

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



April 2026

Cover picture: <https://freesvg.org/floral-cross-2>

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. The 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

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Contributions always welcome.

Worship in April

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7pm at the URC (In NWSLCollege) led by Rev'd Martin Ferris.

OR

7pm at Wigston Magna Methodist - Maundy Thursday meal and time of reflection with a celebration of the Lord's Supper led by Rev'd Ian Hu.

Good Friday 3rd April

Act of Witness outside Tesco at noon, followed by a soup & hot cross bun lunch at this church.

AND

Wigston Magna MC - Good Friday Vigil from 2 pm, service beginning at 3pm, led by Rev'd Ian Hu.

Easter Sunday

10.15 Communion service led by John Aldridge

Please bring flowers or potted plants to decorate the Easter cross.



6pm Circuit online service led by Rev'd Ivan Bennett.

Sunday 12th 10.15 Rev'd Ian Hu

6pm Circuit online service led by Rev'd Ian Hu

Sunday 19th 10.15 Rev'd Liam Dacre-Davis – this is the last time that Liam will be preaching at SW before he moves to another circuit in August.

6pm Circuit online service led by Rev'd Kim Alexander

Sunday 26th 10.15 Worship led by members of the congregation

6pm Circuit online service led by Rev'd Liam Dacre-Davis

Contact trinityeveningservice@leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk for the Zoom link for Circuit services.

Easter image: <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/>



A message from Rev'd Ian Hu

This joyful Eastertide, what need is there for grieving?

Cast all your cares aside, and be not unbelieving:

Come, share our Easter joy that death could not imprison,

Nor any power destroy, our Christ, who is arisen!

Singing the Faith 314

Dear Friends,

We are quickly moving into Holy Week and Eastertide 2026! On Easter Sunday morning, our Easter Communion service will be led by John Aldridge at 10.15. We will then move into the Easter Season, or Eastertide. This season is also known as the Great Fifty Days, beginning at sunset on Easter Eve and continuing through the Day of Pentecost. This is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. This season focuses upon Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the givings of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter, which is depicted in John 20:22-23: *When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. (New Revised Standard Version NRSV)*

The ancient Christian name for this festival is *Pasch*, derived from the Hebrew 'pesah,' meaning 'deliverance' or 'passover.' This connects the Resurrection to the Exodus. The origin of the English word *Easter* is disputed but may come from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eastre and her festival. *Pentecost* comes from the Greek word *pentekoste*, which means 'fiftieth.' This refers to the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which the Greek-speaking Jewish people called the Day of Pentecost, depicted in Acts 2:1-2: *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (NRSV)* The Early Christians also used the term Pentecost to refer to the Great Fifty Days as a season. The primary colours used during this season are white and gold. On Pentecost Sunday, the colour theme is bright red.

As we celebrate the gift upon the world of the light of life, may all of our hearts and minds be kindled with the desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising! And thank you all for being the Church!

With every blessing at Easter,

Rev. Ian J. K. Hu


The Methodist Church
Registered charity no 1132208

EASTER OFFERING

Your local Easter Offering Service
was prepared by Methodist Women in
Britain for the World Mission Fund



Methodist Women
in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

— giftaid it —

Easter offering and dedication service

The tradition of fund raising for overseas mission began in Manchester in 1883 when Methodist women collected 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas day to support missionaries overseas. This tradition has continued and is now a collection taken at Easter. The envelopes came later and are designed for those who can Gift Aid their donation. These will be available from Sunday 22nd March and on Easter Sunday with a plate for non-Gift Aid donations. The money raised goes directly to fund the work of Mission Partners and the churches they serve in many parts of the world.

The Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service will be held at Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby

on Sunday 3rd May at 6.30pm using material prepared by Methodist Women in Britain (supported by the Global Relationships team), as a gift to the Methodist people. The 2026 focus is FREEDOM. The theme is *Unbound: a gospel that breaks the barrier*. **You can join the service online using the usual Circuit evening service zoom link.**

Worshipping in the lounge

The use of the lounge for Sunday services was discussed at the Church Council meeting in February and at the stewards' meeting. The lounge is more accessible for those with mobility issues, and may help to reduce the cost of heating. We are proposing to continue using the lounge for at least one service each month, and possibly more often. Rev'd Ian is happy to lead Communion services downstairs. The lounge has a loop system which is helpful for those who use hearing aids. Music will be provided by CDs some of which have choral or organ arrangements for the hymns. *Mary B.*

The Church family

Happy Birthday to

6th Vanessa 8th Rachel F 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.

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

We have supported them via Compassion for 11 years.

Your donations can be placed in the pink box on the coffee bar – we send £30 per month plus money for birthday and Christmas presents.



Mariam's latest letter, translated from French:

3/2/2026. Dear South Wigston Methodist Church, hi!

Thank you for your letter of the new year. We celebrated it in good health, joy and we wish a Happy New year to the ones and others. At the center, we had a big gathering when the Pastor wished us a happy year with prayers for us participants and the center staff. You asked if I study? I do no study but I do sewing. We are preparing for the celebration of the Women's

International Day (March 8th). Moms are in honor on that day. The young girls are part of it as well as they are future mothers. Some husbands will buy condiments to cook for their wives to please their wives. Wives in our church have a seminar on March 8th. Do you celebrate Women's day? Have you a training center for sewing? Please, pray God to give me more knowledge in my handicraft. Mariam

News from MHA Aigburth

The calendar of monthly fund-raising & social events is on the noticeboard.

During Lent the Chaplain, Emma, put up Stations of the Cross in the garden and led meditative walks.

On 28th April from 3 to 4.30 there is a Communi-Tea Party

Refreshments, music and walks around the garden

Communi-tea parties take place across all the MHA homes and services. They help to support older people across the UK. The fundraising will help:

- Tackle loneliness and isolation in communities near you
- Support older people with friendship, fun and memories
- Improve the wellbeing of people living with dementia through music therapy

<https://mha.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/communi-tea-party>

Do you know about Elizabeth Heyrick?

In March I went to the Heritage Hub at Leicester University. This was an opportunity for organisations involved in Leicestershire's history and heritage to showcase their work. One society which had a stand was *the Elizabeth Heyrick Society*. Elizabeth was born in Leicester in 1769. Her father was a Unitarian, but after meeting John Wesley Elizabeth (nee Coltman) became a Methodist. She was widowed at the young age of 28 and became a Quaker.

Elizabeth Heyrick's name is not widely familiar, yet she played a decisive role in one of the great campaigns in 19th-century Britain: the abolition of slavery within the British Empire in 1833. She organised consumer boycotts of slave-produced goods, such as sugar, and wrote powerful powerfully to influence those in Parliament and beyond. She was also involved in trying to end animal cruelty. As a woman, Elizabeth Heyrick was denied the right to vote but worked through the power of popular pressure. Despite her many ground-breaking achievements, her memory has been neglected; there are no monuments, and few people from her home city of Leicester would know her name. The society's founding patron is David Olusoga OBE (*A House through time*, and other TV programmes).

One of the Society's aims is to erect a permanent public memorial which will raise awareness about Elizabeth Heyrick's pivotal role in the abolitionist movement, ensuring that her contributions are recognised and celebrated by a wider audience.

You can find out more at the Society's rich and detailed website

<https://www.elizabethheyrick.org/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Heyrick

Regular events

South 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 fee of £2. 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:** 13th & 27th April **Time** 9.45 to 10.30

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.

Newspapers are being collected for Leicestershire Animal Aid where they are used for bedding. Please put them in the storeroom off the prayer chapel. Sheets, pillowcases and towels can also be donated.

Regular events

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 686824
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. Walkers go at their own pace. No charge. Mary B. and Sue C. are regular walkers – please ask them for more details.

Date for your diary



Saturday 16th May 11.30 onwards Ploughman's lunch for Christian Aid