

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



July & August 2023

Cover picture: Once again I make no apology for including this picture of sunflowers as the war in Ukraine continues for a second summer.

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.

Safeguarding officer is Margaret Edwards with Mary Bryceland.

South Wigston Methodist Church

Blaby Road, South Wigston LE18 4PB

www.swmchurch.org.uk

Pastoral care: Deacon Sharon Dilley 0116 277 0317

Senior Steward: Mary B. 0116 281 2625

Leicester Trinity Circuit, Charity registration number 1129943

Editor: Mary B. contact: pmmbry@gmail.com 07891 917768
Contributions always welcome.

Worship in July

Sunday 2nd 10.15 Jean Thornton

AND 4.00pm Churches Together Songs of Praise at **St Thomas**, followed by refreshments. Each church is doing a reading and choosing a hymn.

AND 6.00pm Evening worship led by John Aldridge at **Wigston Magna** for Oadby, Wigston & South Wigston. Tea before the service at 5pm.

Sunday 9th 10.15 Rev. Derek MacLean – Holy communion

AND 6pm at Syston farewell service for Rev. Daniel Yovan

Sunday 15th 10.15 Heather Corlett

Sunday 23rd 10.15 Café-style worship

Sunday 30th 10.15 Richard Gill

Worship in August

Sunday 6th 10.15 Richard Cawthorn

Sunday 13th 10.15 Graham Tennant

Sunday 20th 10.15 Rev. Kate Cook – Holy communion

Sunday 27th 10.15 Café-style worship

Welcome service for our new minister

Sunday 27th August at 6.00 pm at Wigston Magna

Our new minister Rev. Frances Ballantyne will be welcomed to the Circuit together with Rev. Helen White.

It would be great to see as many people from South Wigston as possible – let Mary B. know if you would like a lift (0116 281 2625)

A message from Rev. Liam

I simply wish to share my thanks for your very kind gift of Euros, which only made me even more excited for my holiday in July! I have said it before, but I think it is worth repeating that it has been a real privilege to minister in the congregation in South Wigston. While I would have loved to continue the journey together, I will be excited to see how God's love continues to be shown in your life together.

Blessings, Liam



We look forward to welcoming Rev. Frances Ballantyne as our new minister from 1st September. Rev. Frances will also have Wigston Magna, Blaby, Cosby and Countesthorpe under her care.

She will be assisted by Deacon Sharon Dilley who will work half time with the five churches,

Rev. Frances, with her husband David, will be living at a new manse in South Wigston.

Pastoral support while we are without a minister

Until Rev. Frances takes up her post as our minister on 1st September, Deacon Sharon Dilley will be looking after any pastoral issues.

From September Sharon will be working half her time supporting Rev. Frances in her five churches. The other half of her job will be to support churches across the circuit with mission plans.



On the Circuit website Sharon writes: I moved to Blaby in September 2021 from West Yorkshire. I currently work alongside Revd. Daniel in the churches and communities of Blaby, Cosby & Countesthorpe and also a project in Belgrave looking to see how we can maintain a Christian witness in that area now the church buildings have, or very shortly, will be closed.

I come from Bicester, Oxfordshire and so I candidated from these District 16 years ago.

One of my sisters still lives in Bicester with her husband and son, my other sister and her partner live in Milton Keynes and our parents live near Mansfield. Moving to Leicester I am about an hour away from all of them and so the central meeting point.

In my spare time I enjoy meeting up with friends and family (most of which are so much closer now), Reading, in lockdown I rediscovered knitting and I'm looking forward to taking up swimming again.

What is a Deacon?

The Methodist Diaconal Order is both an Order of Ministry and a Religious Order within the Methodist Church in the UK. It was formed in 1989 as a successor to the Wesley Deaconess Order and is open to both women and men. Diaconal ministry is one of two ordained ministries within the Methodist Church. Deacons and Presbyters, Equal but Different.

Deacons are normally appointed to work in Circuits alongside presbyters and lay people. Their role focusses on bridging the gap between the church and the world, and has been described as 'standing in the doorway of the church', keeping the door open both ways.

Taken from: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/the-diaconal-order/>



Thank you for your support for Mariam and her family in Burkina Faso.

We support them via Compassion.

Her latest letter is on the noticeboard.



A PRAYER FOR ANIMALS

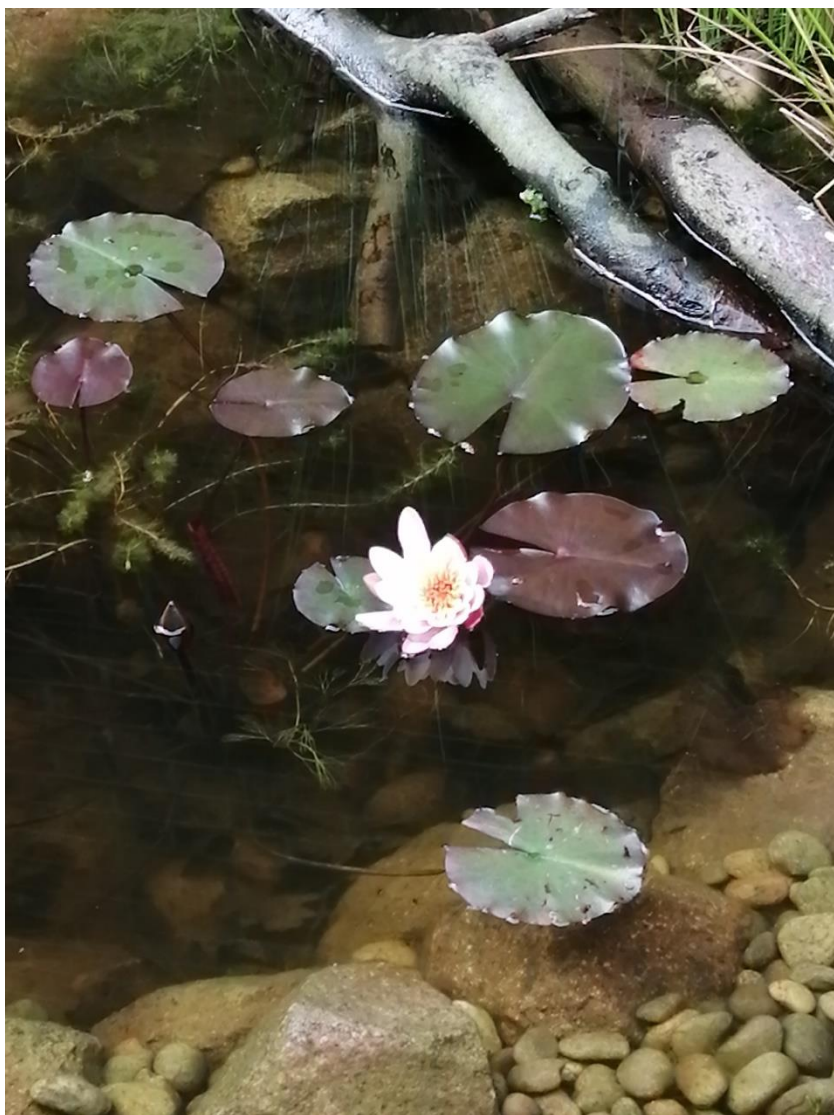
HEAR our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for all that are overworked and underfed and cruelly treated; for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat against their bars; for all that are in pain or dying; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity. Make us ourselves to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessing of the merciful; for the sake of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

An old prayer card,
with holes where it has
been pinned up.

News from MHA Aigburth, Manor Road, Oadby

Once again the gardens are being included in the 'inspection' of Oadby & Wigston for the East Midlands Britain in Bloom Award. This year the borough is also being judged as part of Britain in Bloom.

Marilyn and her team are working hard to keep the gardens looking good for the visits on 12th and 26th July.



A wildlife pond was installed in November and plants are beginning to grow. The first water lily appeared in mid-June.

There will be a coffee morning on Saturday 22nd July from 10 to 12.

This will raise funds for residents' entertainment and trips, and the garden fund. It is also an opportunity for residents to chat to old friends and meet new visitors – do come along!

In August residents will be able to take part in two canal trips run by the Peter le Marchant Trust in Loughborough. The new, smaller mini-bus will be used – this replaces the old mini-bus which fewer people were licenced to drive.

<https://www.peterlemarchanttrust.co.uk/>

Quiz

The SCHOOL QUIZ raised £110 for Christian Aid. The winner was Mrs. Josie Mitchell with all 50 correct answers. Thank you to all who took part.

My next quiz is on NAMES and will be ready in August, this is for The Wigston Framework Knitters Museum and will be ready for Rent Day at the Museum, which is on Saturday September 9th. 10-00am.

There will be a conducted tour of the Framework Knitters Museum on Monday 17th July at 2.00 pm.

The Museum is on Bushloe End Wigston. The site consists of a Master Hosiers House and a Frameshop, all situated in a beautiful cottage garden. The tour will be led by Bill Boulter.

Booking advisable, with Colin Towell on 07813782899 or cftowell@aol.com £5 00 on the day, to be split between the Museum and Leicestershire Fieldworkers.

South Wigston History Walk – “The Orson Wright Trail”

There will be two walks: on Tuesday 18th July and on Thursday 27th July, both at 7.00 pm.

Meet on the corner of Blaby Road and Canal Street, outside South Leicestershire College.

The walk, led by Peter Cousins, details the development of South Wigston from fields to a town by the Victorian Entrepreneur Orson Wright, plus his buildings in Leicester.

Cost £5 per person.

Booking essential: petercousins@ntlworld.com or call 07702127313.

All proceeds to Greater Wigston Heritage Centre and the Leicestershire Fieldworkers

Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust

Ride and Stride Day
Saturday September 9th.

Our Church is registered to be open from 10.00 am – 3.30 pm for signing in visitors.

Last year £34,559 was raised which was shared between churches and chapels nominated by sponsored participants and the Trust for grants to churches.

Brenda, Janet and Sylvia have agreed to visit other churches and to sign in visitors to our church and will be looking for sponsorship. Last year they raised over £300, half of which came back to our church.

If anyone would like to join us please let me know.

Brenda

It was a Revelation!

June was the Methodist Church's Bible Month when each preacher was invited to base their service around the Book of Revelation.

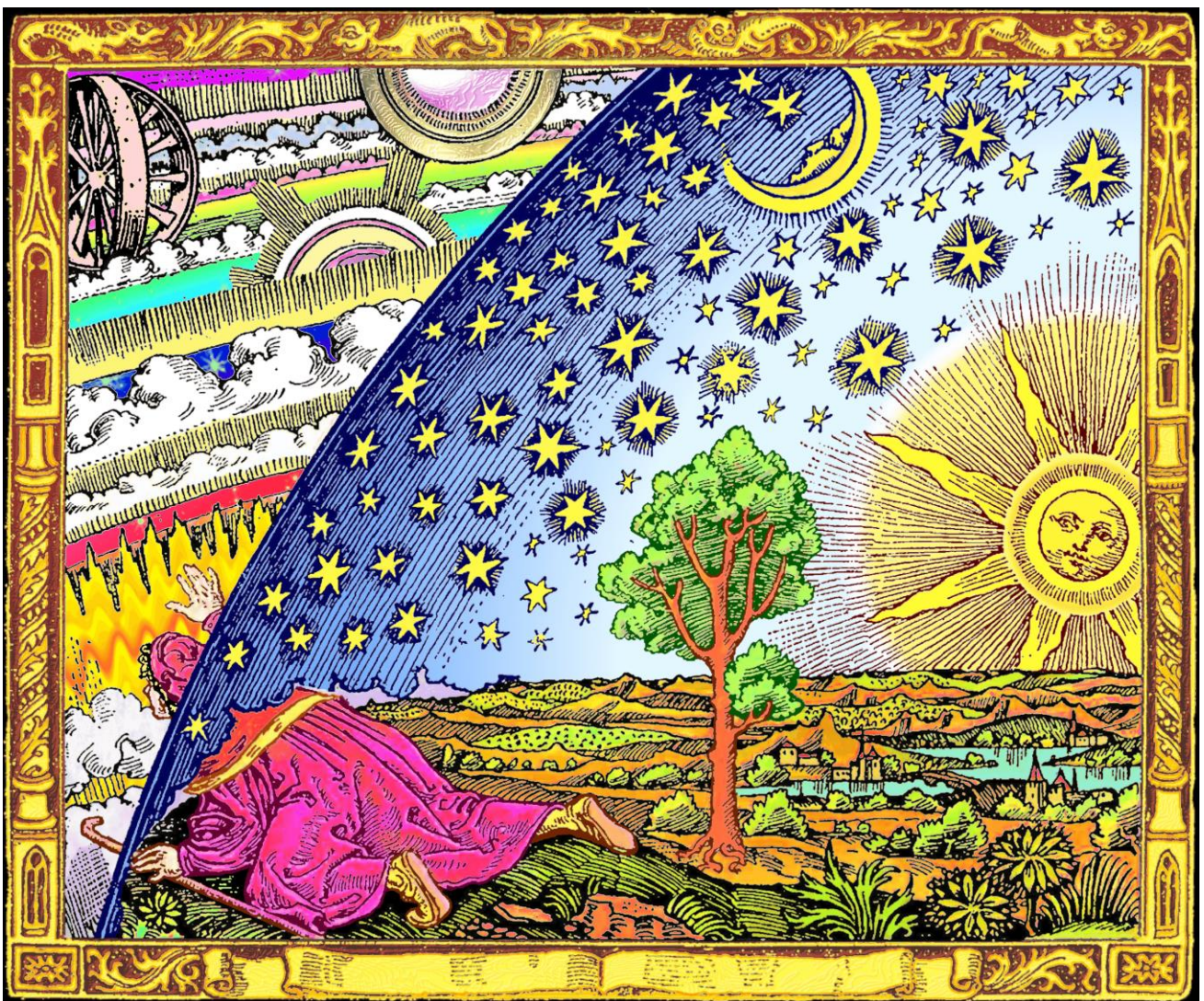
We enjoyed sermons from John Aldridge, Rev. Gordon Webb and Jo Kay. Our final service was led by the local worship team who faced the challenge with some trepidation until Miriam Stevenson, one of our local preachers, came up with Revelation Praise! A songs of praise service based on readings from Revelation and hymns based on the readings. What a relief! The service was adapted and Rev. Arthur Rowe decided to base his reflection on Revelation 21: 1-5 ~ "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth".

Several people commented that they were pleased to have a chance to look in more detail at this challenging book.

Janet commented that she was inspired to try drawing some of the images but without success. There are many images showing what artists over the ages have drawn, painted or produced on a computer.

This image is by *Raven* who says “this a colored-in version of the famed 1888 black-and-white [Flammarion engraving](#) called "Universum". I accepted the usual colors of land, water, sky, and sun seen in many other colorations - though with more tonal variations and gradients for visual interest - but colored in the *lines* as well to more fully color sky, tree, sun, and protagonist. Then I thought the secret outer universe should be the wildest part...”

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flammarion-color.png>



Here is Miriam's introduction to the service:

The Book of Revelation contains many varied types of writing. It is a letter with seven individual letters within it, it is a visionary glimpse into Heaven, it is a prophetic forthtelling of the turbulent history of the world and its people, it is a revisiting of the events and parables of the New Testament. With its eleven hymns, it is also the richest record of early Christian praise and worship.

The Book of Revelation can be seen as a musical or, we might say, the first 'hymn sandwich' although some of the events which come between these hymns are more dramatic and alarming than we would hope to meet in worship on a Sunday Morning.

Even if we have always felt a bit nervous about the violent and apocalyptic atmosphere of Revelation we have met its songs of praise unawares in many beloved hymns and choruses (over 100 references in *Singing the Faith*). We have known it through liturgy from our earliest experiences of worship. These hymns in Revelation express the centrality and eternal validity of worship. Worship is the life of Heaven and from first to last, when John looks into Heaven, he witnesses worship. For us too, to worship is to travel in time, to be connected across and beyond space, to catch a glimpse of Heaven. The pattern of our weekly worship follows the unfolding shape of the worship which underpins the Book of Revelation – it can be understood as a template for praise. Like the verses of a hymn or the structure of Sunday morning service, the unfolding themes of these eleven songs of praise take us on a journey, from Creation and Redemption through to culmination of God's purposes.

Peter Cousins, local historian writes:

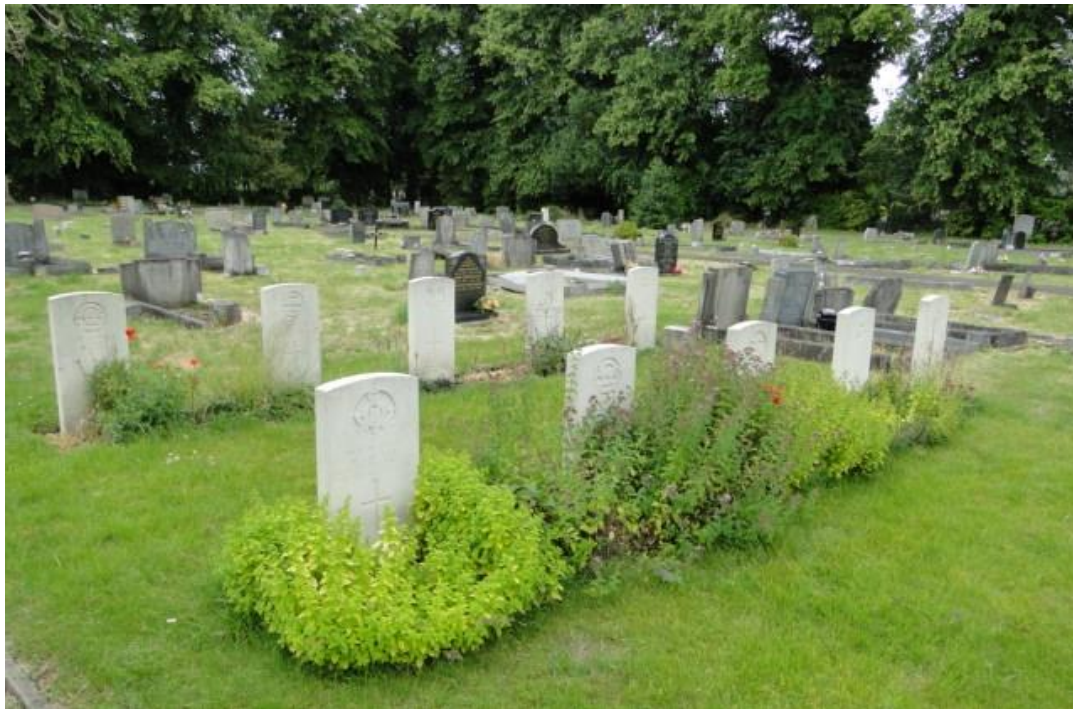
I am conducting a study into the 33 military graves in the Wigston Cemetery. Have you any connections to the men at rest there, I would love to know any information that you have.

Surname	Forename	Initials	AgeAtDeath	DateOfDeath
MARSHALL		G	0	31/03/1920
PRESTON		G E	0	17/12/1918
NOBLE	EDWIN	E	37	22/11/1918
SEATON	ERNEST WILLIAM	E W	24	23/09/1916
BARRATT		B	29	15/05/1920
GAMBLE	SAMUEL FOSTER	S F	35	07/02/1919
GOODMAN	GEORGE WALTER	G W	34	20/11/1918
GURR	WILLIAM JOHN	W J	45	06/07/1916
HARRISON	WALTER	W	28	19/12/1915
COOPER		A E	0	16/04/1920
UPTON	ERNEST WILLIAM	E W	0	20/01/1944
BARLOW	ERNEST WILLIAM	E W	36	20/09/1944
BELL	JOSEPH WILLIAM	J W	46	30/01/1940
BENT	JOSEPH WILLIAM	J W	32	02/06/1946
BRAIN	PETER GERVAISE CADDICK	P G C	22	09/07/1943
DEACON	HORACE EDGAR	H E	31	07/11/1942
DENT	WILFRED GEORGE (WILF)	W G	28	29/09/1941
DOYLE	JOSEPH PATRICK (JOE)	J P	24	26/04/1943
DRAYCOTT	GEORGE ARTHUR	G A	26	16/12/1943
GIBSON	JACK SADDINGTON	J S	27	06/07/1944
HARROLD	THOMAS WILLIAM EPHRAIM	T W E	40	31/12/1946
KERWOOD	WILLIAM HENRY	W H	33	07/02/1945
LEAVER	ALFRED JOHN	A J	20	15/03/1942

MILES	CHARLES ARTHUR RICHARD	C A R	41	29/07/1946
NORTON	FREDERICK MICHAEL	F M	55	11/01/1941
PURKISS	BERNARD	B	48	02/10/1945
READ	FRED ALLEN	F A	38	27/11/1943
VANN	RALPH	R	35	24/01/1942
WATTS	WALLACE HAROLD MACE	W H M	20	01/02/1942
WHAWELL	WILLIAM JOSEPH	W J	26	07/11/1944
WILFORD	GORDON	G	25	09/06/1942
WOODWARD	JOHN DEREK	J D	16	29/08/1943
HOPKINS	WILLIAM	W	42	12/07/1918

Email: petercousins@ntlworld.com

Tel: 0116 288 4638 OR 07702 127313



Some of the Commonwealth War Graves in Wigston cemetery