

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



Shoebox service
24th October 2021

Cover photo: <https://linktohope.co.uk/>

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

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 07891 917768
Contributions always welcome.

Worship in October

Sunday 3rd 10.15 Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis
Communion service & Baptism

Sunday 10th 10.15 Mrs Sheila Howell

Sunday 17th 10.15 Mrs Jean Thornton

Sunday 24th 10.15 Shoebox service
led by the local worship team
see the back page for details

Sunday 31st 10.15 Mr Richard Gill

Sunday morning services continue via Zoom for those who cannot go to church, and the Circuit evening services continue via Zoom 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

Church Council Tuesday 5th October 7 pm via Zoom. The link will be sent out to Church Council members.

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



A message from our minister

Hello Friends,

Less than a month into my role and I'm pleased to say that my family and I have received a warm and genuine welcome to the Leicester Trinity Circuit and to life in Wigston more generally. From conversations after church services to introductions over the garden fence, peoples' kindness has been felt and deeply appreciated.

I've never been part of a church community that didn't understand itself to be welcoming, and I suspect that you haven't either. We all like to think we are welcoming, and that those who walk through our church doors will find this to be true. In truth, it isn't always easy to welcome others, and neither is it always easy to feel welcomed. We all come with different expectations and preferred ways of doing things. I remember attending a church and being asked to move, not once but twice, because I was sat in someone else's seat. I didn't feel particularly welcomed on that occasion. For others, my experience will seem trivial, and they may not get as far as the church doors through fear of being made to feel unwelcome.

As I have walked up and down Blaby Road, I have tried to get a feel for the community; taking note of those who might live nearby, those who find themselves waiting for a bus outside the church, and those popping in and out of the various shops

and cafes. There are people busily going about their day anxious to get to their next meeting place or appointment, while others walk more slowly thankful for each interaction in their otherwise lonely days. There will be those who notice our church, and wonder about stepping inside, and others who have lived in the community for some time but know nothing of us Methodists.

Perhaps you live in South Wigston, or you might live elsewhere. I wonder what drew you to South Wigston Methodist Church and I wonder what has encouraged you to keep coming? How would you describe the welcome you have received to someone who knows nothing of our church community? Who would you love to welcome through our doors, and who do you think you might struggle to welcome?

A pharisee once welcomed Jesus into their home (Luke 7:36-50). Wouldn't we all like to welcome Jesus into our homes; he'd likely make a great guest! Things didn't turn out so well for the Pharisee, though, when Jesus' presence attracted an unwelcome guest. A woman entered the house, sat at Jesus' feet and washed them with her hair and tears. The Pharisee struggled to make this woman feel welcomed, and I'm sure many of us would feel uncomfortable in a similar situation. Being welcoming sounds great but can often be very difficult in practice.

I am thankful for how lovingly you have welcomed me, and I would love to hear your stories of how you were made to feel welcome at South Wigston Methodist Church. Having told our stories, we can learn how best to welcome others as, in time, we find ourselves pulling up a chair to hear their stories too.

Blessings,
Liam

Church family

In memoriam

We send condolences to Beryl whose brother-in-law Trevor Jordan died on Monday 20th September, at Kibworth Court care home. Our thoughts and prayers go to Trevor's son Andrew.

We send *Happy Birthday* greetings to

4th Sue C. 6th Narush
21st Janet L.

Very special greetings go to Eric who celebrates his 90th birthday on 12th October

Happy Anniversary congratulations to

1st Julie & Mick 3rd Janet & David H.
4th Margaret & Tony



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

October Sundays

3 rd Janet & David	10 th Margaret for Mum
17 th Helen & Nicholas	24 th Pat for Mum & Dad
31 st Subash, Johnsi & Jerin in memory of Sharon	



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

Thank you for your contributions.

In her last letter Mary B. told Mariam about the leaving do we had for Fran & Diane, and talked about the cake which Janet made. She also described what children might be doing during the summer holidays.

The latest letter from Mariam, dated 19th August (translated from French):

Hello, dear South Wigston Methodist,

It is with pleasure that I receive your letter. I am doing well, and so is my whole family. We are blessed. My big sister got married. Unfortunately, I did not pass my exam and I am so discouraged. Yes, our school has a holiday for 3 months. It is wonderful that you were able to take care of your minister. It is part of the ordinances of your lord. In passing, I greet them and a hello to each of them that God always gives you the strength to move forward. I greet Janet the good cooker that I would like to taste her delicious cakes. May God bless her for her good ability.

I take the opportunity to inform you about the death of my uncle.

I see you like birds! It's awesome. It is one of the wonderful creatures of God. They neither work nor reap, but God feeds them in His own way.

At what age do girls get married where you live? My big sister was 22 years old. Do you have any traditions regarding marriage?

Please pray for consolation for our family and also much happiness for the new couple. *Mariam*

Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust

Ride and Stride Day
Saturday 11th September

Our thanks to Mary, Margaret and Brenda for signing in visitors during the day. We had 12 people in, walkers and cyclists. This is less than usual, but understandable in the present circumstances.

Our thanks also to Janet, Sylvia and Brenda who raised over £300, half of which will come back to our church. Lastly our thanks to all those who sponsored them.



Apple Day at Cosby Methodist Church

Saturday 23rd October 12 – 3.30

Apple activities Stalls
Apple identification

Apple tasting Apple jams etc.
Apple cake & tea

Ploughman's lunches
from 12 to 2.00

Crisp packet collections at church have stopped. However, crisp packets and some other plastics can be taken to your local Co-op where there are special bins.

There is also a Crisp Packet collection point at 11 Foston Lane, Countesthorpe; packets can be left in the blue bin by the front gate. Packets must be flat, not scrunched. Proceeds go to Greenfield Primary School.

News from the gardens at MHA Aigburth

The last few weeks have been quite eventful. We were visited by a representative from the Royal Horticultural Society who assessed the work being done in the garden for a Community Award. The MHA communications team sent a press release to the Leicester Mercury who gave us a very nice write-up, with some great colour photos. This was picked up by ITV Midlands who sent a cameraman and a reporter who interviewed Marilyn, our gardener, Shradda, one of the staff, and Dorothy, a resident. The report went out on the evening news and lasted just over 4 minutes. We will know the level of the RHA Award at the start of October.

You can watch the film on MHA Aigburth's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=mha%20aigburth>

MHA nationally has also been filming at Aigburth for a feature on the importance of gardens for well-being.

The indoor gardening club continues on Tuesday mornings when residents share fellowship, refreshments, and a range of garden-based activities. On 22nd September we made a harvest loaf ready for the Harvest service on the following Sunday. Marilyn brought the dough and residents rolled out thin strips to make the stalks, and modelled the ears;

Mary T. and Dorothy made a mouse. The bread was glazed and baked in the oven on Kingfisher floor, so the residents could see the result of their labours.



Subash & Johnsi have some good crops in their garden this year



Wonders of the world

A class of students was asked to come up with their list of 7 wonders of the world, after much discussion they decided on the following:

The Taj Mahal
The Great Wall of China
The Pyramids
The Statue of Christ the Redeemer
The Burj Khalifa Building in Dubai
Machu Pichu
The Suez Canal



The teacher noticed that one girl hadn't given in her list. She asked the girl if her list contained any of the 7 chosen. The girl said "No, have I got it wrong?" The teacher asked her to tell them her list. The girl said, "I thought of all the wonders of nature, but I finally decided on these as my Wonders of the World."

To See

To Hear

To Feel

To Touch

To Taste

To Laugh

To Love

The teacher replied, "No you haven't got it wrong - you have made us think, it is often the simpler and ordinary things that we take for granted that are the most wonderful."

<https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2021/>

Our service is on Sunday 24th October at 10.15

Please bring: filled shoeboxes, loose items, donations of money. Margaret has copies of the leaflet/form to put on your shoebox, or you can pick them up at church.

