

**South Wigston Methodist Church**

# *The Oracle*



*Pentecost*

*24<sup>th</sup> May 2026*

**Cover picture:** Karlskirche, Vienna. Fresco by Johann Michael Rottmayr (1714): Dove (Holy Spirit)- as part of the Holy Trinity. Photo by Wolfgang Sauber

## **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. 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](http://www.swmchurch.org.uk)

**Revd Ian J K Hu** (day off Tuesday)  
ian.hu@methodist.org.uk 07546 474598

**Deacon Sharon Dilley** (day off Friday)  
Sharon is on sabbatical until 10<sup>th</sup> August

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

**Editor:** Mary B. contact: [pmmbry@gmail.com](mailto:pmmbry@gmail.com) 0116 281 2625 or 07891 917768. Contributions always welcome.

## *Worship in May*

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.15 Deacon Sharon Dilley

6.30 Methodist Women in Britain Easter Offering service at Oadby Trinity and online.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Rev'd Ian Hu ~ Holy communion

*Online circuit evening service 6pm Rev'd Derek McClean*

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Service celebrating the work of MHA, led by the local worship team

*Online evening circuit service 6pm*

Pentecost Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Jean Thornton

*Online evening circuit service 6pm Rev'd Ivan Bennett*

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 10.15 Colin Rodway. Colin is reaching the end of his training to become an accredited local preacher and this is a "trial" service where he will be assessed by a minister and local preacher.

Online evening circuit service 6pm

Contact [trinityeveningservice@leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk](mailto:trinityeveningservice@leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk) for the Zoom link for Circuit services.

### **Church meetings**

Property & finance Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 7pm

Church Council Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 7pm in person and via Zoom.

### **A prayer from the current Methodist Prayer Handbook**

Hannah prayed, and Miriam danced. Elizabeth waited and Mary sang. Mary wept and Lydia welcomed.

Today, we weep at injustice; we wait for peace to prevail; we pray in hope. Keep us mindful of your presence, Lord, and give us the strength to tell your story, to weep with anyone who suffers, to pray faithfully as we look for signs of you in everyone we encounter and to welcome all with courageous hospitality. Amen.

Bronwen Braidell, Communications officer, Methodist Women in Britain.



## *A message from Rev'd Ian*

*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 now in the season of Eastertide, which is also known as the Great Fifty Days. This season began at sunset on Easter Eve and is continuing through Pentecost Sunday, which falls this year on Sunday 24 May 2026. Eastertide focuses upon the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ and the givings of the Holy Spirit on two specific occasions:

The first account of the gift of the Holy Spirit is on the first Easter, which is depicted in John 20: 22-23 as follows:

*And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven (New International Version)*

The second account of the gift of the Holy Spirit is found in Acts 2, and which is usually used as a lesson on Pentecost Sunday.

The ancient Christian name for the season of Eastertide is *pesah*, meaning 'deliverance' or 'passover'. This connects the Resurrection story to the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament. The origin of the English word *Easter* is disputed. However, it may come from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eastre and her festival.

*Pentecost* comes from the Greek word *pentekoste*, which means 'fiftieth.' It refers to the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which Greek-speaking Jews called the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1). Early Christians also used the term Pentecost to refer to the Great Fifty Days as a distinct season.

The colours for Eastertide are typically white and gold. On the Day of Pentecost, the colour is red. Many churches will incorporate the use of a large,

white freestanding candle called a paschal candle throughout all services during this season, including funerals and baptisms. Multi-coloured, bright flowers are appropriate, and visuals for the Day of Pentecost can include red flowers, doves, flames of fire, a ship or a rainbow.

As we approach the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, may we continue to walk together in faith as an Easter People at South Wigston Methodist Church!

Blessings in Christ, Ian

## *A message from Deacon Sharon*

### **Sabbatical**

By the time you read this I will most probably have started my Sabbatical. But what is a Sabbatical I hear you ask! A sabbatical is a period of three months given to every Minister now every seven years, although I had to wait ten years for my first one; a time for rest, refreshment and a time to look at a particular element of ministry, to read, visit places and to come back refreshed and with new insights.



When I had my first sabbatical I was working in a drop-in centre for homeless people and so I visited different projects, doing similar work around the country. This time I will be looking at *New places for new people* projects; planning is still underway as to exactly which projects I will visit but things like a film club, a caravan ministry, a food pantry. A surf school in Cornwall has been mentioned but I'm not sure there is much call for that in Leicester and I certainly won't be wearing a wet suit!

I also hope to go on a retreat, attend a training course on rural ministry, learn to crochet (a skill that I have tried to learn a few times but never mastered), be able to spend whole weekends with friends and family, and catch up on some reading both novels and more spiritual books, hopefully sat in the garden in the sun! The Methodist Church has a prayer ministry tent at Silverstone F1 weekend, both at the race circuit and at Silverstone Methodist Church and I am hoping to join the team at the Church for the weekend.

I see a sabbatical as a real gift from the Church, and I want to thank those who will be taking on extra responsibilities whilst I am off. (PTO)

I promise to not come back with too many mad ideas, but I look forward to seeing how we can further extend our welcome and offer of good news to those in our community.

I hope you have a good summer, that the weather stays warm & sunny, and I looking forward to seeing you when I am back on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

Very best wishes, Sharon

### *The Church family*

*Happy Birthday to* 2<sup>nd</sup> Harriet 9<sup>th</sup> Estelle 25<sup>th</sup> Sue H

*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.

We have just received this photo of Mariam – we have seen her grow into lovely young woman!

## News from MHA (Methodist Homes) Aigburth

21 Manor Road, Oadby LE2 2LL

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

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May Blossom-breathing coffee morning 10.30 to 12.00.**

As well as raising funds for the residents' amenity fund and the garden, the social events enable residents to welcome visitors to their home. They enjoy seeing old friends and new faces.

**MHA Sunday** is celebrated on the second Sunday in June, however, this year we will be taking MHA as the theme for our service on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**. This service will be led by members of the congregation and will be held in the downstairs lounge.

MHA Sunday is a special opportunity to come together in celebration of the life-enhancing work of MHA and to affirm the inherent value, dignity and worth of older people in our society. It's a time to give thanks and raise funds for MHA's charitable services.

By hosting a service, we'll help fund chaplaincy, music therapy for people living with dementia, and befriending services that bring comfort, connection and a sense of belonging to older people across Britain. For many, this support can mean the difference between loneliness and feeling part of a community again.

MHA Sunday also invites churches to reflect on the growing and changing needs of older people, and to explore how the Church can respond with compassion through practical action, volunteering and advocacy.

### **The motto of MHA is "live later life well"**

## Food Bank

At a service in April Margaret Edwards gave a talk about the work of the food bank held fortnightly at the Congregational Church. Margaret spoke about how it is run and her work as a volunteer.

If you are able help, you can donate food, toiletries & household products – there is a box in the lounge.



## Prayer Walks Through South Wigston

By Rev. Ian J. K. Hu

This Spring, Rev. Josiah Homfray-Cooper from Hope Community Church of South Wigston and Rev. Ian Hu from South Wigston Methodist Church have embarked upon monthly prayer walks through South Wigston, pausing to reflect and to pray for our community and to focus upon lifting up our ecumenical partners and resources throughout the community for God's care and strength.

Some of the venues that we have focused upon include our fellow members of South Wigston Churches Together, including Hope Community Church of South Wigston (located within Menphys), South Wigston Methodist Church, South Wigston United Reformed Church (URC), St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, South Wigston



Congregational Church and St. Thomas' Church of England. We pray that God will continue to breathe the Holy Spirit into all of God's churches

throughout South Wigston, and that the faith community throughout South Wigston will continue to provide a witness and outpouring of love and care throughout our community.



In addition to praying for our church communities throughout South Wigston, some of the venues where Josiah and Ian have stopped include the Pladis bakery on

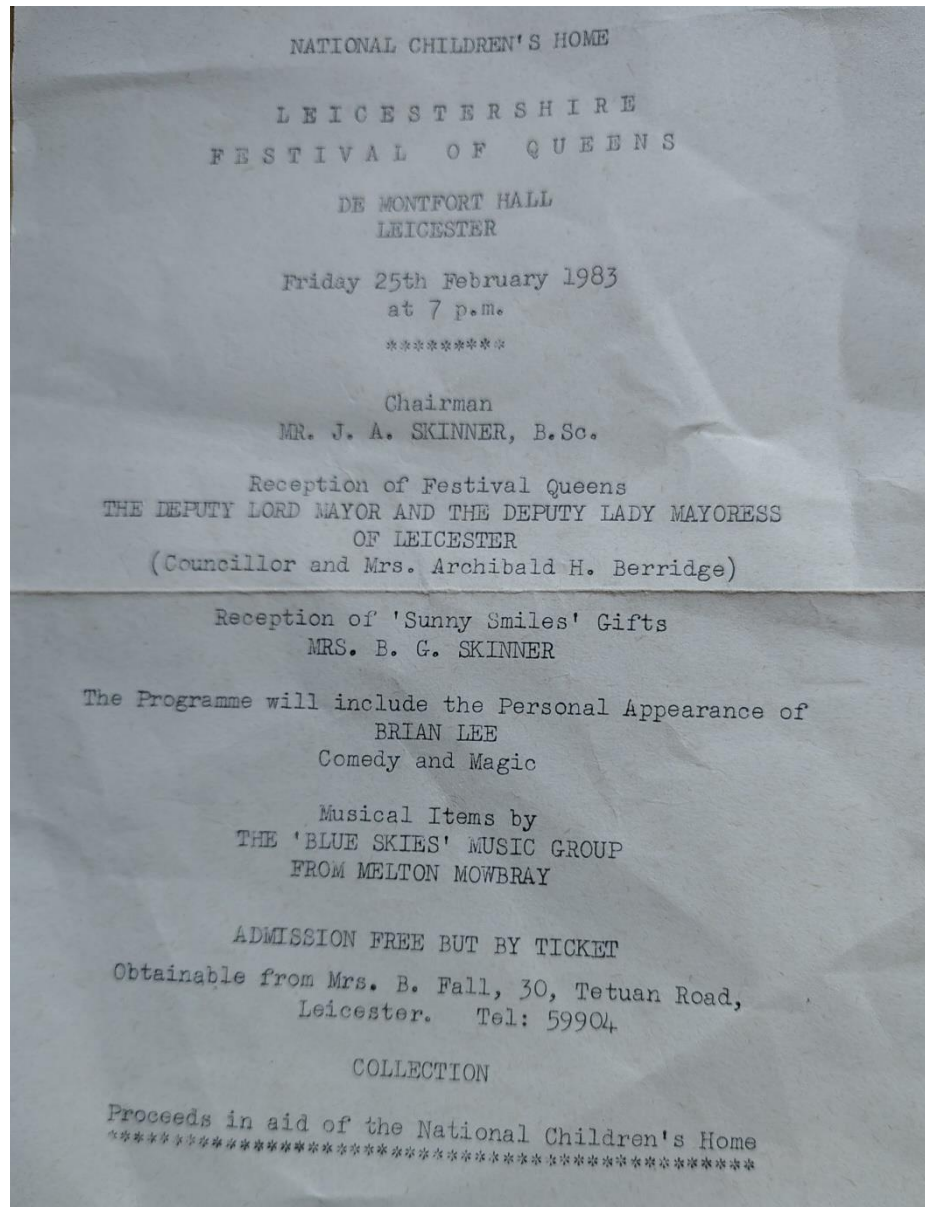
Canal Street, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, and Elliott Hall, located on Albion Street.



Please continue to pray for all of the member churches of South Wigston Churches Together and for all of our community resources throughout South Wigston. It is vital that we support and patronize the local community businesses and resources and we plan to continue to pray for all of the businesses and community resources throughout South Wigston.

## Festival of Queens

Looking through an old hymnbook at church I found this programme for the 1983 Leicester Festival of Queens. This was a celebration of fundraising for National Children's Homes (Now Action for Children).



Can anyone remember who our Queen was in 1983?  
I'll display this programme in the lounge.

The Queen was, I think, the girl who had raised the most money. In Plymouth I was an attendant to our queen who wore a special cloak and carried the money in a velvet purse. It was a rather grand occasion, held, if I remember rightly, in Plymouth Guildhall. *Mary B*

## 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:** 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> **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](mailto: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.

# Ploughman's lunch

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

from 11.30 to 1ish



£6 including dessert & hot drink

*All welcome – just come along!*

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Blaby Road, South Wigston LE18 4PB