

The Beacon

News & Views, Leicester Trinity

Circuit

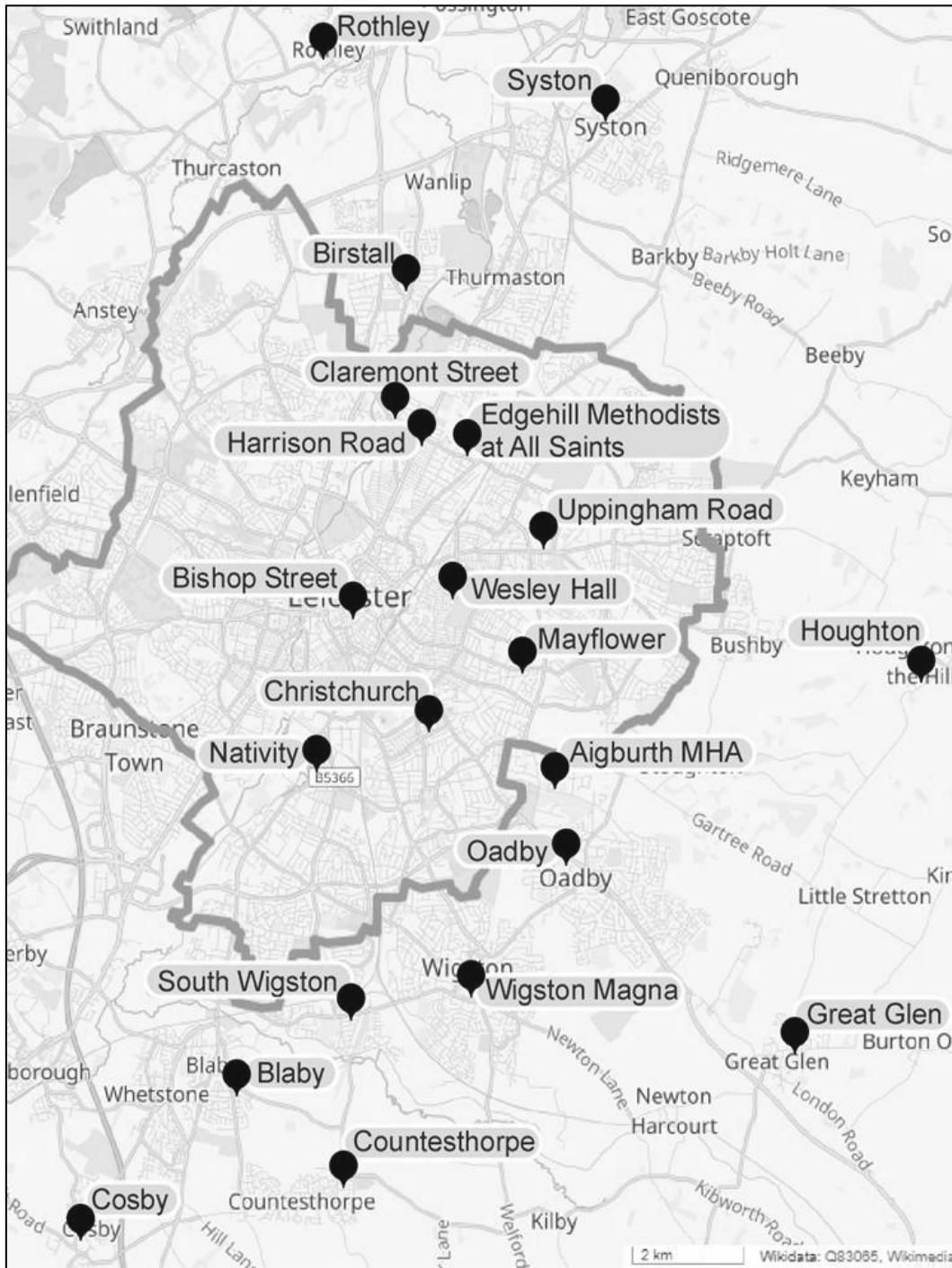


Autumn 2017

Quarterly Newsletter

www.leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk

MAP OF CIRCUIT CHURCHES



LEICESTER TRINITY CIRCUIT

The Beacon

Autumn 2017

Superintendent's letter



To All our friends

Sunday 1st of September 2017 marked the beginning of a new Leicester Trinity Circuit with a Circuit Service. The well-attended occasion took place at Christchurch graced by the Chair of District Rev. Helen Cameron and ecumenical friends. The Service also included the Induction of both myself as Superintendent of the new circuit and my colleague Jenny Impey who was also joining the Ministerial team. May I say that we are grateful to our colleagues in the circuit, and the churches for welcoming us. As we celebrate this new beginning, there are a lot of expectations for us Lay and Clergy from the Methodist community in Leicester and the District. The first challenge facing the new venture is bringing confidence and assurance to the congregations that this is possible and it can be achieved. This will take some time as we work together as a larger circuit to achieve our mission.

This calls for patience, listening and empathy towards one another as we journey together. As we are a people of faith this is possible. In our attempt to listen to what God is saying to us in the Leicester Trinity Circuit there is an urgent need for a shared purpose with a shared vision. As a response to this quest the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) has organised a Vision Day/ Retreat on Saturday 7th October for prayer and discerning what our priorities are as a new circuit. One day is not enough to answer all the questions we may be asking ourselves but this will be a catalyst for different programmes within the life of the Circuit. I'm hopeful that whatever comes out of the Vision Day will be embraced by all our structures. Among the tasks to consider will be training in

leadership and Discipleship which are programmes that are readily available for us our Circuit as well as District. As CLT we are open to suggestions and input from all our members who are willing to be part of this. I'm confident that in our team we have experienced and capable Christians who are willing to help in various ways.

Finally, may I call on all our churches in Leicester Trinity Circuit that we see this as an opportunity for mission and to explore innovative ideas of growing disciples and achieve together through consistent prayer.

With every Blessing Rev Edson

FROM REV DAVID VALE

A very big thank you for all the good wishes, cards and gifts as I left the Leicester Trinity Circuit. I am so grateful to my colleagues, Dave Warnock, Fran and Saidu for making the farewell service at Wigston Magna was such a memorable occasion. It was good to be reminded that retiring or more properly in Methodist language, 'sitting down' does not mark the end of ministry but rather the beginning of a new phase. After a breathing space I am looking forward to discovering what that new phase of ministry will be like.

Here in Stalybridge most of the boxes have been opened and the house is beginning to take shape.

My new address is:

3 Pine Road,
Stalybridge,
SK15 1UR

My best wishes to all of you for the future.

Yours in Christ

David G Vale

When; Where; What.

Sat	Nov 11		Syston	Autumn Fair
Sat	Nov 25		Syston	Craft Fair
Fri	Nov 24	6.30 pm	Nativity	Drama
Sat	Nov 25			
Sat	Nov 25		Birstall	Christmas Tree Festival
Sun	Nov 26			
Sat	Dec 2	7.30 pm	Oadby	Christmas Concert
Sat	Dec 2 Dec3	10-4.30pm 2—5 pm	Blaby	Christmas Tree Festival
Sun				
Sat	Dec 9	9.45— noon	Syston	Action for Children Fair
Sat	Dec 9	10.30— 1pm	Nativity	Christmas Fair
Thurs	Dec 14		Syston	Christmas Concert

Regular Prayer meetings



Day	When	Time	Venue	
Tues	4th of month	1,45pm	Syston	Church Julian Prayers
Tues	Monthly	1.30pm	Wesley Hall	Church Bible Study
Tues	3rd of month	7.15pm	Halstead	Bible discussions
Wed	Weekly		Blaby	House group Bible Study
Wed	1st of month	11am	Wig, Mag.	Church Service
Wed	2nd of month	10.30am	Mayflower	Devotional room Healing service
Thurs	Monthly	7.30pm	118 London Rd. Oadby	Julian prayers 2718948
Thurs	Weekly	10am	Christchurch	Prayers
Sat	Weekly	10.15am	Oadby	Meeting room Prayers

AREN'T WE LUCKY!

Ministers bring a wealth of insights and enthusiasm to Methodist circuits around the country. The new Leicester Trinity Circuit is gifted with six different and talented ministerial staff. Their profiles and pictures are on the Circuit website, www.leicestertrinitycircuit.org. Here's a little bit more that you may not find out on our Circuit site.

What is your favourite thing to do on your day off?

Edson Dube: Watch football, and visit different places of interest.

Jenny Impey: To be on the water, preferably under sail

Saidu Kanu: Catch up with friends and relatives via Facebook, Whatsapp and telephone.

Paula Hunt: Go out walking with the dog. A friend and I are part-way through completing the National Forest Way.

Fran Rhys: Walk a section of the Leicestershire Round, or get stuck into a novel.

Dave Warnock: Sailing with Jane or a bike ride to a place with great cake and coffee.

What three theological books on your bookshelf do you treasure the most?

Edson: *The Reflective Disciple* (Roger Walton); *Relational Leadership, A Biblical Model for Leadership Service* (Walter C Wright); *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* (David J. Bosch)

Jenny: *Life Together* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer); *Under the Unpredictable Plant* (Eugene Peterson); *God has a Dream* (Desmond Tutu). And I'm assuming the Bible and Journal of John Wesley are taken as read!

Saidu: *If You Want to Walk on Water You Have to Get Out of the Boat* (J. Ortberg); *Gather Together in My Name* (Maya Angelou); *Ministry Burnout* (J.A. Sanford).

Paula: Different books have been important at different times. I go back to the books by Kenneth Bailey who lived in the Middle East. Also, *Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace* (Miroslav Volf).

Fran: *Oxford Bible Commentary* (Barton and Muddiman); *Prayers to Sophia* (Joyce Rupp); *Sexism and God-Talk* (Rosemary Radford Ruether).

Dave: *The Revelatory Text* (Sandra M Schneiders); *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical* (Shane Claiborne); *More Than Meets the Eye: The Campaign to Control Gender Translation in Bibles*, (A. Nyland).

Who do you admire who is still living?

Edson: Archbishop Desmond Tutu is my inspiration; for much of his life he has fought and challenged injustice in his native South Africa.

Jenny: Often the last person I met! But I do have an enduring admiration for Desmond Tutu, a pastor and a preacher who ‘grew where God planted him’ and offered appropriate, contextual ministry wherever he was placed.

Saidu: Desmond Mpilo Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Tutu believes that forgiving and being reconciled are not about pretending things are other or turning a blind eye. Reconciliation exposes awfulness, abuse, hurt and truth. Forgiving is not forgetting; it’s remembering and not using your right to hit back. It’s a chance at a new beginning.

Paula: Is it too flippant to say my dog? She assumes that everyone is going to be her friend, (and is usually right!), is always ready for adventure, throws herself wholeheartedly into whatever the day brings, and doesn’t hold grudges.

Fran: Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal and Professor Nicola Slee, as they are both liberation theologians who inspire me, and kind people.

Dave: If we believe in resurrection and eternal life, then Revd Angela Shier-Jones for her inspiring passion, courage, energy, enthusiasm, love intelligence, compassion and support! Otherwise the Revd Dr Jen Smith, for her humour, intelligence, faith, commitment and passion.

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

All Saints' Eve this year sees the 500th Anniversary of that day – October 31st 1517 – when Martin Luther's famous *95 Theses* were published in the German university town of Wittenburg. Luther's intention had been to start a debate with his academic colleagues about the abuses of the system of indulgences and the exercise of Papal authority. Within four years he had been excommunicated by Pope Leo X and summoned by the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, to attend the Diet of Worms, where he refused to recant what he had written: "*Here I stand; I can do no other*". Subsequently Luther was to translate the New Testament into German and to write some powerful hymns for congregational singing such as *Ein Feste Burg ist Unser Gott* and *Aus tiefer Not shrei ich zu dir*. (For English translations of these hymns see *Singing the Faith* 623 and 433 respectively). *Martin Luther: Music and Mission* was the title of a lecture delivered by the Revd John Swarbrick at the Methodist Sacramental Fellowship Public Meeting during the recent Methodist Conference in Birmingham. Copies of the lecture are available from me at £2.50 each.

A recent article in *Methodist Recorder* asserts that without Luther there would have been no Methodism since it was while listening to a reading from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans that John Wesley felt his heart "strangely warmed". On behalf of the Joint Liturgical Group the Revd Norman Wallwork has produced some resources to help us commemorate this significant anniversary. These can be accessed at www.jlg.org.uk. Amongst this material is to be found the following collect:

Most mighty God, our safe stronghold and defence, who revealed to your servant, Martin Luther, the glory of the gospel; renew in us the work of your Spirit, that being justified by the gift of faith and saved by the gift of grace we may live together in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Howard Smith

howardsmith@talktalk.net



**ACTION FOR CHILDREN CHRISTMAS FAYRE
SYSTON METHODIST CHURCH.**

December 9th 9.45—noon

Santa and lots of stalls



Please come and support our Methodist Charity

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

They deserve all our help.

People Page

An invitation from Her Majesty the Queen



JULIUS JAMES (member at Oadby)

It was the greatest surprise of my life when the invitation arrived by post; an envelope franked with “ER Buckingham Palace”! I thought it was a mistake when I opened it and read the invitation which said, *“I am delighted to inform you that your name has been submitted by the Bishop of Leicester to be one of the Maundy recipients, and I very much hope that you will be able to accept this honour on Thursday 13th April 2017. The*

Queen and Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Royal Maundy Service in Leicester Cathedral at 11.00 am”.

It was such an honour to receive the specially minted coins for her Majesty the Queen’s 91st Birthday.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and experience which I will always remember; and I can say to my children and grandchildren that we met the Queen, and went on to lunch at the King Power Stadium.

RICHARD DUNN (member at Mayflower)

A special service to celebrate Richard's 40th anniversary of playing the organ for our services was a very joyous occasion. Richard gave a virtuoso performance at the organ during the service. John Aldridge and Graham Tomkinson thanked Richard for his 40 years of service.

Richard thanked all the Mayflower members and congregation for their heartfelt thanks , and cards to commemorate this special occasion.

Editors: Have you thought of contacting ‘Art Serve’ who give long service awards for serving the community. Look at their wed site

CAMEROON CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S AND MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday 17th September Syston Methodist Church welcomed the Cameroon Christian Women's Fellowship and the Men's Fellowship, for their annual Inauguration and Dedication service. Over 300 people mainly from the Cameroon Community, plus about 50 young people, filled the church with colour, joy and singing. The sermon was given by Reverend Rachel Parkinson (former Circuit Superintendent) assisted by Rev Edward Sakwe who also used to be a presbyter in the Leicester North Circuit.

Rachel was very influential with the CCWF in its inception in Leicester and has kept close contact with them since.

Edward is from the Cameroon and spent three or four years in the North Circuit before moving to Cannock.

The service, which was rather long but very enjoyable and spirit filled, was followed by lunch provided by the CCWF. Some very interesting flavours and smells!! Every available room in the church and the café and upstairs was filled with people having food and fellowship.

Altogether a wonderful day of celebration.

See the back of the newsletter for photo.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Anne and Jo would like to give you a warm welcome to this first edition of Beacon the magazine for the Leicester Trinity Circuit.

You'll notice some changes to the format. We hope that you like them. We are going to continue with colour pics on the outside, but you'll notice that there is a four page spread of colour photos (with an accompanying title) in the middle pages.

What we might do every so often is do what we've done with Great Glen this quarter and concentrate on the changes that have happened in that Church. So if something major is happening in your church let us know in plenty of time. Other than that each church's articles etc will be in alphabetical order as on the Plan.

Because we're now a large Circuit we are probably going to have to edit articles somewhat more than they've done in the past---so be warned our redacting pens will be at the ready!! Anyway, we hope you enjoy catching up with the news of all the churches in the Circuit and will continue to support Beacon in the future.

LOCAL PREACHERS AND WORSHIP LEADERS NEWS

The Local Preachers met on September 7th at Mayflower church, joining together for the 1st time.

It was good to put faces to the new names on the Plan.

Certainly from the point of view of the North side it was a joyous occasion to be among such a varied group of LP'S , WL's and Presbyters that seem to reflect the great City of Leicester that we serve.

Both secretaries from the previous circuits were away and Margaret Vernon (who keeps tabs on the Worship Leaders) took the minutes.

Edson Dube opened the session with Holy communion, as is our tradition at the start of a new connexional year.

Discussions took place about the new way for local preachers to send in their availability for services and how the plan would work with the new software. The Plan would now have phone No's and email addresses, but no Street addresses.

New people; Brian Wardle and Moleen Chikumba who feel the calling to be LP's were interviewed, and it was agreed that they should start the course and go 'On Note'. Douglas Bett' was also put forward but unfortunately was not able to attend the meeting. Hopefully his interview will take place at the next meeting. I think everyone was impressed with how they spoke about their individual sense of calling. Miriam Stevenson asked for volunteers to 'Mentor' these new candidates. Some people came forward, but if anyone else feels called to this vital role, please contact Miriam or Howard Smith.

It was noted that those 'On Trial' were providing very successful services and were continuing with their studies. It was agreed that Graham Tennant would move from 'On Note' to 'On Trial'

PROFILES AND NEWS FROM CHURCHES:



TOP STORY

GREAT GLEN—THE CHURCH at the CROSS

HAPPENINGS

The restoration of our 1827 listed chapel is nearing completion (Alleluia!!) and excitement is mounting. The reopening festivities are scheduled for the weekend of 23 and 24 September, so will have taken place by the time you read this.

It looks as though the end result will be very pleasing and provide a congenial home for our worship and base for our mission, as well as serving the wider community. There are only bits and bobs to finish, the new carpets have been fitted already and 50 comfortable new chairs are due to be delivered next week. (No more bony pews – alleluia!)

The great day (or rather 2 days = 1 weekend) has come and gone. We seem to have been waiting for it for so long and it feels as though it was over in a flash. But what an inspiration and a delight it was.

Saturday 23 September saw the Rededication Service conducted by our minister, Rev Fran Rhys, with Rev Edson Dube, the incoming Superintendent Minister of the Leicester Trinity Circuit, as our preacher. The church, already attractively and ingeniously decorated for harvest by June Murray and Elizabeth Gilbert, looked superb. In the presence of Councillor Grahame Spendlove-Mason, Chairman of Harborough District Council, our architect, John Dodson RIBA AABC of Parkinson Dodson of Tugby, and Mrs Vicki Dolphin of Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust, and various other distinguished guests who had helped us achieve our goal, a full congregation enjoyed a creative liturgy prepared by Fran and were inspired by a challenging sermon from Edson, as well as enthusiastically singing hymns and worship songs specially chosen for the occasion. We then happily made our way to the hall for delightful refreshments laid on by our caterer, Claire.

Sunday 24th dawned bright and warm but looking suitably autumnal, just right for Harvest Thanksgiving. The church was packed for an imaginative service which

included a drama performed by members of 'Life' (our youth group) and a solo by Emma Davey as well as the usual ingredients. The singing of the well-loved harvest hymns and one or two more modern songs ably supported by our visiting organist, David Burley, (for whose help we are most grateful). This was followed by a delicious lunch provided by church members for themselves and their guests. In turn, lunch gave way to 'Open Church' in the afternoon for those who had been unable to make the service, when over 100 people came to admire the alterations and improvements and were offered tea, coffee and home-made cakes. Everyone exclaimed how lovely the church now looks, how warm and welcoming, and yet expressing reverence and a sense of God's presence, as well as being faithful to its historic context.

Our very grateful thanks are due to everyone who helped to make the weekend such an outstanding success, but above all we say: 'THANKS BE TO GOD!'





BIRSTALL

Our Sunday morning services start at 10:30 am, we are joined by the Sunday Club for a short while after which they share breakfast & their own activities. -

Our evening services are at 6:00 pm on alternative Sundays.

Wednesday morning Communion is held in the lounge 9:30 — 10:00 am.

Our Coffee Shop is open Tuesday — Saturday 10:00 am – 12:00pm, serving Fair Trade tea & coffee with home made cakes.

We have a very busy pre-school & Special Needs Play group meeting regularly during the week.

Open to any retired people in the community, the Lunch Club provides an opportunity to meet & chat plus share a hot two-course lunch, run by volunteers. The group meets every Wednesday & also provides transport for those that are less able.

Youth groups, include Girls Brigade, Boys Brigade & Sunday Morning Breakfast club.

We have a number of Social Groups meeting during the week, who with outside booking bring over 1500 people on to our premises each week.

Our Christmas celebrations start this year with our annual Christmas Festival Tree on 25th & 26th November and continue through to our Carol Service & main Christmas celebrations.



BLABY

Blaby is a relatively modern chapel, built in the sixties when new housing was being developed on that side of Blaby. It has a multi-purpose main hall which forms the church on Sundays and in the week is used

for activities from choir rehearsals to zumba, and from yoga to children's birthday parties. The last often come complete with bouncy castles! Our own activities include Tiddlers, a weekly pre-school for youngsters and parents/carers, a lively Bible Study house fellowship and a fortnightly mixed fellowship called CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other). We have *Messy Church* once a month on a Sunday afternoon and visit the local Extra Care home for a short service every couple of months.

In July we were sad to say goodbye to Rev David Vale as he started his retirement, marking this with a barbecue and a presentation of coffee-making equipment. Time flies and now Rev Jenny Impey seems to have been here for a long time and it has been a real pleasure to welcome her back to Leicester.

Looking ahead, it won't be long until our Christmas Tree Festival, when we welcome many friends from the village and the circuit. This year the Festival will be held on Saturday 2nd December 10am – 4.30pm, and Sunday 3rd December 2pm - 5pm. Each year we support a charity and this year all of the proceeds from the Festival will be divided between three charities :- Blood Bikers, Diabetes UK and Parkinson's Disease Research.

This annual occasion is a very happy one with plenty to see, some things to buy and good food at reasonable prices all the time. Although we aim to raise as much money as we can, entry is FREE.

Hope to see you.

Cameo programme, Thursdays at 2.30pm:

19 th October	Janet Hargis
2 nd November	Fiona Stainthorpe – Facing Africa
16 th November	David Scott – When wireless was king
7 th December	Brenda Kind
21 st December	Carol service and faith tea.



BISHOP STREET

Bishop Street Methodist Church only closes while most of us are asleep. Daily it is open for a variety of purposes, which are encompassed by its mission statement: Serving people in Leicester city centre.

There is the Chapel Café within the beautiful sanctuary of the church, open 10 am – 4 pm and staffed by people seeking to re-enter employment. Daily there are at least two support groups meeting at the church for people recovering from addictions, and a wide variety of groups and activities use the premises. Tall exhibition boards adorn one side of the sanctuary, and the church's Art and Spirituality worker organises exhibitions, workshops and creative worship. Mid-week worship takes place on Wednesdays, with a communion service on the first Wednesday of the month. Prayers are said on Mondays and Thursdays at 1.00 pm.

The church is over 200 years old and has an excellent newly-restored organ and a vestry redolent of the early 19th century with heritage photographs and display items. The Sunday congregation is made up of members from four continents and has a small, lively Junior Church.

Called to Listen?

Bishop Street Methodist Church would like to offer the opportunity for people to be listened to in the Chapel Cafe or in the Little Vestry. Listening can be accessed by anyone using the Chapel Cafe or who's dropped in to the church. The proposal is for there to be two listening slots of up to 45" each, Monday to Friday. Would you like to offer 1 ½ hours' listening per week, or per fortnight?

Or perhaps you'd like a listening ear yourself?

The listening service is initiated by Bishop Street MC's Forward Planning Meeting, Rev Fran Rhys, Mrs Audrey Baker, and Mrs Spiwe Ruwodo. Audrey Baker, a professional psychotherapist in the psycho-dynamic school manages counselling services at both Birstall and Syston Methodist Churches. Audrey is a local preacher. Spiwe is a mental health social worker and a local preacher in training. Audrey will be overseeing the listening service at Bishop Street Methodist Church.

Why not come along to an introductory session about what would be involved in being a listener? This will take place at Bishop Street MC on Saturday 28 October 10.30 – 12.00 in the Brandon Room or Vestry. It isn't necessary to be a member of a Methodist Church to come along to this session. However, being in sympathy with the Christian faith would be helpful. There are no strings attached to attending this session – it's a chance to explore if it's something with which you'd like to be involved.

If you'd like to take things further, we plan to hold four training sessions in listening skills of 2 hours each in the month of November and for the listening service to start in December.

Rev. Fran Rhys



CHRISTCHURCH

A Baptist-Methodist Ecumenical Church

We aim to be inclusive, non-judgemental and supportive of everyone who finds a home with us; warm and welcoming to anyone who comes to visit. Our worship and activities are diverse and varied. The first and third Sundays in the month, at the same time as worship in the main worship area, we have 'Space' services: contemporary worship in our church hall. Our evening services might be in the main worship area, or cafe style in the hall or atrium. We are seeking different ways to be 'church'.

We are currently celebrating our 25th Anniversary as an LEP and we have been inviting former ministers back to preach during the course of the year.

25 years of Traidcraft has also been cause for celebration at Christchurch.

Reverend Edson Dube is our minister; we are very pleased to welcome him and his wife Sammie.

CHRISTCHURCH ACTIVITIES ~ you are warmly invited to these.

Please phone the contact person for details.

MONDAY: 6.00 Rainbows Ruth Smith (2214905): 7.30 Guides Fiona Weir (2703540/07914 671492): 8.00 Home Group Alan Stead (270 2244)

TUESDAY: 9.30 Parents & Toddlers (school terms) Helen Ashley (2880041): 12.30 Luncheon Club for the Elderly Olwen Simons (2711018): 8.00 Home Group

WEDNESDAY: 7.30 Wesley Guild (Oct-March): Trevor Forster (270 4014)

THURSDAY: 10.00 Prayer meeting Alan Stead (270 2244): 10.00 Art Group: 10.45 Home Group: 2:00 Contemporary Theology Group—Keene Room (2nd Thursday ONLY): 8.00 Home Group: **Young Adults Group Contact: Andrea and Jenny - youngadults@christchurchcp.org.uk**



CLAREMONT STREET

Claremont Street Methodist Church

celebrated 137 years of Worship last February. Each week a coffee morning is held on Friday from 10.30—12.00 . From September to June fortnightly a Senior Friendship Group meet from 2.30—4.00 with speakers on a variety of subjects.

On Sunday December 10th we will be holding our “Toys on the Table” service. This is always well supported and many toys donated.

The church has a loyal congregation and one of the assets at Claremont is the warmth and fellowship of its people. There are links with other Christian denominations in the area, i.e. Anglican & Catholic.

Attached to the church is a large hall which is used regularly by the Soar Valley Music Centre



COSBY



We at Cosby are slowly getting into the new year.

Our ladies bright hour has had a couple of meetings, the first by Mr Dave Mutton, on the weather, very interesting and topical. The second was by our friend Oscar Fortune who gave us an insight into Antigua, and also how it fared

in the hurricanes that ravaged that area.

We welcomed our new minister Rev Jenny Impey on Sept 10th and on 24th we welcomed the Superintendent Rev Edson Dube. It was a pleasure to meet them both.

Our harvest services were held on 24th Sept, and the gifts were split between the Salvation Army and the local food bank.

The church looked lovely with the flowers and the window decorations.



COUNTESTHORPE

COUNTESTHORPE REGULAR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Sunday services

All age Worship

Café services

Annual gift service for charity

Thursday evening bible study - once a month

Fellowship on alternate Tuesdays

Coffee shop every Saturday morning

Occasional Saturday and Sunday lunches

Host to the village food bank

Christmas tree festival with singers and musicians from Greenfield school

Various fund -raising events

Regular articles for the village newspaper

Many village groups use our premises - including the community based weekly luncheon club

We have been looking forward to the new circuit magazine 'The Beacon' - a new era and new friends to meet.

As you know Beacons were strategically positioned on high ground around the country to be lit as a warning sign to the population of possible invasions etc. - of course, the circuit Beacon will be quite different - a sign of hope and Christian togetherness.

Sadly we had to say Good Bye, or hopefully au revoir, to our minister David and saying 'Godbweye' on his retirement. (It seems that the words Good Bye come from the old English term Godbweye, a shortened version of 'God be with you'.)

Our new minister Jenny has already started her work with us, along with Cosby, Blaby and Wigston Magna and we gave her a very warm welcome. Many of us met her when she popped into our Garden Party at the beginning of September. The weather was kind to us so it made for a gentle summer afternoon. The Tuesday Fellowship had already had their Garden Party in July when they said goodbye to our retiring minister David and they presented him with a rose appropriately called 'Fellowship'.

We enjoyed an entertaining evening playing Long Alley Skittles - the buffet supper was fantastic with enough chips for an army!

The Harvest was next on the agenda on 17th September - this was also Jenny's first service at Countesthorpe. The display of fruit and vegetables gave quite 'a lift' to the chapel not to mention the fragrance in the air. As usual the occasion was followed by a Harvest Supper on the Monday evening. (We always use the best crockery for such occasions!) Any non-perishable foods were donated to the village Food Bank which is based at our premises.

On the first of October we held our second Café Service in our schoolroom starting at 10 am. and the following Sunday will be our Chapel Anniversary when we will be welcoming the Rev. Gordon Webb to lead our worship. Gordon was our minister in the 1980s.

So what's next? We have one or two things planned including a Cake & Book Sale, an 'in house' Curry Night, a joint village Remembrance Service and a meeting in November to decide on future services and activities and, dare I say, early plans for Advent!



The 2012 Quinquennial Inspection of our premises in Edgehill Road, Leicester revealed that a large sum of money would need to be spent to bring the premises up to an acceptable standard. As a result we approached the Anglican congregation at All Saints on Gleneagles Avenue to see if would be possible to use their premises. We were welcomed with open arms and have been worshipping and holding our Coffee Shop there since November 2013. Services are held most Sunday mornings at 10.15 a.m. and our Coffee Shop is open every Thursday from 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon. Why not pop in if you are in the area?

We regularly join in activities with Belgrave and Rushey Mead Churches Together

**BRIAN'S
QUIZ
NIGHT**



HOUGHTON on the HILL

Houghton on the Hill is 7 miles from Leicester on the A47 towards Peterborough.

There has been a Methodist presence in the village for over 160 years. The Chapel sits on Main Street, diagonally opposite the Black Horse Public house and just down the road from the much used Village Hall, St. Catharine's Anglican Church and the Primary School. The road continues out to Stoughton



The road continues out to Stoughton

and Oadby. There are about 650 houses at the moment and last Christmas a hand knitted Angel was delivered to every one of them as a gift from the Methodist Church.

Over the years various refurbishments have taken place to the Chapel which now has modern upholstered chairs and a new carpet. The adjoining schoolroom is rented out to various groups. Recently the Chapel and Schoolroom have been registered by Harborough District Council as a community asset. The history of the building has been researched and many interesting facts discovered. A copy of the history is now with the Circuit Archivist.

Every year we celebrate the Chapel Anniversary on a Thursday evening in late May or early June. We have close links with St. Catharine's Church and members from both Churches attend a Bible Study on Friday mornings.

Unfortunately we no longer have any children attending our services but are keen to welcome any if they arrive with visitors! We enjoy singing and happily take on board new ideas for Worship. Recently we welcomed our new Minister Rev. Jenny Impey and look forward to seeing more of her in Houghton. Our congregation may be small but we have strong fellowship and value our place in this new Circuit.



MAYFLOWER

Mayflower is situated on Ethel Road, on the corner with Evington Drive. Mayflower was built after the second World War, using War Damage money from the Government to replace another older Saxby Street church which was bombed during the war.

Mayflower Church is airy and high with a splendid organ and a grand piano. We also have a large hall with stage, a Devotional room for smaller congrega-

tions and evening worship, several smaller meeting rooms, a kitchen and toilet facilities.

Mayflower encourages other Christian groups to worship on our premises. The United Methodist Church of Zimbabwe hold Saturday and Sunday worship and we occasionally combine with them for a joint service. Their national HQ also has an office on our premises. The African Pentecostal Church, also originating from Zimbabwe worship on a Saturday.

Mayflower centre is also very active with an Operatic Society, a Symphony Orchestra, Tai Chi class, a ballet school, adult dance groups, an Asian Ladies fellowship group as well as an Afro-Caribbean fellowship group. As the years have gone by, the neighbourhood around Mayflower has become mainly Muslim occupied with some Sikhs and Hindus. The church has become associated with this community by allowing individuals to make use of the premises for pre-wedding parties, birthdays and other local celebrations.

We share our minister Rev Saidu Kanu with Wesley Hall and Uppingham Road churches, and we can support each other in fellowship from time to time.

News

Grateful thanks to all who helped to make the Harvest weekend such a success. Gifts were distributed to the sick and needy and elderly. Money donated was given to the Community of Grace men's hostel to help with their fuel bills during the winter months

" God, our God, the world's composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice -
music is your art, your glory,
let the human heart rejoice". Hymn 74.



THE CHURCH OF NATIVITY

The Church of the Nativity is situated on the junction of Cavendish Road/Richmond Road and on 21 August 1940, a lone aircraft from the German Air Force, or Luftwaffe, dropped its bombs along Cavendish Road killing 6 people, but did not harm the church. Miracle rescues and recovery took place and various groups occasionally present exhibitions.

We are an Ecumenical Partnership with The Church of England and have been for 27 years, this works well and we feel as one church now.

The church has a Scout Group comprising of Scouts, Cubs and Beavers led by enthusiastic and capable leaders.

We also have a Drama group who try and put on a production at least once a year.

Every Saturday morning we hold a Coffee and Craft Morning for parents and children who attend the dance school which uses our premises, plus people from the local area.

Once a month at 4 p m we hold a T@4 service which includes food and craft with some worship time, this is mainly aimed at families.

We have a singing group called The Park Singers who take part in services and sing for enjoyment.

The church premises are used by outside organisations including the Dance Company, Residents group and children's parties.

Nativity is also known for its food and warm welcome.



THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Cavendish Road/Richmond Road, Aylestone Park

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

10.30AM – 1PM

VARIETY OF STALLS - LIGHT LUNCHESES
CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS IN THE CHURCH

**ADMISSION FREE
EVERYONE WELCOME**



The Nativity Players and the
14th Nativity Scouts, Cubs & Beavers
present...

“AN EVENING OF FESTIVE FUN AND FROLICS”

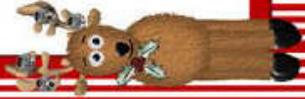
FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Church of the Nativity
Cavendish Road, Aylestone Park
Leicester

Curtain Up 6.30pm - Supper 7.15pm

Tickets £5.00 Adults £3.00 Children
(includes Programme)
Payable in Advance

Contact: Patricia Ewen – Tel: 0116 2994732
Email: patricia.ewen@ntworld.com





OADBY

Welcome to Oadby Trinity! You can find us on the A6 Harborough road in Oadby. The church can also be accessed from the main shoppers' car park, which is a very useful asset when we have events going on.

We have a membership of around 175 people. Our worship area is open plan and modern. During worship our hymns and readings are projected onto a screen, and large print copies are available for those who need them, as well as Singing the Faith and the MWB in braille.

We have various church groups that meet on the premises during the week. Both "Welcome on Wednesday" and "Thursday Fellowship" meet fortnightly. Each group has a planned programme of events and speakers during the year, and are always pleased to welcome new members.

We have a Young Families group who meet on the second Sunday of the month at 9am for breakfast followed by a time of worship, led by our local worship team.

Zeph's Café, which opened 5 years ago, is an important area of church outreach, as people who come into the café for refreshment sometimes show an interest in the church and our activities. The café is open 9.30 am – 4.30pm Monday to Saturday, and is a popular eating place in Oadby.

We also outreach to our local community with a regular food bank which is held at the church, and our rooms are hired by local groups for their events.

Most importantly we seek to serve Christ and the community around us. Our church services are at 10.30am and 6.30pm with a monthly 8.30 am service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. The 10.30 am service on that Sunday is designated all age worship. All are welcome to join us for worship and for fellowship over tea/ coffee in the café following morning worship.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.

**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH,
HARBOROUGH ROAD, OADBY**

MUSICAMICI WOODWIND ORCHESTRA

THE GRIFFIN SINGERS

SOLOIST: MARIA O'CONNELL

Tickets £7.00 in advance from: Zeph's Café or

Jim Gannon (07831 157845)

Tickets on the door £8.00

FANCY A BITE TO EAT FIRST?



ROTHLEY

Rothley Church is a small, very welcoming church. The church is a small old Methodist Church hidden away from the hustle and bustle of Rothley. We hope you can find us. The congregation are 'up for anything'! and will partake in 'questions and answers' during the service. We are interactive. Minister's beware!

The Ladies Circle Group at Howe Lane Methodist Church, after many years, is still an important part of Church life in Rothley. Numbers vary meeting to meeting, but generally twenty five ladies attend. Ladies from Rothley and surrounding villages all enjoy an afternoon where we offer interesting speakers, fun and raising funds for deserving Charities.

We meet on alternate Tuesdays 2.30 - 4.30 and always end with tea and biscuits.

Membership is £5.00 per year with each meeting being £2.00 and £3.00 for visitors.

Last year we were able to donate £250.00 to the Mablethorpe Childrens Home, £50.00 to Target Ovarian Cancer and £400.00 to Church funds.

The programme for this year is full of varied and interesting speakers and events and we guarantee a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join us.

Meetings up to Christmas are as follows;

Tues 10th Oct - Being found by the Salvation Army after being a missing person for 30 years.

Tues 24 Oct - Here comes the Joker - playing card fun.

Tues 7th Nov - Dogs for the disabled.

Tues 21st Nov - Flower arranging.

Tues 5th Dec - Members Christmas Lunch.

Tues 19th Dec - Carol Service.



SYSTON

The first records of a Methodist society in Syston go back to 1777, the first chapel was built in 1797 and is still in use by a community group today. Our present chapel was opened in High Street in 1890, an adjacent hall complex being added in 1964. The two buildings were then linked together in 2003, standing as a witness in the heart of the Town.

We have recently opened the 'Hub Café' serving the community Monday to Friday and hold a Coffee Morning every Saturday; this space is also used for a Youth Café on Friday evenings.

The premises are used extensively during the week by Toddler Groups, Girls' Brigade, Tea Dance, Badminton Club, Lunch Club, Art Group, 'Safe Space' counselling service, various U3A groups, self-help groups, and Age Concern Syston has a permanent office.

We have two House Fellowship Groups and a Ladies Meeting held in a local Retirement complex.

Future events:

Coffee Morning every Saturday, 10.00am – 12 noon.

November 11th Autumn Fair

November 25th Craft Fair

December 09th 'Action for Children' Fair.

December 14th Little Big Band Christmas Concert for Age Concern

Contact Keith Baker (0116 269 3440)

December 18th Carols in the Square with Churches Together in Syston.



UPPINGHAM ROAD

About our church -

The main Church was built and opened in 1928. The Hall was built in the late 1950s. There were further alterations to the premises in 2010/2011 when a ramp was added to gain access to the church door and a lift and a large toilet were installed to make the whole premises accessible for everyone.

Our Mission Statement is;

'Uppingham Road - a Welcoming Church

Loving God - Loving People - Loving the World'

How our church is used -

Our main worship time is Sunday morning at 10.45am. We also have Junior Church during the Sunday morning service who return to the worship area for communion services. Once a month we have an All Age service. Evening services are held at 6.30pm on the first Sunday of each month and these are joint services along with Wesley Hall and Mayflower on a rota basis.

During the week various church groups and activities take place:-

Monday	2pm	Vitality Group - A gentle exercise group
Tuesday	7.30pm	Link Up - A ladies group who meet on the 4 th Tuesday of the month
Wednesday	7pm	Reflection - A group for ladies of all ages to spread God's love meets 2nd Wednesday of each month.
Thursday	9am - 11am	Parent & Toddler Playgroup
	7.30pm	Men's Fellowship - Meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month
Friday	10am - noon	Friday Coffee Morning
	7.30pm	Friday (Bible Study) Group - Meets on the 1st Friday of each month
Saturday	10am - noon	Shoppers Coffee



WESLEY HALL

The North Evington Mission was started on 19th March, 1891 with a membership of 10. As numbers grew the Leicester Methodist Council announced that a 'bold scheme of Methodist Extension' was urgently needed in Leicester and so Wesley Hall as we know it today was opened on 7th October, 1897 and was known as the Church on the Hill.

For over 40 years, we have shared our Church premises with the Moravian congregation who worship on Sunday afternoons except one Sunday per month we have a joint service in the morning. We also support each other in social events throughout the year.

The Community Centre is situated in the old Sunday School buildings next to the Church and is a big part of Wesley Hall. It serves the local community with many and varied activities for all ages throughout the week from pre-school to over 60s. It also offers mental health services, mother and baby classes and various exercise classes. The list is endless!

News:

At our Harvest Festival we had a small display of produce provided by the Stewards and this year we are supporting the Irma Hurricane Appeal as many of our members have family on the Islands.

On 14th/15th October we will be celebrating our Church Anniversary – 123 years of witness at the Church on the Hill. On the Saturday evening we will be holding our 'At Home' when we will bring our personal gifts, enjoy a lovely supper followed by some home-grown entertainment. On Sunday morning we welcome with great pleasure our Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. David Palmer.

Advent starts on Saturday 2nd December as we decorate our Church with Christmas Trees.

On 10th December we will be holding our Gift Service when gifts for the homeless are placed under the tree. Our Family carol service is on 17th December and we will welcome 2018 with a Watchnight Service on 31st December at 11.15 pm

CONTACTS

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