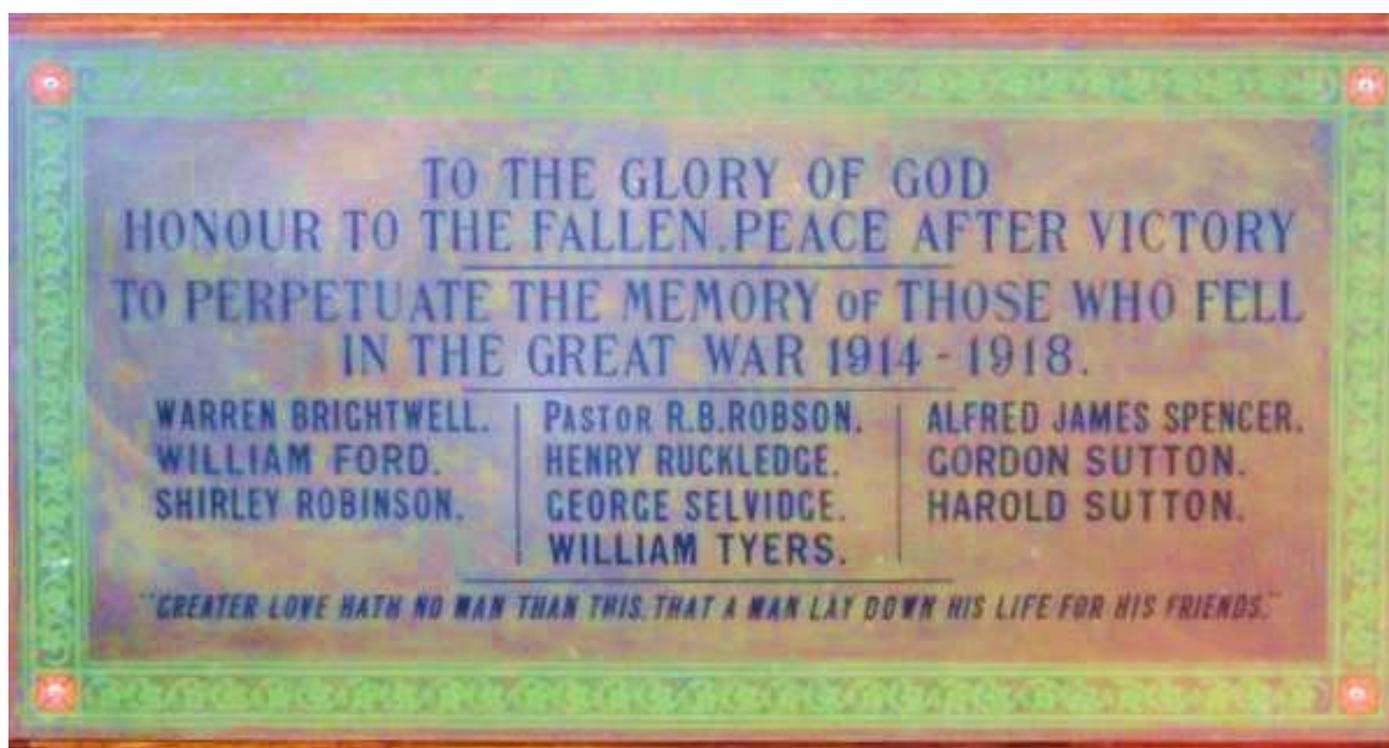


South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



November 2021

Cover photo: War Memorial in the prayer chapel

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 Johnsi Solaman.

South Wigston Methodist Church
Blaby Road, South Wigston LE18 4PB
www.swmchurch.org.uk

Minister: Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis 0116 257 1069

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Contributions always welcome.

Worship in November

Sunday 7th 10.15 Mr Richard Gill

Remembrance Sunday 14th 10.00 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis



The service will start at 10am to enable those who wish to attend the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial to leave in time to walk there.

We are requested to wear masks and try to remain socially distanced when at the memorial.

Our worship will continue with an Act of Remembrance for those who remain in church.

Sunday 21st 10.15 Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis ~
Holy communion

Sunday 28th 10.15 Local worship team

Sunday services continue via Zoom for those who cannot go to church.

The log-in details for Zoom services will be in the weekly newsletters or can be obtained by e-mailing

mail@swmchurch.org.uk

University of Leicester Poppy Pilgrimage.



The university was founded as a memorial to those who gave their lives in the First World War.

In recent years staff and students, past and present, have been visiting local war memorials.

Our church has been chosen to take part this year.

On Tuesday 2nd November at 2pm representatives will visit the church to lay a wreath at our memorial. You are invited to come along.



A message from our minister

I finally got to sleep at 4am this morning. Our youngest has been struggling with a chest infection, and decided last night that sleep was for the weak. I can confirm that she is wrong; today my body has needed rest to regain some of its strength. "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place to rest a while," said Jesus on probably more than one occasion (on this occasion, Jesus' words are from Mark 6:31, NLT).

Jesus got it. He understood that rest was important and would make sure that from time to time he avoided the crowds, encouraging the same for his disciples too. Jesus was quite a professional when it came to rest. In fact, he once fell asleep in the middle of a storm; resting his head on a cushion as the boat he was in was tossed about on a roaring sea. The gospels then describe Jesus quieting the same storm so that his disciples could rest from their fears and worries also.

Some of us crave activity and can feel restless when our attention isn't occupied by a task. We sit twiddling our thumbs wondering what else we could be doing, and we struggle to go off to that quiet place and rest a while. However, sometimes the need for rest comes at us like a short sharp shock as we find ourselves becoming burnt out.

Others of us wonder when the pressures of life will let up just long enough for us to catch a breath. We keep searching for that quiet place, but the noise seems to follow us wherever we go.

I remember an advert that used to say, “Have a break, have a Kit Kat.” How anyone could eat chocolate slowly enough to call it a break, I have no idea. However, we all rest differently; some of us in front of the TV wrapped in blankets. Some of us find our escape by walking, and others through stillness. We might like to surround ourselves with friends, and delight in the company of others, or we might rather seek solitude. Jesus sought out a quiet place to escape the noise of a sprawling crowd, but we might be escaping the deathly silence of loneliness.

What do you need to help you rest?

Sometimes church can feel like it makes high demands of us. We might feel as though, if our church buildings aren't busy places then we have somehow failed, but how can our churches become places of rest? Perhaps rest might be found in the offer of a warm cuppa in the company of friendly faces, the sound of whispered prayers, or the opportunity to catch 40 winks during one of my sermons (seriously, take the opportunity if it's needed!).

I was fortunate enough that I could have a lie in this morning – I needed it. Please do find an opportunity to rest, and while you search for your ‘quiet place’ receive these words of Jesus who welcomes us from weariness into rest:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30, NIV).

Blessings,
Liam

Church family

We send *Happy Birthday* greetings to

3rd Sam C. 10th Zach and Naomi 16th Sarah V.
17th Alan K. 18th Mariam (Burkina Faso)
20th Megan and Trevor 30th Zahne

Very special greetings to Debbie who celebrates her 50th birthday on 22nd November

Shhhh!

Surprise birthday party for Debbie

Girls' Brigade will be having a party on Saturday 20th November from 2-4 at church.

You are all invited to join us for this special occasion.

If you will be joining us please let Janet H. (291 3400) know or e-mail 2ndwigstongb@gmail.com by Saturday 13th November.

Happy Anniversary congratulations to Janice and David who celebrate on 23rd November.



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
0116 278 6616

November

7th Beryl for Mum & Dad
21st Brenda for Alann's birthday

14th Janice
28th Valerie Hunt



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

At her Compassion project Mariam is learning about:

Choosing good health practices

First aid

HiV & Aids: myths versus truths

Puberty

Teaching others to have a healthy lifestyle

Planning for the future

Time management and study skills

Managing finances

How to find and keep a job

Interacting with others

How to be a good leader

Family and community roles

Learning about faith

The nature of God

Learning about the fruits of the spirit

Learning good discipline

Covid-secure church Please be reassured that keeping you safe in church remains our priority. Members of Church Council had a conversation about wearing masks and decided to retain current practice: please wear masks when you are in the building except when taking refreshments.

Will your anchor hold?

A hymn forever associated with the Boys' Brigade, and I don't know how many times I have sung it. An anchor is a very powerful image – this massive piece of metal that can hook itself into the sea bed, be it sand or rocks, and withstand the pull of wind and tide.

Two years ago, or was it three, my brother-in-law had taken Ann and me to one of our favourite viewpoints at South Shields overlooking the mouth of the Tyne. I said to Ian "There's a lot of tankers moored out there". "Yes" he said "some of them have been moored out there for three weeks – sometimes longer. You see, they check what the price is for crude oil, and when the figure is really high there's a race to see who can sail in first, moor up, and get the best price!" All that time relying on their anchors to keep them safe.

However there is another use for the anchor. Every ship in the Royal Navy has what is called a Kedge anchor. If the ship runs aground the Kedge anchor is taken out in a motor boat with a line attached. It is dropped in the sea ahead of the ship and the end of the line is fastened to a hawser, put round a winch and slowly the ship will break free of the mud while the anchor stays firm and true.

Our faith is founded on history. There was a man in Galilee who was crucified on a cross BUT HE ROSE AGAIN. He is the prototype for all God's children. He is moored there in the FUTURE, and He draws us nearer to Him, and we rise above our pain and loneliness, all the failures, all we are suffering for HE IS OUR HOPE. We have an anchor, yes, but it is not only in the past – it is for OUR FUTURE.



A visit to Walsingham

11.15 am on Friday 15 October saw 11 people meet for a short prayer at All Saints Church. This included Father Trevor, members of All Saints, St Thomas's and a stray Methodist – me!

We were going on a weekend Retreat to Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk. Walsingham Priory was founded by Lady Richeldis in 1061 after she had a vision of the Virgin Mary in that spot.

Europe calls Walsingham

England's Nazareth,

and it has been a site of pilgrimage for nearly 1,000 years. We stayed in the Pilgrims Hall in very comfortable en suite rooms and meals were taken in the Pilgrims rectory.

There was a full programme of services.

Friday evening was our group's Shrine prayers and again on Saturday. There was also a Saturday evening service in the Shrine Church for everyone. Sunday morning service was in the parish church of St Mary & All Saints where we took Communion. On Sunday afternoon, with others, I was sprinkled with Holy Water.

There was also a lot of free time and my friend Beth and I had some lovely walks around the area including a visit to the Abbey Priory. I've put my name down for next year!



Sue C.



Walsingham Abbey (Sue C.)

Disabilities

I have been asked “What is it like to be deaf?” I consider myself as hard of hearing rather than deaf, but what is it like? It can be very isolating; without my hearing aids I can hear very little. In a crowded room I struggle to hear any conversation, even those close by me and generally people get frustrated if you keep asking them to repeat what they have said.

Hearing people can shut out extraneous conversations and noise, but hearing aids pick up every sound. On a busy road I find it difficult to hear a conversation because of the traffic noise.

When it becomes too difficult to hear I tend to switch off. Is it any wonder that I mishear and get things wrong?

I am very thankful that our church has a good loop system.

In a meeting or in church when the speaker asks, “Can you hear me?” it is those with good hearing who answer “yes”. Those of us who are hard of hearing haven’t even heard the question. Perhaps the speaker could hold up a notice saying, “If you can’t hear me, please raise your hand.”

Deafness is a hidden disability, which doesn’t attract as much sympathy as other disabilities, but it can be very debilitating. Some people will not admit to having a hearing problem and feel it would be a stigma to wear hearing aids, yet they would think nothing of wearing glasses for poor eyesight.

How can you help someone who is hard of hearing?

- Speak clearly and not too fast.

- Look face on to the person you are speaking to.

- Keep your hands from covering your mouth.

- Please be patient and bear with us.

Brenda



justice and hope for the forgotten

Amos Trust Carol Service

Tuesday, 30th November

Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby.

Starting at 7.00pm with refreshments afterwards.

You are all invited to the above event. Following the successful Carol Service in 2019, we are delighted that the Amos Trust have asked to repeat the occasion here in Oadby. We had a congregation of 200+ last time, and are hoping for the same again – Covid permitting!

A warm welcome awaits! This promises to be a wonderful evening and will enable us all to show our support for Palestine in these difficult times.

‘Our Palestine partners run community programmes to promote creative, non-violent resistance to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza – work to relieve the stress and despair that the occupation causes within these communities.

We seek to share their stories, stand with them in their suffering and support the work they do – raising awareness of the horrors of home demolitions, the building of the Separation Wall, restrictions on freedom of movement and the daily impact of life under occupation.’