

**South Wigston Methodist Church**

# **The Oracle**



**December 2021**

**& January 2022**

**Cover photo:** Nativity scene made from biscuits by Junior Church

## **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-davis@methodist.org.uk](mailto:liam.dacre-davis@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 December & January*

### **December**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 10.15

Oscar Fortune

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 10.15

Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis ~

Holy communion

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 6pm**

*Messy Christingle* ~ see back page

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 10.15

Moleen Chikumba with Jo Kay

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

*Sing Christmas* with Radio

Leicester ~ see back page



***Christmas Day 10.30***

**Rev'd Liam Dacre-Davis**

**Come and celebrate  
the birth of Jesus Christ!**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Boxing day ~ no service

### **January**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.15

Local worship team

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.15

Richard Cawthorn

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 10.15

Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis ~

Holy communion

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.15

Rev. Gordon Webb

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mail@swmchurch.org.uk)



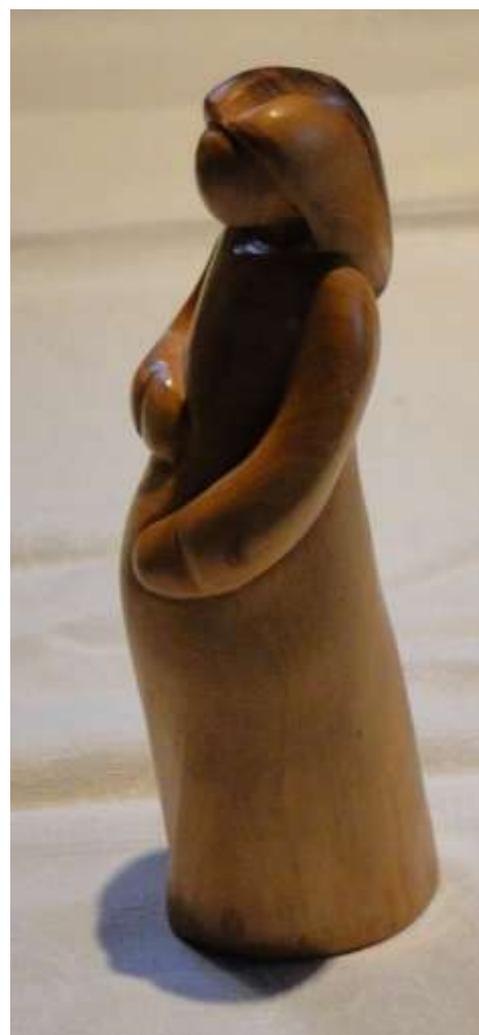
## *A message from our minister*

Hello Friends,

What if I was to say that the birth of Christ was unremarkable?

Sure, there were those out on the hillside who received the good news, and others from the East who were led to marvel and to worship. Yet, there were many more who remained unaware. The birth of Jesus largely went by unnoticed, and for most people in Bethlehem that night the news that a young woman had given birth would have been something quite unremarkable indeed.

Of course, the birth of Christ was far from unremarkable. That God would enter our world with all the vulnerabilities of a newborn, asleep beneath the stars that he created, should cause us to trip over ourselves as we become wrapped up in awe and wonder just as Jesus was wrapped tightly in swaddling bands. It isn't an image we should ever get used to.



*Photo: figurine of a pregnant woman from the Nativity exhibition 2019*

That being said, Jesus wasn't the only child born that night. Mary wasn't the only nursing mother and, while God might have been busy stirring up salvation, most people in Bethlehem were hoping to get a good night's sleep.

God chose the seemingly unremarkable to make himself known. It's really quite remarkable if you stop to think about it.

Therefore, as we approach Christmas, and the world around us drags us forwards at great pace. Don't forget to pull in the reins just enough that you don't lose sight of the seemingly unremarkable and miss those glimpses of God at work in the world.

For those of us who lead unremarkable lives, my gift to you as we approach Christmas is a prayer:

God of this and that;  
the inconsequential and the easily forgotten.  
You are the creator of the mundane  
and all that is often overlooked.  
You are the lover  
of all those who live their lives  
unknown and unnoticed.  
You are the God of the hidden things never to be found,  
and you delight in their hiddenness.  
Guide us towards contentment,  
and the knowledge that  
while our voice may be quiet  
and our actions small,  
you are the one who sees and hears.  
Amen.

## *Church family*

### *In memoriam*

**Ann Rowe** died in the LRI on the evening of Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Condolences and prayers go to Arthur, their son Martin, other family members and friends.

**Mavis Rushton**, David H's sister, died suddenly at home on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Condolences go to David and Janet, and Mavis's family.

We send *Happy Birthday* greetings to  
*December*

3 <sup>rd</sup> Emily	4 <sup>th</sup> Cara	12 <sup>th</sup> Rebecca A.
13 <sup>th</sup> Charles	29 <sup>th</sup> Donna	31 <sup>st</sup> Mary M.

### *January*

2 <sup>nd</sup> TJ	6 <sup>th</sup> Janet H.	15 <sup>th</sup> Margaret E.
16 <sup>th</sup> Vivian	23 <sup>rd</sup> Janice	24 <sup>th</sup> Helen D'A.

*Happy Anniversary* greetings to  
Sarah & Bradley who celebrate on 28<sup>th</sup> January

### *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





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

Thank you for your contributions.

A Christmas donation has been made to Mariam and her family.

### **Brenda's quizzes**

Thank you to all who supported the BIRDS quiz. It raised £180 for the Framework Knitters Museum. I had 3 all correct answers and the winner was Mrs Elizabeth Banks

The Christmas quiz is now ready and is in aid of our church. This year's quizzes have raised £900 for the 5 charities involved. *Brenda*

Well done, Brenda. I can never complete the quizzes but enjoy having a go! *Mary B.*

### **A message from Stuart**

As we rapidly approach Christmas I'd like to express my grateful thanks to the following Church members throughout this & previous years for giving me work mainly in gardening, they are....June Prince, Sue Cockfield & Mary Bryceland, but above all else Alan & Branda Kind, Janet Leddington (with help from Adam on her behalf) & up until Sept this year Sue Hallam who has now moved away, & to Anne & Arthur Rowe. Thank you to you all for your support. (Hope I haven't missed anyone out??)



Picture: Karen Arnold, public domain

## Looking back over 2021

After celebrating Christmas Day 2020 with a service in church we pre-empted Government advice and ceased worshipping from the start of January onwards.

Unlike 2020 we were able to go into church and dress the windows throughout the year. During Lent Margaret added to the Lenten cross each week and dressed it with flowers for Easter Sunday. Posters from the Methodist Modern Art collection were used, along with the associated Bible passages, to send the Christian message. The Lent study group met via Zoom.

The first service of the year was held on 16<sup>th</sup> May when Rev. Fran celebrated Holy communion.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July Fran led her final service at South Wigston. We were able to serve refreshments for the first time since Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Tables were spread out in the schoolroom & lounge, with table-service to aid social distancing.



Services continued over the summer but after-worship refreshments didn't resume until Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September when we welcomed Rev. Liam and his family.

Gradually groups started to meet again: the Male Voice Choir, Girls' Brigade and Gaynor's slimming group had all re-started by September.

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September the Walking for Health group returned and the lounge was opened for coffee – just for them. As this went well Saturday morning coffee for everyone resumed on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

We were able to hold Harvest Festival in September. Gifts of money went to WaterAid, with foodstuffs going to the Foodbank at the Congregational church. Awards were given to children who had attended over the previous months.

The Knit and natter group started to meet in October but numbers are unfortunately low.

Ladies' Circle members, who met on Monday evenings, have decided not to resume.

Junior Church has not restarted and we only have one child who attends regularly.

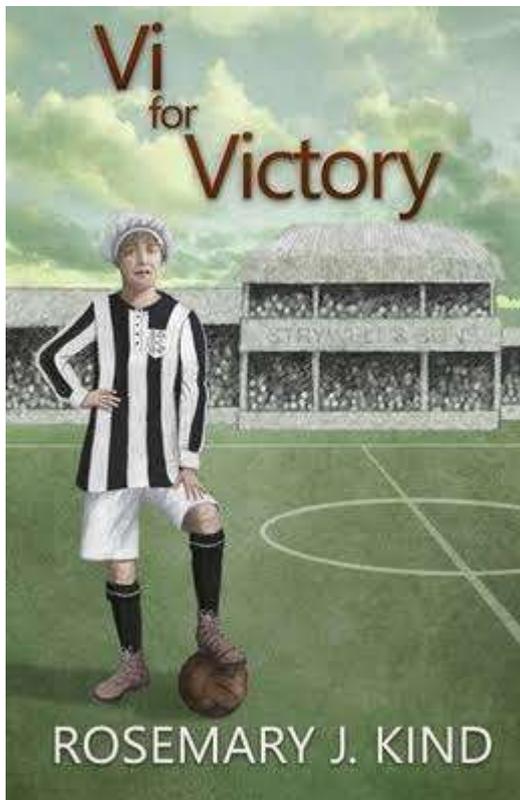
**Are we back to normal?** Not yet.

Social distancing measures are in place. People are requested to wear masks, especially while singing. The church can be cold – doors and windows are open to aid ventilation. Test and trace continues with people being asked to sign in or scan the QR code.

The Sunday congregation remains small – under 15 most weeks.

Please continue to pray for everyone involved in the church: Rev'd Liam as he 'finds his feet'; Church Council who have had difficult decisions to make; members and friends, especially those unable to get to church; and the wider community.

**Rosemary Kind's new novel *Vi for Victory*** is now available, this is the sequel to *Violet's War* and continues Violet's story.



1916 Violet's husband Billy, returns from France badly injured and feels useless not being able to do the things he could before.

Finding a way to make their life work won't be easy and, as they struggle to deal with the challenges, Vi needs the escape that playing football provides.

Billy is encouraged to coach the team from the sidelines this is helping to restore his confidence, but it is a long way from finding employment again

Vi works hard to provide for her family, kept going by her dream that the Billingsbrook women's football team can win the cup. At every turn they seem destined to fail. As Vi battles her way through Billy's disabilities, the dangers of working in a munitions factory, the flu pandemic and redundancy, surely nothing else can go wrong.

**Did you know?** Although the "first golden age" of women's football occurred in the United Kingdom in the 1920s, with one match attracting over 50,000 spectators, The Football Association initiated a ban in 1921 in England that disallowed women's football games from taking place on the grounds used by its member clubs. That ban remained in effect until July 1971. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s\\_association\\_football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_association_football)

## **Traidcraft – helping others and helping our church**

Alan Stead at Christchurch has been ordering Traidcraft items for their members and other churches for many years. Each church receives 10% of their annual turnover; there are also donations to Methodist and Baptist overseas missions.

How to order

Have a look at the website [traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://traidcraftshop.co.uk)

E-mail Alan – [kags@talktalk.net](mailto:kags@talktalk.net) with item number, description and number required.

Copy Mary into the e-mail [pmmbry@gmail.com](mailto:pmmbry@gmail.com)

Goods will be distributed via Mary

Payment on delivery

If you don't use e-mail please ring Mary 0116 281 2625

If you don't use the internet Mary has a catalogue

Orders usually arrive within a few days.

Let's give it a go!

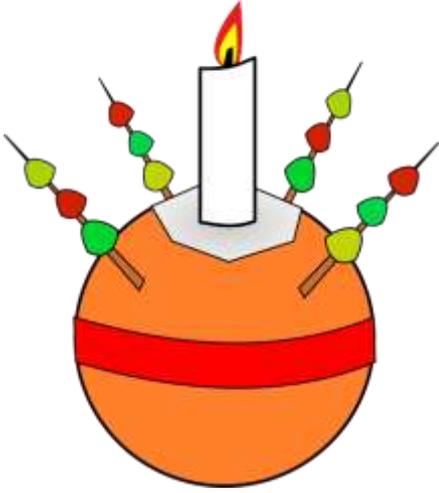
### ABOUT TRAIDCRAFT: WHO ARE WE?

Traidcraft is the original fair trade pioneer in the UK - challenging the norm, fighting injustices and breaking rules for over four decades. We advocate the importance of organic farming, sustainability and transparency to the lives of growers and artisans around the world.



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# A Messy Christingle



Come and join Girls' Brigade  
& Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis  
for a Messy Christingle  
on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
6.00 ~ 7.30pm

Crafts, making Christingles, refreshments,  
for everyone to share



**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 7.00 – 8.00pm**

We hope to be in the Working Men's Club again –  
to be confirmed. Updates in the weekly  
newsletter.