

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



April 2024

Cover picture: *The pilgrims of Emmaus on the road* by James Tissot. 19th century.

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 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
Currently on sick leave

Deacon Sharon Dilley (Day off Friday)
0116 277 0317 sharondilley@hotmail.co.uk

Senior Steward: Mary B. 0116 281 2625
Leicester Trinity Circuit, Charity registration number 1129943

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

Worship in April

Sunday 7th 10.15 Rev. Gordon Webb.

This will be a slightly shorter service and will be followed, immediately, by the Annual Church Meeting – all are welcome to attend.

Sunday 14th 10.15 John Aldridge

Sunday 21st 10.15 Richard Cawthorn

Sunday 28th 10.15 Café-style worship based on this year's World Day Prayer service prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

Easter Offering 2024

Every year Easter Offering envelopes are distributed throughout the Methodist churches in Britain. Methodist Women in Britain prepare the Easter offering service as a gift to the Methodist people following the tradition of fund raising begun nearly 140 years ago.

This is an opportunity to raise funds for the Methodist Church's global partnership through the World Mission Fund. Annually, these gifts make up 10% of World Mission Fund income. All the monies raised are given directly to the World Mission Fund.

Easter offering envelopes were distributed on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday – please return them by Sunday 7th April.

The theme for this year's service is **Let Justice Roll.**

The Dedication Service will be held at Trinity Oadby Methodist Church on Sunday 28th April at 6.30pm. Free parking is available.

Rev. Frances is not due to return to work just yet. We send her our prayers and best wishes for a full recovery. She and David welcome visitors but please telephone to make an appointment 0116 277 3631.

Deacon Sharon and Rev. Derek McLean are providing pastoral support for our church.

Drop in at the URC (in the College) on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except July & August) 10.00 to 11.30. Tea & coffee available.

24th April Hymn singing – learn a new hymn, choose your favourite hymn, the background to hymns.

A message from Deacon Sharon



The road to and back to Emmaus

So much happened in that first Easter weekend that I sometimes think we miss out on some important accounts of that time and the journey to and from Emmaus is one of those for me.

I remember as part of a youth weekend away we were encouraged to imagine we were journeying to Emmaus, we walked around a field in pairs, trying to imagine the feelings that the two followers of Jesus must have felt, confusion, grief, disbelief, nothing making sense any more. Then we arrived at “Emmaus” and received communion, the blessed bread and wine from our Minister and then we began the return journey, again trying to imagine the feelings of those two followers of Jesus, the feelings were different, still confused but knowing that something had changed in that encounter, a new sense of joy, peace and an urgency to share the news.

They had meet with the risen Christ and nothing would ever be the same again. Jesus was alongside them as they walked in their grief and sorrow, although they didn’t recognize him but once they recognized him, they had to share their joy.

It has always been important to me to go to Church on Good Friday, to remember the horrible suffering and death of Jesus over those hours. In Jesus we have a God who knows what it is to suffer, physically, mentally and spirituality because he has been there and this is the God who walks alongside us in our struggles, the God who prays for us and who brings us his peace and comfort. If we go from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, with the crowds rejoicing and then meeting the risen Lord I think we miss this important part of the Christian message.

God is with us always.

I acknowledge that isn't always easy to feel. When things are tough God can seem distant, difficult to reach out to in prayer. But that is when being part of a caring, praying, supportive Church comes in. We can know God's love and care through one another's love and actions. This is so evident in this Church. Thank you for your care for one another.

So, this Easter season and beyond I hope you will know more of our risen Lord alongside you, whether you can raise a Hallelujah or not the promised truth is that God is with you, offering his peace, love and joy.

A prayer from Hidden Treasures, the Methodist Prayer handbook 2023/34

God of hidden treasures beyond our imagining.

In silence,
may I sense your heartbeat of love.

In the living Word,
may I find your truth.

In the beauty around me,
may I see your image.

In the warmth of friendship,
may I find your heart.

In the essence of being,
may I find that which stirs the soul.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Andy Fyall, District Chair, Nottingham and Derby District.

The Church family in March

In memoriam

We give thanks for the life of Vivian Clarke who died peacefully at home on Thursday 21st March. Our condolences and prayers go to her daughter Vanessa, and granddaughter Zahne, together with the rest of her family and friends. The funeral service will take place, at our church, on Friday 19th April at 11.30, followed by interment at Wigston cemetery.

Happy Birthday to

6th Vanessa 8th Rachel 9th Nicholas 26th Helen R.

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

7th Ian 14th 21st Mary B. for her father 28th

Save the date

Mary & Eric Mewis will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary at the church on Sunday afternoon 7th July 1.30 - 4.00. Tea and refreshments will be served. Lutterworth town band will be playing 2-3. All welcome!

Donations of cakes or sandwiches gratefully received.

No presents please, there will a box for donations if anyone would like to contribute monies will be spilt between the band and the church.

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

We support them via Compassion.

Mariam's latest letter is on the noticeboard.



The Annual Conference is being held at the Hayes Conference centre, Swanwick, over the weekend of 19th - 21st April. There are still places available. The theme is 'Words create Worlds' and the keynote speakers are Rev. Jenny Pathmarajah and Becca Byass from All We Can. I have heard them both speak, and they are lively and original presenters.



There is a chance to visit the Epworth Rectory for a garden party on Saturday the 18th May. This is where there is now a permanent exhibition telling the story of the contributions made by women through Women's Work. Women's Fellowship, Young Wives and more recently MWiB.

On Friday 28th June the Mary Bosanquet Lecture will be given by Chine McDonald at a fringe event at the Methodist Conference in Leeds.

In the autumn the World Federation Day will be held at Stamford Methodist Church on Saturday 19th October. The theme is 'Voices Near and Far'. I intend to go, so have room in my car for three passengers. There will be a chance to have a freshly cooked lunch served on the premises.

Methodist Women in Britain is a charity separate from the Methodist Church yet with close links. There is money available for projects overseas and in this country. If you have groups meeting on your premises who need equipment or you wish to help out a project overseas known to you with training or equipment, then consider applying.

There is a copy of the Annual Review for each church which gives examples of how money has been used in 2022-23.

Please use the website to keep up-to-date with news of events, grants and ways of sharing what is happening throughout the Connexion. <https://mwib.org.uk/>

Thank you everyone who is still knitting baby garments for Intercare, the medical charity based in Syston.

Mary Gill

Acting Secretary for the Circuit MWiB Committee.

Trustee for MWiB in Northampton, Derby and Notts Districts.

The Miracle Club

The film, *The Miracle Club*, was recommended to me. However, I no longer go to the cinema and being hard of hearing I do like having subtitles, so I put the DVD on my wish list. I now have a copy and have enjoyed watching it, especially as it features Maggie Smith, one of my favourite actors.

It is a heartwarming comedy drama of faith, reconciliation and forgiveness.

Dubin 1967

The story follows four friends who win a pilgrimage to Lourdes, the place of miracles. They set out on the journey, each in search of her own miracle, of mind or of body. –

Their lives are changed, but not how they expected.

Brenda

80th Anniversary Of “D-Day” - Thursday 6th June 2024

June 6th, 1944: More than 150,000 Allied troops land on the beaches of Normandy, France, as part of the largest seaborne invasion in history. Known as "D-Day," the name and date loom large in the memory of World War II

The GWHS would like to mark this occasion with memories, photographs or any memorabilia that you have in your possession or in your family. Were any of your relatives at D-Day? Have you any photographs we can scan and add to our archive, or stories you would like to record?

We are planning to hold a special day to mark D-Day at the Heritage Centre on Saturday June 8th – 10am till 2pm – where we can get together and talk about these memories, and bring your memorabilia to share.

Please email me at chairman@wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk or call me on 07702127313 if you would like to take part.

Regards

Peter Cousins, Chairman

Northampton Methodist District – dates for your diary

Leaving Service for Helen Cameron, Chair of District, 9th June, 3pm at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Oxford

Welcome Service for Sonia Hicks, 3rd August, 2:30pm Park Avenue Methodist Church, Northampton

Life after birth

In a mother's womb are two babies, one asked the other "Do you believe in life after delivery?"

The other replied, "Why of course, there has to be something other than our lives here."

"Nonsense," said the first, "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said "I don't know, but I believe there is something and it will be different from here, and we won't need this cord anymore."

The first replied "You are absurd, if there is another life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of our lives, and in the after delivery there is nothing but darkness, silence and oblivion, it takes us nowhere. Accept your lot, make yourself comfortable and forget about this life after birth nonsense."

"I'm sure we will meet Mother," said the second, "and she will take care of us."

The first replied "**MOTHER!** you actually believe in Mother? That's laughable, if Mother exists where is She now?"

The second replied, "She is all around us. We are surround by her. We are of Her, it is because of Her that we live. Without Her our world would not and could not exist."

The first laughed "You are absolutely crazy, I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied. "Sometimes when we are in silence, if you focus and listen you can feel Her presence and you can hear Her loving voice calling down from above. Whatever you say I'm sure there is life after delivery."

"When it comes to delivery, I'm going first so that I can prove there is nothing." Said the first.

"I don't mind waiting," answered the second with a look of ecstasy. "I know in my heart there will be someone to help us through delivery, it will be wonderful, and Mother will be there, waiting for me."



Cosby Methodist Church



Invites you to join us for
our popular
Cream Tea



On Saturday 6th April at 2:30 pm
followed by a performance from
our guest singer

Lisa



**This is a ticket
only event**

**Adults £6
Children £3**

Come and enjoy a jolly afternoon

For tickets

Telephone - 0116 2865522

Email: claireort7@gmail.com

Campaign from Action for Children

Exploited children deserve to be kept safe.

The criminal exploitation of children is when a child is coerced into committing criminal acts – for someone else’s benefit.

An exploited child is a victim. They should be kept safe. Not blamed for their exploitation, or written off as a criminal.

Young lives are being lost and destroyed. We can prevent children being exploited and end this crisis.


What are we calling for?

We’re calling for change in how the UK prevents, and responds to, the criminal exploitation of children.

- A ‘welfare-first’ response to offences committed by criminally exploited young people. Victims of exploitation are entitled to legal protections from the criminal justice system – so they have a chance to rebuild their futures
- New powers for the police and courts to see adults who exploit children face justice – ensuring that exploiters answer for their crimes
- A new statutory definition of criminal exploitation of children, alongside a national plan to prevent the exploitation of children, led by the UK government – to transform and join up how all services keep children safe
- Funding for early intervention services to support children and their families, before they’re trapped in exploitation – so there is somewhere to go for help


Agree? Sign your name


<https://tinyurl.com/2apy52ad>

 **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

 **Friday coffee morning 9.00 – 10.30** a *warm space*, free drinks, & toast

 **Saturday morning coffee 9.30 - 11.30** come along to this *warm space* 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.

 Warm spaces where free hot drinks will be available – although donations are welcomed. Flame logo: AntonLandao, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

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. **Donations are always required** especially tinned vegetables, fruit etc. and dried goods. There is a box in the lounge with further information. **Dates: April 1st 15th 29th**

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.

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.