

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



July & August 2026

Cover picture: Once again I make no apology for including this picture of sunflowers as the war in Ukraine continues for a fifth summer.

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

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 July

Sunday 5th 10.15 Richard Gill (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 12th 10.30 At Wigston Magna MC, Cross Street LE18 2HE. Led by Rev. Liam Dacre-Davis (No service at South Wigston). Bring your own picnic lunch for afterwards.

6.30 Oadby Trinity – Circuit farewell service for Rev's Liam Dacre-Davis and Derek McClean. Followed by refreshments – donations of cakes are welcomed! *Also via Zoom using the usual link.*

Sunday 19th 10.15 Summer songs of praise with hymns and readings chosen by the congregation.

6.30 *Circuit online evening service led by Rev. Ian Hu*

Sunday 28th 10.15 Oscar Fortune

6.30 *Circuit online evening service led by Rev. Kim Alexander*

Worship in August

Sunday 2nd 10.15 Miriam Stevenson (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 9th 10.15 Rev. Ian Hu - Holy communion. With members of WMMC

6.30 *Circuit online evening service led by Rev. Andrew Farrington*

Sunday 16th 10.15 Deacon Sharon Dilley (downstairs)

6.30 *Circuit online evening service led by Rev. Ian Hu*

Sunday 23rd 10.15 Richard Cawthorn

6.30 *Circuit online evening service led by Miriam Stevenson*

Sunday 30th 10.30 Circuit welcome service at Oadby Trinity, LE2 4LA. Welcoming Rev. Shirlyn Toppin (new Superintendent) & Deacon Karen McBride. **No service at South Wigston**

6.30 *Circuit online evening service led by Rev. Andrew Farrington*

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



A message from Rev'd Ian

In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society at Aldersgate Street, where one was reading from Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change that God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation. And an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

– John Wesley, Journal Entry for 24 May 1738

Dear Friends,

I was recently invited to speak with a women's fellowship group and was asked to speak about John Wesley and the creation of the Methodist Church. The group was hoping to broaden its knowledge about the origins of the Methodist Church and to increase their understanding of Methodism. It had been many years since I had created a presentation about the life of John Wesley, a Church of England clergyman, and how his life experience shaped what would become the Methodist Church.

John Wesley felt troubled and unhappy about his faith. His journal entry for 24 May 1738 included the quotation at the top of this letter. He felt his heart 'strangely warmed' at this meeting in Aldersgate Street in London, and it was here that he finally realised that he truly did feel loved and accepted by God. This experience inspired the beginnings what would become the Methodist Church, and we as Methodists emphasise that God's promises of love and faithfulness through Christ are what strengthens us and sustains us.

It's very easy to sometimes get caught up in the everyday pressures and obligations of life. The message of God's promised love can often be pushed aside as we are confronted by mixed messages in media or examples of inequality in social policy and instances of racism, sexism, homophobia and bigotry. However, God's promises do not waver. Jesus uses example after example in the Gospels of how God's love is always present and never wavering. The image of the parent waiting with outstretched arms when the wayward child returns home after squandering his fortune in the Parable of the Prodigal Son is a perfect example of the constant power of God's love despite

our own mistakes or bad decisions. Sometimes, we can be our own strongest self critics while God just keeps on loving us for exactly who we are. And there are always examples of profound acts of love and kindness around us!

In May 2018, Bishop Michael Curry of the Episcopal Church of America preached at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. In his sermon, Bishop Curry pondered the immense possibilities when 'love is the way:'

"...Think of a world where Love is the way. Imagine our homes and families where Love is the way. Imagine neighbourhoods and communities where Love is the way. Imagine governments and nations where Love is the way. Imagine business and commerce where Love is the way. Imagine this tired, old world... when Love is the way... then no child in this world will go to bed hungry ever again..."

Framing everything we do and say in love is the easiest thing to do... yet it is the most difficult thing to do. At face value it may even seem a bit unrealistic... but is it? Imagine hearing stories of people who need to be interviewed at the Job Centre, or screened for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for persons with disabilities... and these people coming away with stories of being treated with respect and love. What a transformation that could be!

When we finish our worship on Sunday mornings, we are ready to begin a new week refreshed and empowered by the Spirit. Our Sunday worship is important to re-connect with one another and especially to re-connect with God. Our prayers, hymns, reflections on Scripture and our fellowship with one another prepare us to go forth in service to God's kingdom here in South Wigston and to be the best examples of God's love through Jesus Christ that we can be. May we frame our behaviour and our interaction with one another in peace and love... and thank you for being the Church!

Every blessing always,

Ian

New President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

The Methodist Conference elected the Revd Mark Slaney to serve as President and Caroline Stead to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference opened in Telford on 27 June 2026.

The Revd Mark Slaney currently serves as Chair of the Scotland District and the Shetland District. **Caroline Stead** is a local preacher in the Yorkshire West District, where she is also the Synod Secretary.

Church family

Happy Birthday to

July 12th Beryl, 18th Pat, 30th Brenda, August 28th Mary B.

Happy anniversary to

July 24th Helen & Chris D'A, Hannah & Peter
August 4th Donna & Andy, 25th Gaynor & Chris, 26th Rachel & Jason

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.

Open Secret Garden coffee morning

Saturday 18th July 10.30 to 12.00

Music in the Garden with refreshments

Saturday 22nd August 3 to 4.30

Painting in the Garden

On Wednesday afternoons, from 1.30 to 4, in July and August local amateur artists paint in the garden and residents are encouraged to join them. They are led by Helen Newton, a local professional artist. On Saturday 12th September there will be a sale of some of the artworks – artists are asked to donate one of their paintings.



The Aigburth Echo is published monthly and contains news about the residents and staff. A copy is on the Charities board in the lounge.

From Kerry at Rainbows

Thank you for your wonderful donation of £175.00 from South Wigston Methodist Church.



[The donation was made from the Bates Trust; a thank you certificate is on the Charities board in the lounge]

I wanted to share a short story about Alfie — one of the incredible children your donation will help in 2026.

Alfie was a typical three-year-old. But in August 2022, an ordinary evening at home changed everything. After a simple fall from the sofa — something he'd done countless times, Alfie suffered rare and irreversible damage to his spine, leaving him paralysed from the neck down. He spent time in intensive care as doctors worked tirelessly to stabilise him, and was eventually diagnosed with Fibrocartilaginous Embolism, an extremely rare condition where a small piece of bone blocks the blood supply to the spinal column.

Just before Christmas 2022, after seven months in hospital, Alfie was finally well enough to leave — but his home wasn't yet suitable for his new care needs. Rainbows stepped in, offering a safe and supportive place for Alfie and his family to stay until their new home was ready. He spent seven months enjoying the facilities at our hospice and continues to receive support from Rainbows as his condition is life-limiting.

Families like Alfie's tell us every day about how life-changing this support is — and it's thanks to people like you choosing Rainbows that we're able to be there when families need us most.

If you would like to learn more about the work that we do here at Rainbows, I would love to either show you around the hospice or pop along and give you a virtual tour at one of your groups, please let me know if this is something you would like to explore more.

Kerry Laurie, Community Fundraiser

t: 01509 974 319 m. 07512317239 Email: kerry.laurie@rainbows.co.uk

Alfie's full story can be found here <https://www.rainbows.co.uk/how-we-help/who-we-help/alfie>

Houghton-on-the-Hill Methodist Church is closing

Houghton-on-the-Hill Methodist Church stands in the heart of the village and has been a centre of Christian witness since 1852. It is a modest yet charming building that has over the years been greatly loved and cared-for by its small but active congregation. The church has played an important part in village life with many local organisations using it as their base.



Houghton's little Chapel played a significant part in 20th century Methodism, as it was where, at the age of seventeen, Dr. Leslie D. Weatherhead gave his first sermon. Dr. Weatherhead, who grew up in Leicester, became one of Methodism's most charismatic preachers and the author of many influential books. He was so nervous that day, (September 3rd 1911), that as he preached he "picked at the cord sewn round the cushion on which the Bible rested, until inch by inch I had it all off."

Now it is the right time for a moving on. Over many years members have faithfully maintained Ministry and the Mission of God in the village and have recently developed closer links with the Methodists in the neighbouring village

of Great Glen. The worshipping community is planning to 'cease to meet' on the 31st August 2026 with a subsequent celebration of the almost 200 years of a Methodist Building in Houghton being celebrated on Sunday Oct..... It is envisaged that the congregation will then unite on the Great Glen site with some expecting to relocate elsewhere in the UK.

The members are therefore requesting the Circuit Meeting and District to put in place the necessary protocols to acknowledge that there will no longer be a Methodist building in Houghton on the Hill, rather that ministry will continue in other environmentally sustainably ways, based in the premises they share at Great Glen.



Photos by Neil Crutchley

The members wish to thank the Circuit for its continued and ongoing support of the work in Houghton on the Hill and Great Glen.

At the Circuit Meeting held on 11th June the following Resolution was proposed and was Agreed by all those present:

That the Leicester Trinity Circuit Meeting support those worshipping at Houghton on the Hill in their desire to cease to meet for Sunday Worship on

the Houghton Site on 31st August 2026 and as they continue to discover the Mission of God from a Methodist perspective in partnership with those worshipping at Great Glen.

They request that the Leicester Trinity Circuit meeting support their decision and implement the necessary protocols to release them from the responsibility of Managing Trustees of the Houghton on the Hill premises as soon as possible after 31st August 2026.

Leicester Centenaries and Anniversaries

Leicester's historic Guildhall (dating back to 1390) is celebrating its 100th year as a public museum. After being saved from demolition in the 1800s, it officially reopened as a museum on 19 May 1926.

2026 also marks the Centenary of Leicester as a city and the formation of the Diocese of Leicester when St Martin's church was designated a Cathedral.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the National Space Centre.

News from Link to Hope

This is a wonderful project that has had a dramatic effect on people's lives. If you have no running water, how do you wash your clothes let alone your bedding?

Gheorgie lives with his wife Aliona. Both spouses are sick and lonely, they have no children and no help of any kind. The Washing Machine Ministry helps them by taking their clothes and bedding, washing them and returning them often with food packages or other help.

The families that are supported in this way are so grateful. Gheorgie wanted to send many blessings to those that support him and his family.



Link to Hope is the charity to whom we send our shoeboxes in October.

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:** 6th & 20th July, 3rd, 17th & 31st August
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 cooler 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.

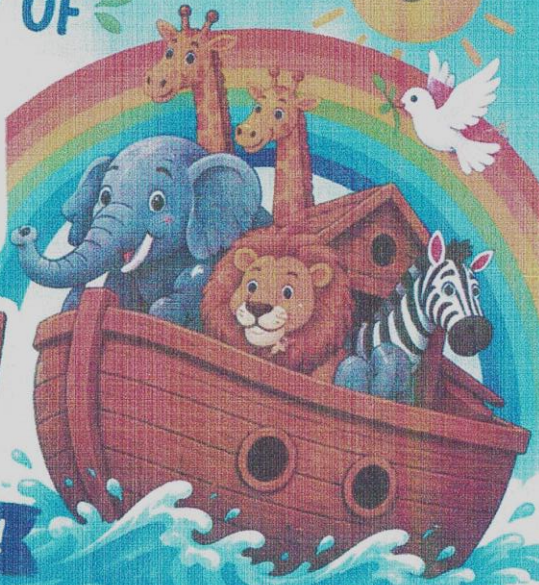
Saturday morning walking group (non-church) The group meets at 9.15 and sets off at 9.30 for a walk of up to 1 hour returning to church for coffee and chat. Walkers go at their own pace. No charge. Mary B. and Sue C. are regular walkers – please ask them for more details.

MESSY
CHURCH

CELEBRATING
THE STORY OF

NOAH AND THE ARK!

Faith, Fun and Family for Everyone!



FUN ACTIVITIES!



1. NOAH'S ARK CRAFT

Build and decorate
your very own ark
to take home!



2. RAINBOW ART

Create a beautiful rainbow
to remember God's promise!



3. WATER PLAY

Splash, pour and play
with water!
(Please bring a towel
and spare clothes)



4. CHALKING FUN

Draw a rainbow
and pictures of God's
amazing creation!

AND
LOTS
MORE!



5. STORIES, SONGS AND GAMES

Listen, sing, play and
learn together!

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!

— Genesis 6-9 —



DATE:

FRIDAY 31st JULY 2026



TIME:

11am - 1pm



WHERE:

SOUTH WIGSTON
METHODIST CHURCH

***BRING A
PICNIC!**

Bring your picnic
and enjoy lunch
together! ❤️