

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



June 2026

Cover picture: *Campanula* growing like weeds at the foot of a wall. [MB] A weed is just a plant in the wrong place.

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

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 10th August

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

Editor: Mary B. contact: pmmbry@gmail.com 0116 281 2625 or 07891 917768. Contributions always welcome.

Worship in June

Sunday 7th 10.15 Jean Thornton (downstairs)

6.00pm Circuit Summer Evening Service at Wigston Magna MC. The service will be preceded by tea and cake at 5.00pm.

No Circuit online evening service.

Sunday 14th 10.15 Douglas Beoku-Betts

6pm online circuit evening service led by Rev'd Derek McClean

Sunday 21st 10.15 Sue Moore

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

Sunday 28th 10.15 Rev'd Ian Hu – Holy Communion and Annual Church Meeting

6pm online circuit evening service - no preacher listed in the plan.

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



Bible Society Coffee morning Saturday 13th
June 10 to 12 at the URC (in NWSLCollege)

The Methodist Conference 2026 25 June - 1 July 2026 in Telford

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church. Meeting once a year, it provides a forum for prayerful reflection and decision-making on issues that shape the life of the Church, as well as matters that impact the wider community, the nation, and the world.

Please pray for all those involved in this major event in the life of the Methodist Church.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2026/>



A message from Rev'd Ian

Dear Friends,

We are now entering the season after Pentecost, which is commonly referred to as Ordinary Time. This season begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before Advent. This is the largest season of the Christian calendar and may include twenty-three to twenty-eight Sundays, depending upon the date of Easter. The first Sunday of this season is always Trinity Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost Sunday) and the last Sunday of this season is always Christ the King Sunday (the Sunday before Advent).

Although the scripture lessons in the Lectionary for this season go in a semicontinuous cycle through books of the Bible rather than follow a theme, the gospel lessons generally cover Jesus' teaching ministry and tend to focus upon the kingdom and reign of God.

Paraments, stoles and church furnishings may show a wide variety of colour, texture and symbols during this season. The underlying colour for the season of Ordinary Time is green, which symbolises growth in Christ. White is the customary colour for Trinity Sunday, All Saints Sunday and Christ the King Sunday. Generally, acts of worship during Ordinary Time are chosen more because they relate to the Scripture readings or them of the particular day because they fit the season as a whole.

During the month of June, the Methodist Church is focusing Bible Month on the Book of Philippians. Paul's letter to the church at Philippi appears to be written from a Roman prison and features general themes including joy and contentment, growth in Christ, unity and collegiality and the continuous nature of God's work. [SW may be included later in the year]

Following worship on Sunday 28 June 2026 (the fourth Sunday in June) we will be moving into our South Wigston Methodist Church Annual General Meeting following the morning worship service. Everyone is encouraged to stay

afterwards for this important time of acknowledgement of the year's accomplishments and preparing for the next Connexional year. We are planning to provide hospitality for all who attend.

The seasons and cycles of our life as God's church at South Wigston continue into this season of growth and nurture during Ordinary Time. We are in Ecclesiastes 3: 1 that 'for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.' Thank you all for being the Church!

Every blessing always,

Ian

Happy Birthday Reverend Albert W. Mosley - 100 years

Rev'd Albert is a Supernumerary Minister in Leicester Trinity Circuit and is celebrating his centenary this month. He has been a welcome preacher at South Wigston over many years. Mary B came across this tribute to him on Facebook – it is printed with permission.

I would like to tell you about a wonderful man, Rev. Albert Watson Mosley who was very much responsible for the development of my Christian faith in the mid 1960's. He will celebrate his 100th birthday in early June in the Oadby area of Leicester.

Born in Skipton in 1926, he attended Keighley Boys' Grammar School (as did I much later) and trained for Ministry at Cliff College. With little pastoral experience he and his new wife Margaret were sent out to Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), to manage a circuit in the town of Wankie (now Nwanku), near the Zambezi river and Victoria Falls (more info in link below including missionary work) before returning to Keighley in 1963 to be a Minister at Lund Park Methodist Church (closed 1972), which had been my family's church since I started Sunday School in 1950 at age 3. I became the church organist there in 1961 at age 14. Albert and family remained in Keighley until 1969. I am not sure where else he became Minister after that, but I renewed contact with him and his daughter Sheila more recently via Facebook.

In 2023 a special service was held at Oadby to celebrate his 75 years as a Methodist minister, and the text of his speech can be found here <https://crowspirit.org.uk/my-dad-75-years-a-methodist-minister/> Thanks to his daughter Sheila for posting that linkSo Happy Birthday Albert ! I am sure some in this group must have come across him. *Brian Moate*

Church family

Happy Birthday to 6th June P. 29th Ian S.

Happy anniversary to Trish and Trevor who celebrate their Golden Wedding on 26th June

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.

News from MHA (Methodist Homes) Aigburth

21 Manor Road, Oadby LE2 2LL

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

The garden is looking wonderful at the moment and is full of flowers, especially roses which is why the June coffee morning is called

A Roses Ramble

Saturday 20th June 10.30 to 12.00

There will be the usual stalls – cakes, jigsaws, books, plants, £1 stall & tombola, and, weather permitting, a chance to enjoy refreshments on the decking and walks around the garden.

These fund-raising events enable the residents to enjoy a variety of activities and entertainments including live music, visits by small animals, and canal trips.

They also raise money for the upkeep of the garden. A commercial company cuts the grass and hedges but everything else is done by volunteers.



The stewards report to the Annual General Meeting – a snapshot of church life over the last year.

Your stewards, Mary Bryceland and Sue Hallam, have met with Rev'd Ian and Deacon Sharon, four times since September 2025.

Worship

Services led by the Local Worship Team included

September – Harvest, with donations to WaterAid and the foodbank

October – the annual Shoebox service for Eastern Europe

December – Carols and Christingle – donations to Action for Children

January – Mary gave a presentation about Mariam – the young woman we sponsor

March – Palm Sunday

April – a presentation by Margaret Edwards about the Food Bank held at the Congregational Church.

May – MHA Sunday

Services have been shared with Wigston Magna Methodist Church – either there or at South Wigston.

On 6th March the church hosted the World Day of Prayer service for Churches Together in South Wigston. 27 people attended.

Messy Easter took place on 2nd April and was run by Deacon Sharon, Margaret Edwards and Pat Cadney. 35 children and 20 adults enjoyed crafts and food.

Maundy Thursday: some members attended the evening service at the URC.

Good Friday: members joined the Act of Remembrance outside Tesco, and hosted a soup & hot cross bun lunch with donations for *All we can*.

At each meeting the stewards discuss the forthcoming worship plans and put forward their suggested dates and preachers.

Attendance: each quarter the number of people attending services is sent to the Circuit Office. Trevor Mildred is thanked for recording attendance each Sunday. The average attendance is 14 adults. A show of hands at a service in April revealed that the majority of people were happy to have services in the lounge some of the time. This enables people with mobility issues to attend more easily.

Social events: Christmas Fair and Christmas Capers. Ploughman's lunch for Christian Aid.

The stewards also discussed: Church and outside groups, Safeguarding, CCLi – copyright licence, Room hire, and Window displays.



HOW YOU'VE HELPED SPARK CHANGE IN THE TEA INDUSTRY



In the past year, we've drunk over 36 billion cups of tea in the UK, but many of the people who grow the tea leaves are still paid just a few pounds a day, not enough to live on.

So, one year on from the launch of Brew It Fair – what's actually changed?

At the heart of this issue is a simple fact: only 1 in 5 tea growers in Kenya earn enough to support their families and for many tea workers around the world, that still hasn't changed enough.

Over the past year, people across the UK took action for fairer tea:

- More than 100,000 people signed our petitions in support of fairer laws.
- Fairtrade supporters reached 99% of UK MPs.
- 89 MPs backed change in Parliament.
- Farmers spoke up too, including over 250 Kenyan tea growers, who wrote a message we took directly to the UK government.

We're beginning to see change, both from shoppers and from the businesses:

- Fairtrade tea sales grew by 35% in 2025: That's 549 million more Fairtrade teas chosen.
- Brands like Clipper, alongside retailers including Waitrose, Co-op and M&S, continue to show what a commitment to Fairtrade tea can look like.
- And last year, Sainsbury's switched its own-brand black tea to Fairtrade,
- These are important steps and show what's possible when shoppers and businesses act. <https://www.fairtrade.net/uk-en/>

A prayer for older people

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and shaking hand,
Pleased who know my ears today
Strain to catch the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my mind is slow.
Blessed are they with cheery smile
Who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who make it known
That I'm loved and respected, and not alone.

Several different versions of this prayer are to be found on the internet.



Rubens *Praying hands* <https://picryl.com/media/rubens-praying-hands-f31031>

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:** 8th & 22nd **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.

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.