/s At:

[bookings@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:bookings@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk)

Phone: 0116 2884638

Parking In The Car Park Via Timber Street  
Or On The Countesthorpe Road Car Park

## 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
- ❖ Request people to wear masks in the church building
- ❖ Only sing if wearing a mask
- ❖ Encourage people to distance themselves in the building.
- ❖ Continue to ventilate the building

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

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

