

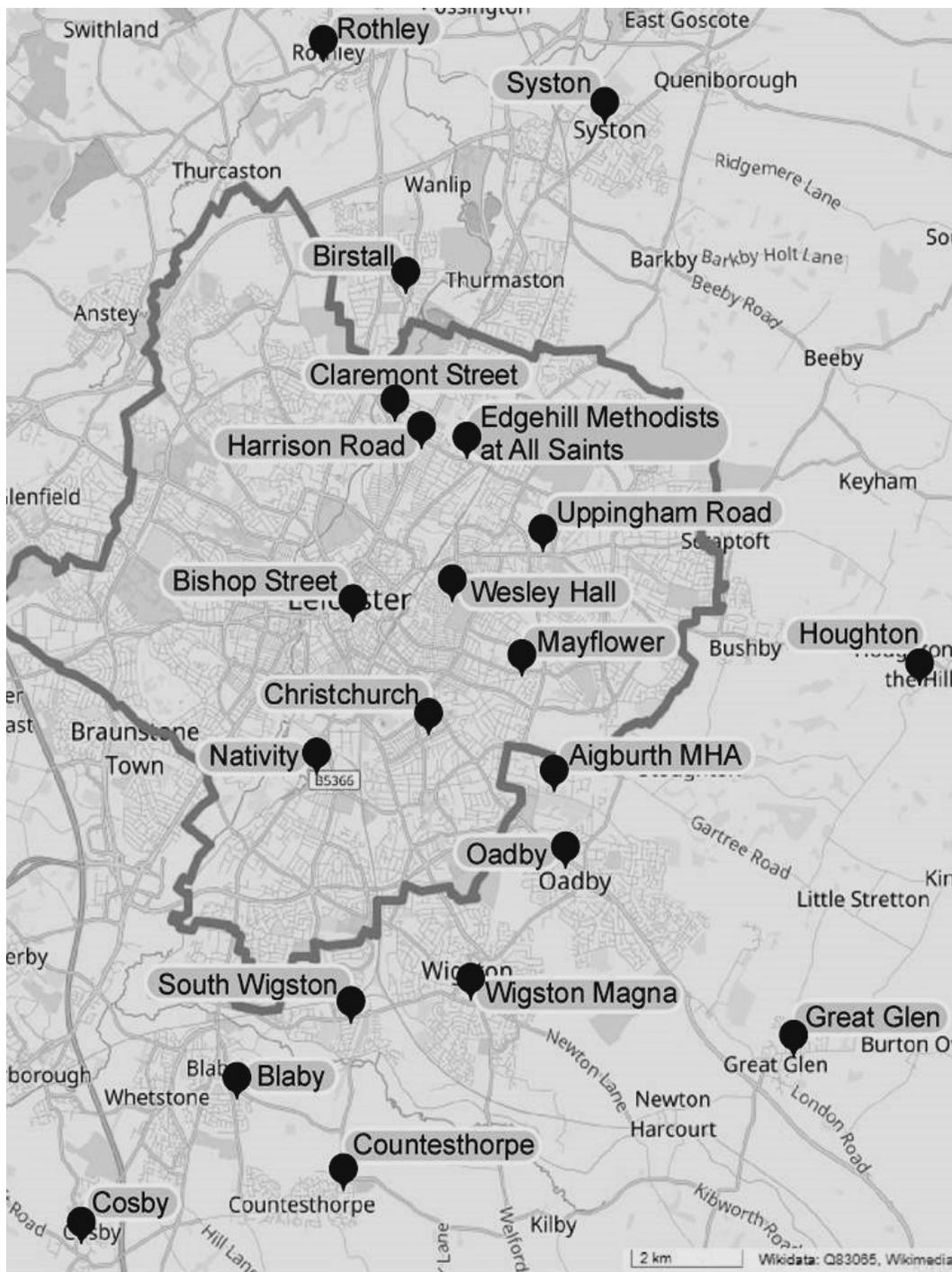
# The Beacon



Quarterly Newsletter

[www.leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk](http://www.leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk) Autumn 2018

# MAP OF CIRCUIT CHURCHES



# LEICESTER TRINITY CIRCUIT

## The Beacon

Autumn 2018

### Superintendent's letter



My brothers and sisters in the Lord

I'm writing this letter after attending the Methodist Conference in Nottingham, and I have to thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to attend this meeting. In this issue I intend to reflect on the interesting experiences of Conference 2018. And how the Worship, fellowship and the interaction with other delegates confirmed our oneness of the

Church of God and of Methodist people.

For me the re-visiting of *Our Calling* presented by the Conference gave me something to bring back to reflect on. It reminds Christian people and Methodist people to define what it is that they are called to do in God's Kingdom. ***Our Calling*** for me represents the ethos of what Methodism is all about and why we exist. The Methodist Way of life encompasses worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism, hence my reflection covers those areas in the life of our Circuit. When we gather for worship in our small village chapels or in large suburban churches we recognise that we belong to a larger body which is the World Church. On the 15<sup>th</sup> July the Northampton District hosted a District World Church Celebration at Park View Methodist Church in the Northampton Circuit. The service included Methodist people from diverse backgrounds around the world, from Tonga, Fiji, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, the Netherlands and Kenya just to name a few. This included sharing food from where these brothers and sisters came from. I hope the pictures taken on that day will be made available to a larger audience. The message from our preacher The Revd Canon Helen Cameron, (District Chair), the different activities and the singing in different languages reminded us that we are One in the Lord and as such we belong to one family-God's family. The gathering resembled the pouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The opportunity of worshipping together will continue in 2019 when our two Leicester Methodist Circuits (Leicester Trinity and Leicester West) will hold a joint Circuits Service on the

17<sup>t</sup> March 2019 graced by the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference. This will be an occasion where we hope that our oneness will be made visible as we pray, sing and listen to the word of God together as Methodists in Leicester. I appeal to all our churches in Leicester that members of the congregations will attend in their numbers.

While the structure of the traditional class systems is no longer viable in most of our Methodist congregations, we still have cell groups, prayer groups and house groups that are helping in the learning and caring of many different people. However small the congregation is it is of paramount importance to continue to practice hospitality and generosity and I encourage this. All these are made possible when the people of God offer friendship through learning and caring for one another.

As the world continues to face the challenges of a decline in living standards because of failing economies, poor governance, lack of good stewardship of the natural resources and care for the environment, we need to recognise that the main victims of this are the poor in our society who are unable to sustain a livelihood.

Close to home most of our congregations are active in providing food to Food banks to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. This is done in addition to donations to other charities such as Christian Aid and many more that need help.

Showing the love of God through giving, helping the poor and fighting injustice is a positive way of living our faith. They provide an opportunity for Christians to speak about their faith to others. Through encounters such as these the love of God is experienced by people's in their life situations. And we all become better disciples of Christ. As I have previously expressed, the Methodist Way of living cannot be done in isolation but in sharing this way of life.

Finally, as we welcome our new ministers and their families I would like to thank you all for all your work and prayers for all my colleagues as we seek to fulfil our calling to be better disciples of Jesus Christ. I will commit to pray for all our churches as they engage with the challenges of mission in their communities.

May the Lord bless you and keep you

Yours faithfully

Rev. Edson Dube

# When; Where; What.

Sat	August 18th	6pm	Upp Road	Caribbean evening
Sat	August		Countes....	Skittles evening
Sat	Sept 2th		Mayflower	Visit to Launde Abbey
Sat	Sept		Countes..	Garden Patrty
Sat	Sept 8th		Wig Magna	Grand Wigston Show
Sat	Sept 22th	8.30 am	Mayflower	Circuit Prayer Break- fast
Sat	Oct 6th	2.00 pm	Upp Rd	Games afternoon
Sat	Oct 13th	? evening	Wesley Hall	‘Church at Home ‘ Food & Entertain- ment
Sat	Oct 27th	10am – 4pm	Truro/ Blackburn	MWiB— ‘Life & Learning’
Sat	Nov 17th	10am- 2pm	Upp. Road	Christmas Fayre & meal
Fri	Nov 23rd	? evening	Mayflower	Upp. Rd. Drama Group
Sat	Nov 24th			‘The Casts Offs’
Sat	Dec 1st	All day	Blaby	Christmas Tree Festival
Sun	Dec 2nd	afternoon		

# Regular Prayer Meetings



Day	When	Time	Venue	Event
Sun	2nd of month	6.00 pm	Bishop street	Inspiration eve...
Sun	3rd of month	8.45 am	Sth Wigston	Bible Breakfast
Tues	4th of month	1.45 pm	Syston	Julian Prayers
Tues	Weekly	10.00 am	Syston	Holy communion
	1st Tues	11.00 am		
Tues	Monthly	1.30 pm	Wesley Hall	Bible Study
Wed	1st of month	11.00 am	Wig Mag	Service
Wed	2nd of month	10.30 am	Mayflower	Healing Service
Wed	Weekly	9.30 am	Birstall	Holy communion
Thurs	Monthly	7.30 pm	118 London Rd, Oadby	Julian Prayers
			Phone 2718948	for details
Thurs	Weekly	10.00 am	Christchurch	Prayers
Sat	Weekly	10.15 am	Oadby.	Prayers

## On Becoming Vice-President Designate



It all happened so fast. I'd been approached some years ago to consider putting my name forward, but it didn't really seem 'me' and I had a demanding full-time job. This time things were different. A number of people suggested it from a variety of perspectives, and as I'm heading towards redundancy it had become more feasible to consider. But all this only began in May (May 3<sup>rd</sup> to be precise). Since then I've 'mulled' on it, listened, talked with friends and family, asked questions, consulted with people who know about the role, checked the official job-description, mulled some more (and even sat in quiet contemplation about it). On June 28<sup>th</sup> I decided to let my name go forward. By July 4<sup>th</sup> I'd secured more than 50% of the Methodist Conference's votes. It was a truly humbling experience – even a bit of a shock – and I was very emotional for a few days afterwards. There were lots of reasons for this but a main one – when your job is brought to an end, and it feels like your career is being stifled – is the sense of value that comes with the role. Unlike academic achievements, to be designated via an election is to receive a different kind of affirmation. People are voting for you for all sorts of reasons, I guess, but not mainly because you happen to have been awarded various bits of paper.

But what now? Well it's a three-year role: a year of preparation, in which you begin to do some of the tasks which continue into the Vice Presidential year (such as being on the Methodist Council); the VP year itself – a year of 'visitation' and representation, in which, in close partnership with the President, you drop in on a selected number of Districts, represent the Methodist Church in a variety of settings (political party conferences, for example), and generally try to support Methodists wherever they are; and a third year in which you remain part of the Presidential Team, and there may be tasks begun in your main year which need finishing off.

And, of course, the President, Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, and I shall take a theme round with us, through which we hope to stimulate the Church as a whole. We don't know ourselves what it will be yet. So stay tuned...

Clive Marsh.



World Federation Day 2018



## **Life and Learning: Quality Education for All**

*(based on Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all)*

**Saturday 27th October 2018**

**10.00am – 4.00pm**

**Truro Methodist Church, Union Place, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1EP  
St Paul's Methodist Church, Higher Audley St, Blackburn, Lancs  
BB1 1DH**

The day will include worship, Bible study, keynote presentation, and 'information stations'.

Full programme and travel directions will be sent out in late September.

Refreshments on arrival and hot lunch included.

There is no set charge for the day, but you are invited to make a realistic donation

(suggested amount £10 per person) to cover expenses for the day.

There will be a market place of relevant stalls including books and Fair Trade items.

**Booking:** MWiB, PO Box 9298, Loughborough LE11 9FY

or email the information required to: [communications@mwib.org.uk](mailto:communications@mwib.org.uk)

Information and booking form available to download from: [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) or 0300 030 9873

or from the Editors.

# Aigburth Care Home Needs You!



MHA Aigburth Care Home on Manor Road, Oadby, is looking for enthusiastic Worship Leaders and musicians to help run the Wednesday Services. The services start at 11:15 am and finish at 12:00 with tea and coffee. We would need you to come and do one service per quarter and you can base the service on a theme of your own choosing. This is a great opportunity to pray with a fantastic community, to share your God-given talents and to serve others and the Lord. You will be required to complete a DBS check (which MHA can assist you with and will pay for) and basic training e.g. what to do in case of a fire. If you would like to know more, please email either of our chaplains; Phillip Williams ([Phillip.Williams@mha.org.uk](mailto:Phillip.Williams@mha.org.uk)) or Emma Hurley ([Emma.Hurley@mha.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Hurley@mha.org.uk)) for more information.

## Launch of Leicester Trinity Circuit Prayer breakfast

**Feed your spirit as well as your body by supporting this new Circuit venture!**

A planning group, led by Saidu Kanu has met to share ideas, the upshot being that Mayflower church has kindly offered to "host" the first gathering on Saturday September 22nd from 8.30 - 9.30am.

Prayer will be informal and flexible with opportunity for sharing and silence, with due regard to confidentiality

Our intention is that this will become a regular event, developing according to experience, and rotating round the churches which have the necessary facilities and are willing to plan and provide Cafe style continental breakfast.

Book the date now, look out for further information appearing in August.

Come and be fed!!

Dorothy Hutchinson

# **Lay Worker's Report**

## **Messy Church**

Rothley Messy Church continues to go from strength to strength with many new families coming this term. Particular thanks to the volunteers at Rothley who enable this to go ahead. A special thanks must go to Sue Wainwright and Jane Warnock who do much of the planning for the event. We also said farewell to Jane at our final Messy Church of the academic year as Jane and Dave move to their new appointment.

In our sessions we have explored many themes this term from caring for God's creation, to new life to Biblical stories such as the Ten Bridesmaids. We have done a wide variety of crafts and our worship time is varied with games, activities and creative prayers which children and adults enjoy and join in with.

## **After School Club**

This term Birstall Methodist Church started an after school club. Thank you to Mary Downs for organising this and for the volunteers from Birstall Methodist Church and St James Church in the village.

We have had an average of thirteen children, with their parents or one of the local childminders, attending every week. This has been greatly enjoyed and it is wonderful to chat to families, while playing games, or a having a cup of tea who may not have had any contact with the church before.

The children particularly enjoy playing games and colouring. We have recently been given a pool table which has been well used.

## **Schools work**

This term I have conducted a number of assemblies in a various schools as well as leading workshops to support the RE National Curriculum. I am particularly pleased that I have been able to begin a new area of work - sharing with the RE department at a local secondary school with students doing RE GCSE in order to develop sessions for them to receive a Christian input on important issues for their qualification. In the question and answer workshops issues raised covered same sex marriage and cohabitation, questions about theology and asking how Christians justify a belief in the Trinity- a challenge which I particularly enjoyed.

## **Future**

We are exploring youth work and the possibility of starting a lunch time club in a secondary school in Birstall and would particularly appreciate volunteers from across the circuit to help with this.

We are also running activity mornings at Birstall Church on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August for children and their parents. If you are interested in helping with any of these events or wish to attend, please contact me on

jamesblackhall@gmail.com

Every blessing

James Blackhall

( see pictures centre pages)

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***Editors note:*** *The picture on the front copy of the previous Beacon, that many people have asked about, is 'Queens View'. It overlooks Loch Tummel in Perthshire, Scotland. It is said to have been named after Queen Victoria, following her visit in 1866.*

*The picture on the front of this issue is of a harvest display on one of the windows at Oadby. We will try and remember to let you know where the photos are from. If anyone has suitable pictures, in portrait format, that we could use for future issues we would gladly receive them as it is difficult to get non royalty picture off the internet that are suitable. Pictures of Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn are what we are looking for, so maybe when you are away you could think about taking a picture in portrait rather than landscape!*

### ***Editors plea***

*We can only publish articles and posters that we receive. If you feel that your church isn't represented then please consider sending us something. We like to look ahead and not back and Community and Mission articles are always welcome. Anything with human interest will do.*

# Draining the swamp!

In working days we had an expression: “Sometimes you’re so busy draining the swamp that you forget your first objective was to get rid of the alligators!”

It’s true – sometimes we’re so close to a task that we forget our long-term objectives.

So it was inspirational for Zeph’s Directors to have several hours recently talking in depth to Rev. Helen Cameron, Chair of the Northampton District of the Methodist Church (our Bishop to non-Methodist readers!) about our hopes, aspirations and challenges.

After correspondence with her, Helen asked if she could come to Trinity, see Zeph’s, see our suite of premises, meet our staff and spend time with the Directors.

Our time together (with Minister Dave and Lesley Green) was inspirational and it was most encouraging to hear what she thought of Zeph’s - seen through her fresh eyes.

Almost her first comment to us when we settled down for the formal part of the meeting was: “What you’re doing here is remarkable”.

Helen went on to say how fresh, relaxing, attractive and safe the Café felt. “I love it,” she asserted.

She said how vital it is that the Café is a “safe place to be.” Our approach to loneliness was very much in step with the Methodist Church’s current priority in this area.

Helen took away “Chatter and Natter” material, samples of our leaflets and a copy of our current Business Plan.

Dementia is a growing concern in contemporary society and she was fascinated and impressed by the work based on Zeph’s and Trinity, inspired and led by Jim Gannon and Lesley Green. She heard how Lesley is training our staff in dementia care, so that we are formally a dementia friendly Café. Beyond that Lesley and Jim intend to visit Oadby retailers to encourage them to become dementia friendly too.

We went on to discuss financial issues and to examine ways in which the Connexion and District might be able to assist us in the future.

Helen, with this in mind, has asked if she may return to Zeph’s when our new Minister, Derek, is in place to consider together plans we might develop to progress the outreach work of Trinity and its Café.

It was a privilege to spend so much quality time with Helen. The Directors, along with Lesley and Dave, left “on cloud nine” looking forward keenly to our next meeting.

Now, let’s get back to those alligators!

**John Aldridge**

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## **Women’s Conference**

Way back in 2016, Adelaide Kanu approached the three Churches of Wesley Hall, Uppingham Road and Mayflower to set up a Women’s Group. The groups meet once a month at Uppingham Road on the second Wednesday and at Wesley Hall on the third Monday. Initially we had the title of Women’s Group, but thought we really needed a name and so after much thought, we called ourselves Reflection. We have a varied programme throughout the year, occasionally we have joint meetings and at Christmas we all went out for a meal.

In 2017, when we were planning our programme, Adelaide said she would like us to put on a Conference for women in 2018. Well, you can imagine the look on our faces! We are just a small group who plan one hour sessions once a month – but a day’s Conference – that’s a whole new ball game!!

There was nothing for it but to embrace the idea and so the planning began. Adelaide made contact with the District Director of Mission, Rev. Jill Marsh, and we were very grateful for her advice and encouragement.

The event would be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June at Mayflower. The theme for the day was Building Bridges with the Church, with Young People and with Care Homes and the Elderly. We sourced speakers for the day, Rev. Fran Rhys [Church], Cicely Henry [Young People] and Emma Hurley [Care Homes and the Elderly]. We had a group song for the day – ‘Love Can Build a Bridge’ by Westlife. Before we knew it, the day was starting to take shape.

All we needed now were people to attend!! And attend they did – 70 in total which was amazing!!

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June dawned and we arrived early to set up the rooms for lunch and the activities. Ladies of all ages started to arrive. The Worship Group was rehearsing the group song. The excitement was building! At 10.00am the proceedings began with worship, followed by a talk on Reflection by Jean Reah. Our compere for the day was Linda Shaw who ensured things flowed smoothly. The first session was led by Jill Marsh on 'Building Bridges' which was followed by forming groups of about 10 where they had to build a bridge that was capable of supporting a Bible. After lunch, we had a short worship session followed by a Panel session where each speaker gave a talk on their particular topic and answered people's questions.

All in all we considered the day a resounding success. People arrived not knowing what to expect, but the feedback we received was very positive to a point where they were asking about the next one!

We'll keep you posted on that one!

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## **Be the wind in my sails (from Coutesthorpe)**

If you go to the seaside this summer you will probably see the yachts and sailing dinghies out skimming along in the sea breeze. With a fresh wind filling their colourful spinnakers they can make great progress through the water. They harness the power of the wind to make headway from place to place.

Making headway in the Christian life is much easier when we adjust the set of our sails so they catch the wind of the Spirit. There is a source of energy and power that enables us to ride the waves and takes us on to our goal. We can say 'Lord, be the wind in my sails...'





## STRANGERS INTO FRIENDS

It is always interesting to meet new people, and when we were asked several years ago if we could go to the International Hotel in Leicester on a Sunday afternoon to try to welcome asylum-seekers from different parts of the world, my husband and I went along, and found it very worthwhile. The boys (there were also some girls) were often traumatised and bewildered.

Some had been through horrendous experiences; one boy could not sit down, and spent his time pacing up and down the room, accompanied by my husband Brian.

His back showed the scars from beatings he had endured. Most of the asylum-seekers did not know any English, so we could point out fingers, eyes, ears noses, hands and arms amid much laughter! One boy was an engineering student, so I was able to lend him some of my Maths books which he worked through and gave me back the books on a later Sunday afternoon.

Two of the Afghani boys showed much interest in the church we attended, Mayflower Methodist Church, so I explained how to get there, and sure enough, the boys came the following Sunday morning.

I had been to a Hindu Temple, a Sikh Gurdwara and a Moslem Mosque, for visits, so I wasn't surprised that the boys were curious to visit an English Church. but I was really amazed when our friends came again the next Sunday and continued to attend every week from then onwards! In time the boys asked to join the church, and we had a very joyous service when they were confirmed, and the Mayflower congregation were happy to have them in our midst. They were presented with a Bible in their own language, though they both can speak English now. This was years ago.

Now Niyazi is in Denmark and has his wife with him (after 15 years!), and Jamil is in Austria with his wife and two little children.

I have been to see them several times, and last year when I was in Denmark with Niyazi, Jamil was able to come, and it was wonderful to see them together after ten years apart.

Rosalind Thompson

*Editorial note: Reproduced from The Evington Echo with their permission*

# News from the Churches

## Blaby



Our regular weekly activities are now taking a summer break, resuming again in September. However, it's not a case of nothing to do just yet. A number of churches may be running some summer activities for children, but we don't always think about older people who are sometimes left with little to anticipate over the summer weeks. So this year, we are trying something new and holding a *'Holiday at Home – Blaby by the Sea'*. We might not be able to provide sea breezes, but there will be deck chairs and ice cream, fish and chips and funfair games. There will be two days of fun and fellowship, not just for those associated with the church but others who want to come along too. For those no longer able to get away, we hope it will give a bit of a summer break and a chance to meet new people. Perhaps the sun will keep shining for us too.

That will have taken place before you read this, but hopefully there will be some pictures, and by then it will be time for normal activities to start up again, and so the year flies by.

Perhaps I can get away with a brief advance plug for our Christmas Tree Festival, which this year takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. It is always a happy time and a chance to engage with local people, many of whom come year after year.

## Harrison Road

**We had a visit from Leicester Faith Awareness group at Harrison Road.**

Members of the group from came to Harrison Road Methodist Church to meet the Sri Lankan people who belong to the fellowship there.

Christians Aware is an educational and religious charity with membership to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Interfaith Network UK.



This visit was crucial for us in order to reflect our faith and show the love of God. We shared the fundamentals of our faith and the valuable journeys of our lives. We had the opportunity to talk about Sri Lanka and Methodism in Sri Lanka. We showed our hospitality with some Sri Lankan foods and they really enjoyed it! Their patience in listening to our stories and opinions was one of the great blessings of their visit, and we are very thankful to them for taking the time to come and meet us

(See pictures in the centre pages)

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## Mayflower

We have had an exciting and varied time at Mayflower this year, with a variety of activities and experiences for our church family and friends.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April Richard and Hayley brought their son to be Christened and we all shared an inspiring Service with Saidu, followed by a party for everyone. We were proud that that Richard , a member at Mayflower until he moved away from Leicester, chose to have the Christening in his “ home” church.

With sadness we shared the funeral of James Nisbett, and found the Service a real celebration of a man who had contributed so much to the community in which he lived and worked as a well -known Barrister both in the Caribbean, and the UK, We were privileged to be part of this wonderful occasion.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May, we went to the Old Horse for Sunday Lunch after the morning Service with Saidu. This was a real time of fellowship for us all.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June we were delighted to receive Jasmine as a new member at Mayflower. She has come to Leicester from South India to join her husband, and we are delighted that the family is actively involved at Mayflower. The same day we welcomed Douglas who is On Note in the circuit, and that supported by his involvement as a member at Mayflower, he has decided to embark on Local Preacher training. Our thoughts and prayers are with him. We were very happy to host the Women’s Conference at Mayflower on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, which was well supported by our Mayflower ladies, who enjoyed being part of an event of nearly 70 people.



**Love can build a bridge**

**Between your heart and mine**

**Love can build a bridge**

**Don't you think it's time?**

We celebrate at Mayflower our rich community including the United Methodist Church of Zimbabwe sharing our premises. The latest development is a new sound system into which both communities have contributed financially and will share. Also a small Pentecostal church from Zimbabwe uses our premises each Saturday.

As well as our regular user groups who have used Mayflower over many years, links with our Muslim friends in the area are developing significantly. We are looking forward to Eid as we prepare this report, and on that day three different groups will be using our halls to celebrate.

We feel that it is very important to make links, and support the wider community around Mayflower.

### **Autumn Events**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Covenant Service with Saidu, followed by a church outing to Launde Abbey for afternoon tea and Devotions in the chapel at Launde. Everyone welcome to join us,

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Circuit Prayer Breakfast. At 8.30 – hosted by Mayflower.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September Harvest Festival – a joint Service with UMCZ and Communion.

## **Rothley**

### **ROTHLEY VILLAGE AND THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**Rothley** is a village of some antiquity with the shaft of an Anglo-Saxon cross in the churchyard which is reputed to be 9<sup>th</sup> century. The Parish Church is 13<sup>th</sup> century, but was extensively restored in Victorian times. On the western outskirts of the village stands Rothley Temple which is a



remnant of the estate that was granted to the Order of the Knights Templar by Henry III. After the dissolution of the monasteries the Manor House came into the possession of the Babington family who occupied the estate for 300 years. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, William Wilberforce stayed at the Manor House and drafted his treaty for the abolition of slavery. The Manor House is now the Rothley Court Hotel.

The expansion of Rothley started towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and has continued ever since. In 1899 the second station out of Leicester on the Great Central Railway line was opened at Rothley. The line was closed in 1969 but was re-opened as a heritage railway in 1976 and is now a popular attraction.

In 1823 the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Howe Lane was built out of slate from the quarries in the adjoining village of Swithland. In 1964 the Primitive and Wesleyan Churches in the village amalgamated. The former Primitive Church is now a private house.

Membership of the Methodist Church is 14 and regular morning services are held. The congregation is small but loyal and hard-working, and every effort is made to maintain a perspective which includes issues affecting the local community and the world church. Our Mission Statement is "To know Christ and to make Christ known." In five years time the Church will be celebrating 200 years of worship in Rothley.

Messy Church started up in 2013 and this year we are celebrating five years! We have gone from just a few families attending to the numbers we now have - it is a joy to welcome everyone. We have a leadership team of three and a dedicated group of church members and friends who support on the day helping with crafts, preparing and serving the home cooked tea, washing and clearing up. Messy Church Saturdays bring the Church alive and to be part of it is great!

We said farewell to Jane Warnock, who has been a great help to us as she and Dave move on to a different circuit. See the pictures in the centre pages and the card that was given to her. We thank Jane and Dave for their support. There is also a picture of Helen Cameron, District Chair, who came to Rothley on the 1st June to worship with us. It was a privilege to worship with her and to get to know her. ( see pictures centre pages)

Each Tuesday morning there is a Coffee Shop which is supported by a regular group of people. This is a source of fellowship as well as a form of community outreach.

On Tuesday afternoons there is a Ladies Circle meeting which has around 28 members who enjoy a varied programme of speakers and demonstrations. The next meeting is September 9th 2018 from 2 pm and fortnightly after that. Contact Rev. Paula Hunt for more details.

We look forward to the future with hope as we face the challenges of a small congregation promoting the love of God in a village community.

*Editorial note: We apologise that this article was not put into the previous edition of the Beacon, we also apologise that the picture in the previous issue of 'The Lord's Supper' from Easter celebrations was wrongly attributed to Syston not Rothley.*

*Would contributors to the Beacon please make sure that their emails specify that this is an article to be published in the Beacon. Sometimes it is confusing and missed with all the other emails the editors receive. Thank you.*

## South Wigston



Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - what a wonderful day it was!

There was a table outside on Blaby Road, laden with food: cakes and all kinds of sweetmeats, and savouries, including hot dogs and burgers – all being given away to passers-by.

A big attraction, both to us and the public was the bubbles, both from the machine and the very large ones.

Lots of people stopped to sample the food, and it was a lovely fun morning.

This was a national event, a “get to know your neighbour occasion.” Although the food was completely free, many people wanted to give a donation and £87 was

This was a national event, a “get to know your neighbour occasion.” Although the food was completely free, many people wanted to give a donation and £87 was raised, this included donations from the coffee morning. It is being made up to £100 and will be given to the Menphys Nursery in Wigston.



## Fire alert!

**Fire** – a word that we all hope we will never hear in our Churches, but it really did happen at **South Wigston** on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

The Circuit were holding a Data Protection Meeting hosted by Rev Paula Hunt in our Church, when one of our lights exploded and caught fire. Our wooden ceiling soon became alight and we had to quickly evacuate the building. The Fire Brigade arrived with 2 engines and they soon put the blaze out.

The damage is not as great as we feared and the Insurance have been great. They quickly got the ball rolling and we only had to cancel the Service the following day. The Church has now been professionally cleaned so we are able to use the Church but have no lights and are waiting for restorers to repair the ceiling and assess the condition of the other lights.

Valuable lessons were learned about our fire procedures – our assembly point is in the wrong place and details of our address and post code are on the Church door so that passers by, if they saw anything wrong, can ring the Emergency Services.

If you were at South Wigston that morning and helped in any way – our grateful thanks.

***Editors Note: I'm sure that South Wigston would like to remind all churches that regular checks need to be made on all the electrical circuits in our churches.***

***Also that maybe you need to make sure that your assembly points are in the right place and that church people and passers by know your postcode.***

***Think about it!***

# Uppingham Road

Here at Uppingham Road we are involved in organising a series of fundraising events. As well as raising much needed money for our church, these events are proving to be a great opportunity for enjoying fun and fellowship and also involving people who use our church building.



In June our drama group 'The Cast Offs' gave us a delicious afternoon tea and a quiz. July saw all three of Saidu's churches coming together to sing Karaoke style. With Saidu and Adelaide leading the way, many people stepped up to the microphone to sing and a good time was had by all.

On a beautiful sunny Friday in July, we opened our doors and invited the community in to share a free lunch with us. There was a lovely atmosphere with 50 people sharing food and fellowship together and many people who came in said how much they had enjoyed it.

## Coming Events

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August - Caribbean Evening 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. with music and food

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Games Afternoon 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Fayre and meal 10 a.m. to 2 p.n.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>/Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> – Uppingham Road Drama Group 'The Cast Offs' perform at Mayflower

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***Editors note: Our Winter issue will be produced in November, when the next plan is due. We are trying to co-ordinate the two together so that they can be delivered at the same time! Hopefully! This should give you time to think about any Christmas events that you would like to advertise.***

***Please remember that if you want to have your personal details on a poster or in an article we now need you to let us know in writing, either email or written letter, that you are happy for us to publish these details. This is due to the new data protection and safeguarding polices from the government and the Methodist Church authorities. The editors email addresses are on the contact list on the cover and we have agreed that they can be published. The ministers details will continue to be published.***

# Wesley Hall



On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May we held a Table Top Sale fundraising event between Methodists, Moravians and Community Centre. This was a great success with lots of things going on – bouncy castle, face painting, food, lots of stalls selling a variety of goods from books, videos, clothes, make-up, cakes etc., etc. Lots of people from various Churches and the Community came to support the event and a good time was had by all.

A trip to the seaside on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June for our annual outing was enjoyed by all!

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June the ladies of Wesley Hall and Uppingham Road Reflection meeting, organised a Women's Conference which was held at Mayflower. The theme for the day was 'Building Bridges' – within the Church, with young people, with care homes and the elderly. The day was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. (See report on page 11)

**Looking ahead;** we are having another Games Evening planned for 11<sup>th</sup> August together with the Moravian Congregation and the Community Centre.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September is our Harvest Supper when we will again enjoy Fish & Chips, followed by a Beetle Drive which is always a fun night enjoyed by both young and old. On Sunday we have our Harvest Festival conducted by Stephen Owen.

Our 124<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary will be held on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> October and on the Saturday we have our 'Church At Home' when we will enjoy supper followed by entertainment.

# Reading and poems

## *A READING FROM KHALIL GIBRAN*

*You were born together, and together you shall be forever more.*

*You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.*

*And you will be together even in the silent memory of God.  
But let there be space in your togetherness.*

*And let the wings of the heavens dance between you.*

*Love one another, but make not a bond of love.*

*Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.*

*Fill each other's cup, but drink not from one cup.*

*Give one another your bread, but eat not from the same loaf.*

*Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone.*

*Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.*

*Give your hearts but not into each other's keeping.*

*For only the hand of life can contain your hearts.*

*And stand together, yet not too near together.*

*For the pillars of a temple stand apart.*

*And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.*

Khalil Gibran was a Lebanese-American writer, poet and visual artist. **Gibran** was born into a Maronite Catholic family in the town of Bsharri in the Mount Lebanon Mutasarrifate, Ottoman Empire (modern day Lebanon), Born in 1883

## Dave and Jane's Farewell

Well, what can I say? Syston Methodist Church was packed with people from all over the Circuit, some from other local churches and some who know Dave and Jane through the Hub and are not usually church goers. It was lovely to see the church so full -to the gunwales I suppose I ought to say keeping with a boat theme started by Andy Benbow from Oadby Trinity.



Edson Dube, Andy Benbow, Stephen Thompson , Brian Cottam, Fiona Pimm and Christine Hall tried not to embarrass Dave too much with their thanks.

The collective overriding thoughts about Dave were his commitment, helpfulness, computer know how (which I personally can testify to) and his fantastic and sometimes wicked sense of humour.

The singing was led by Eileen Molesdale and various members forming a music and singing group which was wonderful. The organist, Alan Smith from Oadby bravely stepped in to accompany the singing of 'Thanks for friends who keep on giving'- one of Dave's favourite hymns—if you're not familiar with it then it's 619 in Singing the Faith.

Dave spoke about the Wedding at Cana and his attempts to persuade couples to have it at their wedding to no avail, but the main message was about how this story and others in the Bible showed how women played such a huge part in Jesus' ministry and still do so today-something that Dave is passionate about.

The evening was rounded off with BBQ type food in the hall followed by cakes in the hub.

Dave, you will be missed by many people and we wish you and Jane well and God's blessings in Wythenshawe.

However, now as a Circuit, we look forward to the ministry of Derek and Daniel as they join us in September.

Jo Kay.

# Methodist Conference 2018

Things I reflected on by Dorothy Hutchinson.

- The sense of privilege & responsibility I feel of sharing with other district representatives in this annual gathering of Methodists to debate, confer and make decisions.
- The amazing way in whatever the venue, (this year the Sports Village of Nottingham University,) the conference arrangements team can transform it into a place of worship and business. Sport was not on the agenda, though I did see some using the climbing wall, but plenty of exercise as we climbed the hill between our accommodation and the Conference Hall.
- The unique mix of tradition and innovation— Wesley Hymns and a Bedouin tent for rest, drinks, hand and foot massage outside conference hall – a loving act of hospitality.
- The passion and courage of Youth Representatives leading worship, telling their stories and encouraging us to do the same, because telling faith stories are a powerful tool in helping us to share God's good news.
- Two questions that underlined all the worship and business - “What are we here for?” and “How are we fulfilling our calling?” Shouldn't these be on all our agendas?
- The contentious issues that arose, with the sharing of painful stories of frustration and exclusion, out of which came the encouragement and desire to hold together, to respect each other's views and to continue to learn to disagree well.

As we shared in the Ordination /services of Presbyters and Deacons, the promise we made to all Presbyters and Deacons “*We will uphold them*” must remain true for all of the connexion.





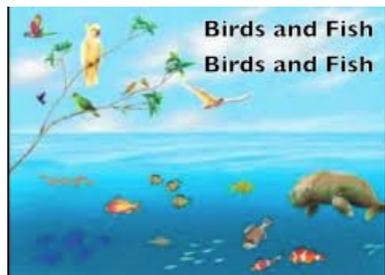
# Creation Hymn

Chaos and darkness at the start  
But God brought forth the saving light  
By His power, by His spirit  
The dome of sky bright blue and clear  
Reflected in the waves below  
By His power, by His spirit  
God was pleased, God was pleased  
Alleluia!



And so the land was duly made  
With the sea so mild and yet so strong  
By His power, by His spirit  
The plants and trees established there  
The sun and moon and stars as well  
By His power, By His spirit  
God was pleased, God was pleased  
Alleluia!

The fish and birds, wild beasts and tame  
Were made by God and given life  
By His power, by His spirit  
And in the end the pinnacle  
Of God's creation came to be  
He made man He made woman  
God was pleased, VERY pleased.





Uppingham Rd. Community meal



Uppingham Rd. Afternoon Tea



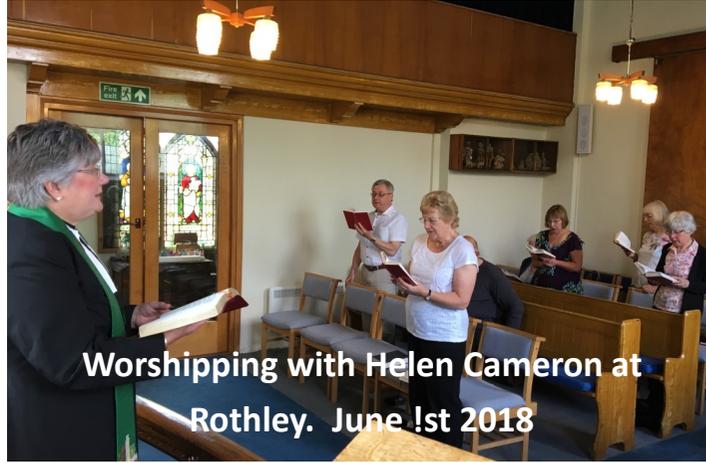
Visit to Harrison Road by Christians Aware



Thank you card for Jane



Messy Church at Rothley. Saying farewell and Thank you to Jane Warnock



Worshipping with Helen Cameron at Rothley. June 1st 2018



Garden outside The Hub Café, Syston



Dave, Jane & Sophie



Big Lunch at Sth Wigston

# World Churches Celebration– Northampton June 15th 2018



Edson and Jonathan, a minister in the Northampton circuit, with a lady from Kenya



Helen Cameron Preaching



Members from the Christian community of Tonga



Helen Cameron with the wife of minister Pedro from Namibia



Edson and Pedzi, a Zimbabwe lady who worships at Uppingham Road Church



Greeting each other at the start of the service