

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



Shoebox service

Sunday 22nd October 2023

Cover picture: Family receiving a shoebox from Link to Hope

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 officer is Margaret Edwards, with Mary Bryceland.

South Wigston Methodist Church

Blaby Road, South Wigston LE18 4PB

www.swmchurch.org.uk

Minister: Rev. Frances Ballantyne (Day off - Friday)

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Contributions always welcome.

Worship in October

Sunday 1st 10.15 Rev, Paula Hunt ~ Holy communion

AND

6.00 pm at Wesley Hall Circuit service to mark the long service of local preachers Dorothy Hutchinson (40 years) and Oscar Fortune (25 years). All welcome.

Sunday 8th 10.15 Graham Tennant

Followed by planning for the shoebox service by the local worship team

Sunday 15th 10.15 Richard Gill with Ashutosh Desai who is a local preacher 'on note'.

Sunday 22nd 10.15 Our annual Shoebox service for Link to Hope <https://linktohope.co.uk/> Margaret E. has leaflets/box labels. (See the back page for more info.)

Sunday 29th 10.15 Deaconess Sharon Dilley

Harvest Songs of Praise in September



Donations of money went to WaterAid - £116 was raised.

As you can see in the photo lots of foodstuffs were donated to the local Foodbank.

The Faith Lunch which followed was very enjoyable. It was suggested that we meet for lunch after alternate local worship team services – what do you think?

A message from our minister Rev. Frances Ballantyne



Hello everyone

People are asking me if I am settling in or down here in this new Methodist circuit, having only started at the beginning of September. I'm beginning to say that we are finding the essentials, eg. the supermarkets, the doctors, not the dentist yet, and enjoying the garden centres and the local places of interest such as the delightful canal walks. I have to add, which is important, my journeys to the 5 churches that I have pastoral charge of, however it will take me longer to connect names to faces!

Both my husband and I love gardening and we have unsettled the garden to make it more fruitful and flowering in the spring. Bulbs have been planted and various soft fruit bushes have been well fertilised, hoping for a harvest in another season.

Last thought, its planting bulbs in the autumn, to hibernate in the winter and bring forth colour in the spring. Life can be like that, reminding ourselves of the Christian pattern of life after death, dying before rising. So thoughts of Easter before we have even had Christmas!

Best wishes,

Rev Frances.

Frances' first service in the circuit was the Covenant service at our church on 3rd September.

We were pleased to welcome Frances and her husband David to an extended refreshment time after worship.

Here is Frances cutting the welcome cake, kindly made by Janet.



The Church family in October

Happy Birthday to

4th Sue C.

12th Eric

21st Janet L.

Happy anniversary to Margaret and Tony who celebrate 65 years of marriage on 4th.

Church Flowers If you would like to have flowers in church to celebrate a special occasion, or in memory of someone, please contact Margaret E. 0116 278 6616.

1st Janet H.

8th Margaret E.

15th

22nd Margaret D. for Sarah

29th Pat for Mum and Dad

Churches Together in South Wigston

Saturday 7th October 7.00pm

at Saint Mary's Church

This year's Social Event will be a BEETLE DRIVE, Come along for an evening of fun and fellowship. Each church to provide a raffle prize.

There will be a faith supper – please bring some food to share.

Saturday morning coffee 9.30 to 11.30 *HEEEEEEEELP!*

This is a wonderful opportunity to open our doors to the people who pass by as well as our regulars. There are 4 or 5 Saturdays each month BUT WE ONLY HAVE 3 SETS OF VOLUNTEERS. Margaret E.; Pat & June; Mary. Margaret D. helps when she can. This means that we often have to do more than one Saturday each month. **CAN YOU HELP?** Have a word with one of us if you're interested.

I've put this item in again as, sadly, there was no response in September.



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

We support them via Compassion.

Her latest letter is on the noticeboard.

We have received news from the National Director of the Compassion programme in Burkina Faso, Issaka Kiemtore. (Unfortunately the format isn't suitable for printing.)

Issaka was asked about the impact Compassion is having. He replied:

The programme's impact on participants, families, as well as church partners' community anchoring, is significant. Compassion's partnership with the church is highly appreciated by community leaders as a development and unification tool, thanks to tangible results in child sponsorship, health care, education, potable water access. We are also witnessing caregivers and youth empowerment, mindset shift about poverty, dignity, restoration, livelihood improvement through savings groups and Income Generating Activities.

Fund raising

It was good to see the amount of money raised for charities in the September Oracle. However, there were other donations which were not included. These were:

Macmillan coffee morning	150
Historic Churches Trust	156
Money raised by quizzes:	
Aigburth amenity fund	220
Christian Aid	110
Framework Knitters Museum	170
TOTAL	806

NB These totals were omitted because they weren't paid to the charities via our church treasurer.

Mavis Mitchelmore

The poem "The Dying Leaves of Autumn" brought back many memories. It was taken from the booklet "Hidden Depths" by Mavis Mitchelmore.

The dedication reads

"This booklet of poems is dedicated to All those people who help to keep the Chapel doors open."

Mavis was a lady of many talents, not only did she write the poems, but also illustrated them. She was a keen gardener, together with her husband Bill, and their garden was always a riot of colour. She collected doll's houses and made all the fixtures and fittings herself.

Mavis was a lovely lady and it was a privilege to know her.

Brenda

Time by Mavis Mitchelmore

Never waiting, never ending,
Moving on unceasingly.
Events and happenings, past, forgotten,
Lost for all eternity.

Time so precious, often wasted
In the numerous hours of day.
Never more to be retrieved
From our path, along life's way.

A pricelass gift to all mankind,
Healing wounds of pain and sorrow.
It gives us strength to carry on
And hope for a new tomorrow.

Wigston Food Bank (SW Congregational Church)

Organised by the Lions Clubs International (Oadby & Wigston branch), this is a self referral food bank. If you need help, you can just turn up, bring photo ID, proof of address, your own shopping bags (or trolley), and the suggested donation of £1.20. You will be provided with two bags of food for you and your family. October dates: 2nd 16th 30th

News from MHA Aigburth, Manor Road, Oadby

Aigburth's Annual AUCTION

Auctioneer: Michael Mays, Arts & Antiques Surveyor

Saturday 7th October 2.30 - 4.30pm

*Viewing of lots: **Friday 6 October** 10am - 4pm*

*Ornaments, glassware, mirrors, preserves,
pictures, cakes, dolls, china.....*

FREE Admission Refreshments

All proceeds in aid of sturdy outdoor furniture for our Aigburth garden to benefit our residents and visitors

Any queries or for e-mailed copies of the draft catalogue to marilynruith1946@hotmail.com

East Midlands in Bloom at Aigburth

Marilyn Bowles (head volunteer gardener) writes: For those of you who have shown an interest in the 'East Midlands in Bloom' project where MHA Aigburth Garden was *part of* the Pride of the Borough, Oadby and Wigston entry judging route in July, I am very pleased to announce that they/we won the Gold Award. The comments about our garden in the judges' report:

Horticulture

'The beautiful garden at Aigburth MHA Residential and Dementia Care Home continues to flourish with new ideas added this year. The volunteer gardeners have experimented successfully with planting a dry bank under trees, with erigeron and loosestrife doing particularly well. The needs of the residents are at the heart of the garden and there is a trolley of scented plants to prompt memories and appeal to the senses'.

Environment

'The garden at MHA Aigburth has been greatly enhanced by the addition of a pond. A recent moth survey in the garden resulted in up to 300 moths being collected with 46 different species amongst them. The information is to be uploaded onto the Nature Spot database for Leicestershire and Rutland. There was also a lot of interest from residents in solitary bees happily living between paving slabs! A Nature Hub summerhouse has attracted interest and features some lovely bird drawings by visiting relatives.'

Aigburth coffee morning Saturday 28th October 10 to 12.

**Cosby Methodist Church
Park Road
LE9 1RN**

APPLE DAY 2023

Apple Tasting



Apple Identification

Apple cake and tea



Apple jams etc

Apple activities



Stalls

**Saturday October 7th
11.30 am – 3.30 pm
Ploughman's lunches
12 – 2 pm**



Saying Goodbye, (part of the Mariposa Trust) are coming to Derby in October with a very special Baby loss remembrance and support service (part of a UK and Ireland chain of events). This will be even more poignant as it comes at the start of Baby Loss Awareness Week.



The Mariposa Trust's core objective is to support people who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy. It was founded in 2012, by Zoe and Andy Clark-Coates, who saw a critical lack of support for people like them, who had gone through baby loss. With over 258,000 babies being lost yearly in the UK alone, the charity needed to be able to offer not only a comprehensive package of befriending and support but also national baby loss remembrance services (called Saying Goodbye Services), for people to join together and remember the children they had lost. 5 years on, over 150 services have taken place at Cathedrals and Minsters across the UK, US, and France, and 2023 will see 21 services across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

On the 21st October at 11am, in Derby Cathedral, Derby we will be hosting one of our Saying Goodbye Services and as this is the most local service to you this year we wanted to share this information with you.

So who is the service for?

Anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility, or for other reasons - but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all.

We know that as 1 in 4 women suffer miscarriage and baby loss, you will have contact with a significant number of people who have either personally suffered baby loss, or who have a partner or family member that has, so we wanted to ask if you would help us in promoting the service.

To read more on the charity, please see the Saying Goodbye website, which you can find at: www.sayinggoodbye.org

(Sent by the Circuit)

Regular events at church

Tuesdays 2 to 4 Knit & natter ~ everyone welcome, even if you don't knit. Good company, a warm space and a cuppa.

Tuesday evenings Wigston & District Male Voice Choir rehearsal. New members welcome – just drop in.

<https://wigstonmalechoir.org>

Wednesdays 6.00pm Gaynor Merry's weight loss group 07977 868824 gaynor.merry@ntlworld.com

Saturday morning coffee 9.30 - 11.30 come along and have a bit of company. Home-made cakes are usually served.

Saturday morning Walking group (non-church) The group meets at 9.15 and sets off at 9.30 for a walk of up to 1 hour returning to church for coffee and chat.

Cost 40p per week. Mary B. and Sue C. are regular walkers – please ask them for more details.

Newspaper collection – just a reminder that the Male Voice Choir is still collecting newspapers which are sold to raise money for various charities. Please put your papers in the room off the prayer chapel.

Food Bank – donations are always required especially tinned vegetables, fruit etc. and dried goods. There is a box in the lounge with further information.

Stamps for RNIB – please trim your stamps leaving 1 cm gap all round and divide into UK and foreign stamps. There is a box in the lounge.



Why support the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2023?

We ask people to join in with our Shoebox Appeal 2023 and fill a Shoebox for a family – not just a child. The list contains items for all family members and includes different items. These range from shower gel/shampoo, family games, stationary items, gift for mum and dad as well as sweets, soft toys, hats, scarves etc

Our Shoebox Appeal has been running since 1992. We have delivered smiles to thousands of people in Eastern Europe over the years. In fact, we have sent in total over 1,000,000 shoeboxes to hundreds of different locations!

What makes this Christmas Shoebox Appeal different?

1. Delivering Christmas shoeboxes to homes helps our project workers identify emergencies, and address them. For example:
 - **Maria, aged 74, was found sleeping on the dirt floor of her freezing home.** Seeing her need, Link to Hope also delivered a bed, blankets and pillows to Maria.
 - A Christmas shoebox was delivered to **a family grieving for their baby, who had died from cold** because they had no money to heat the one room they all lived in. Link to Hope supporters raised enough funds to rehouse the family in a purpose-built container home.
2. This Christmas Shoebox Appeal collects boxes for entire families and the elderly, so nobody's left out.
3. We are small, yet established enough to have personal relationships with the individuals in Eastern Europe who work hard delivering your boxes. For transparency, we also conduct spot-checks to confirm that the right people are receiving your boxes.