

The Beacon

Luke 15: 3-7



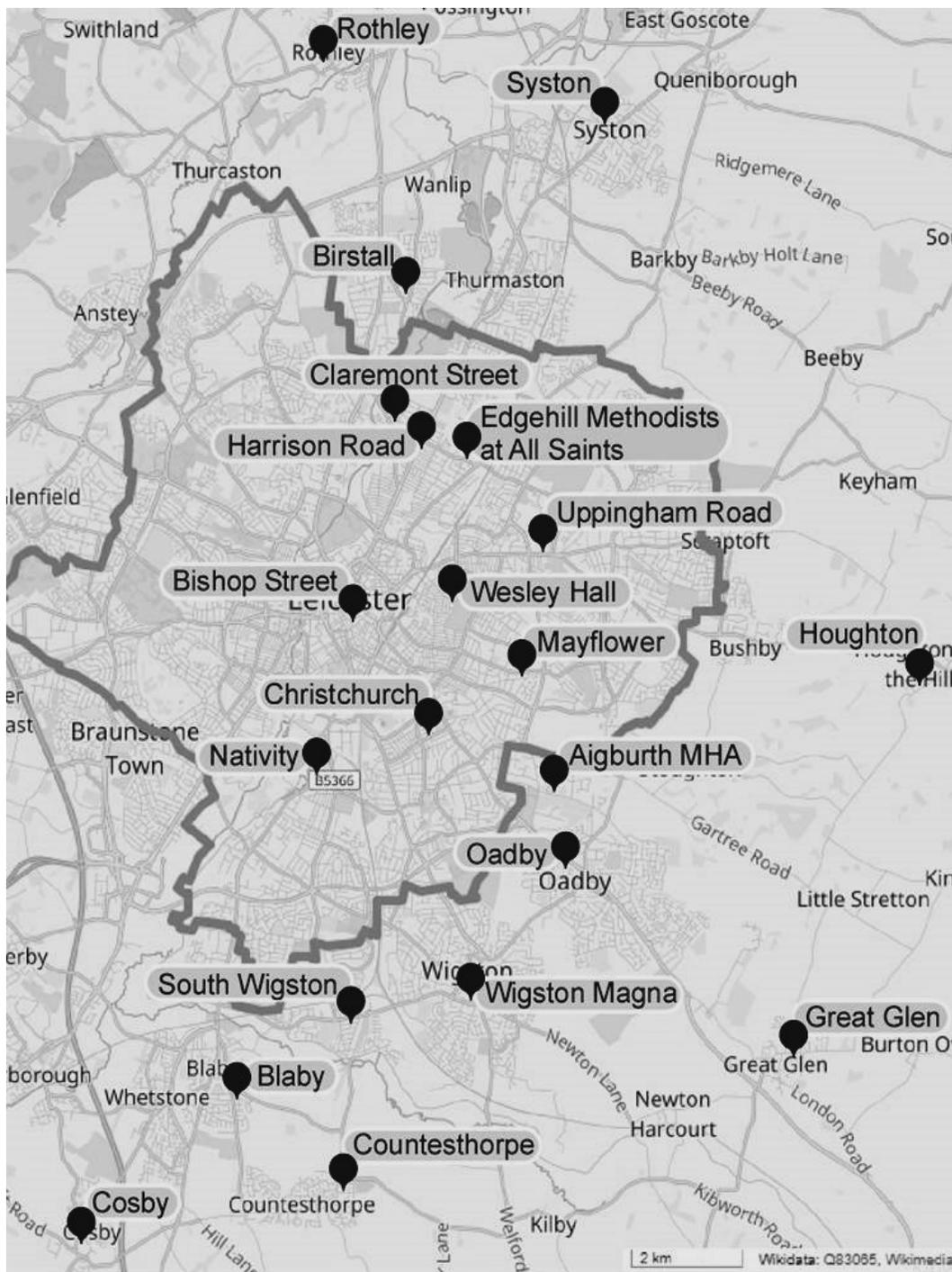
Quarterly Newsletter

www.leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk

Winter 2019



MAP OF CIRCUIT CHURCHES



LEICESTER TRINITY CIRCUIT

The Beacon

Winter 2019

Superintendent's letter



Dear Friends

Do you enjoy packing to go on holiday?

When I chose the clothes to bring away for a few days, it was cold and raining. Now that I'm here, though, it's sunny and mild - and I'm wishing that my coat and sweater weren't quite so cosy and warm. It's not so warm that I'm tempted to paddle and eat ice cream, though. It is still October in England, after all!

But the days are growing shorter, and I shall soon be very glad that I have warm clothes; before very long, it will be winter, and Christmas will roll around again (yes, I know that mince pies have already been for sale for weeks!). This issue of The Beacon covers the season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, and in it you will find details of the Christmas services - the mid-week services, that is. You'll find the Sunday services in the Plan, as usual.

When we get to Christmas, I hope that you will find that you've made the right sort of preparations for the season, and be full of awe at the Incarnation. The thought that God was born as one of us really ought to stop us in our tracks, when we think about it.

Jesus didn't bring anything when he came to stay in the world alongside us. He was born as needy and naked as any other baby, hungry and cold, and his survival was entirely dependent on human care and attention. He brought nothing at all, except a love that redeems and heals.

I think that Christians need to say as clearly as we can manage, and loud enough to be heard, that this is the gift that we human beings need more than anything. The gift of knowing that we are accepted and loved, by God and by one another. The gift of finding ourselves in a place where it is safe to be fully

ourselves, among people who support and encourage (and sometimes challenge) us to grow and become the best that we can be. It's the gift we need, and it's the best gift that we can give to each other.

Maybe my preparations for this time away weren't as wise as they could have been. I hope and pray that my preparations to celebrate the Incarnation of Christ will be better - so that this Christmas will be richer and deeper than the last, as its message of love and hope sounds clearer in my head and my heart.

May it be so for you, too.

May this season of Advent lead you into the heart of Christmas - into the heart of God.

Every blessing



Editorial

Hi everyone, Anne and myself, despite all complications and busyness have managed to produce another riveting read for you all—well, we hope we have!!

As you read and inwardly digest it please take into account that we are both human (despite comments to the contrary!!) and we do and can make errors.

Thank you so much for all your contributions—some of which have had to be severely edited but we hope that the sense of the article has not been lost. If you notice that there isn't an article from your church, from yourself or from anyone in your church then it is not up to us to twist your arm. It is up to you to send us something---articles about future events or mission, poems, book reviews, comments on previous articles or anything you think other people in the Circuit might be interested in.

The next few months will be busy for us all and difficult for some and so we bring you all to God in our prayers.

Finally, anything for the next Beacon should be with us the week of the

13th-19th January 2020.

Please **remember to send all articles in Calibri font 11. it really does help.**

We both hope that you all have a peaceful and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Jo and Anne

Christmas Services

Oadby

- 7 Dec 7.30pm -Carol Concert
- 9 Dec 7pm - Amos Carol Concert
- 21&23 Dec -Breakfast with Santa
- 25 Dec 10am—Christmas celebration

Rothley

- 21 Dec 3pm-Messy Church
- 24 Dec 4pm— Christingle

Wigston Magna

- 24 Dec 6pm— Christingle
- 24 Dec 11.15pm—HC
- 25 Dec 10am—AAW

Syston

- 15 Dec 3pm— Rotary Carol service
- 16 Dec 7pm—Carols in the Square
- 21 Dec 1pm-3pm—Light a Candle
- 22 Dec 6pm—Carol service
- 24 Dec 5pm—Christingle
- 24 Dec 11.30pm—HC
- 25 Dec 10am— Christmas service

Great Glen

- 24 Dec 7.30pm - HC
- 25 Dec 10am -Christmas service

Houghton

- 24 Dec 6pm —Carols

Birstall

- 24 Dec 11.30pm— HC
- 25 Dec 10am—AAW

Countesthorpe

- 25 Dec 10am—AAW

Blaby

- 24 Dec 11.30pm—Candlelit
service

Edgehill

- 25 Dec 10.15am-Christmas
service

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
Mon & Wed	Weekly	1.00-1.30 pm	Bishop Street	Prayer/service
Tues	4th of month	1.45 pm	Syston	Julian Prayers
Tues	Weekly But	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
Wed	1st of month	1.00 pm	Bishop Street Phone	Holy Communion
Thurs	Monthly	7.30 pm	2718948	Julian Prayers
Thurs	Weekly	10.00 am	Christchurch	Prayers
Sat	Weekly	10.15 am	Oadby.	Prayers



A comment on being an inclusive church.

The trouble with the statement about being ‘an inclusive church’ is that it is bad theology, perhaps, not even theology at all. Christian theology, to be Christian, has to start with what is fundamental to the Faith. Morality and church practice grow out of that. It is, therefore, a mistake to begin with some of the categories which are currently in use such as ‘economic power, gender, mental health...’. The New Testament does not think like this. Take, for example, *Colossians* with its language of renewed humanity: ‘In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew’ (Col 3: 11).

What then should churches do if they want to honour that renewal in Christ? The thinking of ‘inclusive’ church will not do. But, of course, as Methodists we should welcome all people, and if churches want to make a statement about this, it should start with the theology of the church and then draw out from this the declaration that, in the words of the hymn ‘All are welcome in this place’ StF . Should churches decide to write their own welcome manifesto, they could ponder what the Superintendent wrote in the introduction to ‘being inclusive’ in the last edition of the Beacon: ‘we really are members one of another and we belong together’. From that everything follows, not because we fit into this or that category but because we are members of the body of Christ.

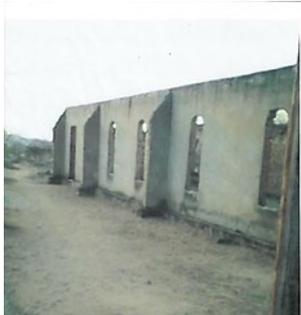
Richard Gill



@ Bishop Street Shop

Find ‘just the card you were looking for’ at the *Cards for Good Causes* pop-up shop, Bishop Street Methodist Church (10a Bishop Street, Leicester). The shop is open from 10.30 – 3pm M-F and 10.30- 12 noon on Saturdays, until 13 December. For sale is a wide selection of Christmas cards produced by both national and local charities who benefit from your purchase. While you’re there, grab some coffee and cake from the Chapel Café, a partnership between Bishop Street Church and the Zynthia Trust.

Raise a Roof: Complete!



Avoca Methodist Church building, before roofing

Half way there! Avoca Methodist Church roof building project



Avoca Methodist Church, Zimbabwe, has a new roof! *Beacon* readers may remember our Circuit's *Raise a Roof* fundraising efforts to help with the cost of a simple roof for this rural church. Avoca is part of the Inciza Circuit, whose members worshiped outside, rain or shine, under acacia trees or in borrowed school rooms. The church building structure was there, but the roof was not.

A total of £2,600 was raised in the last two years through fellowship, food, song and offerings and given through the Methodist Church, Zimbabwe for the construction of a simple roof for Avoca Methodist Church. A roof on the church now means a place to worship when the rains come, temporary shelter for those in need, an extra school room when needed, and so much more. Avoca's commitment to God's mission has produced two ministerial sons, one of them the Revd Edson Dube!

The new zinc roof was sourced locally and several professional builders, members of Methodist churches in the Inciza Circuit, offered their labour for reduced or no fees as part of their tithe and commitment to God's mission in that rural area. Building work began toward the end of the rainy season and was completed by August 2019. Several new people have begun to attend worship, praise God! Avoca membership stands at about 30 adults, with an additional 15 'exhorters' (adherents), and 30 children.

Edson and Samukeliso (Sam) Dube were overjoyed to attend the dedication of the building, which took place on 18 August 2019. The bishop of the Methodist Church, Zimbabwe, the Revd Dr. Soloman Zwana presided. Using the traditional Ndebele/Zulu language service book, the door to the church remained closed until outside prayers were said and Psalm 122 read, *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go*

to the house of the Lord.!” (v.1). The Revd Ms M Fuyane, Synod Secretary, knocked loudly on the door and it was opened from inside to a procession of praise and joy.

Also attending that day were the Revd Dr. Jimmy Dube, Secretary of Conference; the Bulawayo District Bishop M and Mrs Ncube; Inciza Circuit superintendent the Revd Milton Kumire, friends from other Circuits and other church traditions, as well as the traditional chief of Godlwayo (which includes Avoca) Mr Vezi Maduna Mafu.

Diane Allen



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

Good news for our Circuit

as a project nominated by Ros Vernon of Mayflower Methodist Church has been awarded an Empowerment Gift of £500. This goes to the Africa Greater Life Mission which is supported by Andy and Chris Bull. The money goes to enable the women in Bulabakula in Uganda make and distribute re-useable sanitary pads. This means girls do not miss days of schooling.

The District also received further grants towards overseas projects and a Social and Community action grant for the Rugby and Daventry circuit where a camper van is being used to reach disadvantaged communities in the locality.

If your church or fellowship groups support a project overseas or wish to set up a new initiative locally please consider applying for a grant from MWiB. Information is on the web site:- www.mwib.org.uk

Tabita house.

Members from this circuit attended a District Day at Towester Road Methodist Church, Northampton on June 1st when Sandra Goodwin came to talk about her visit to Bolivia in 2017. She told us of the work being done to help protect women who were vulnerable to exploitation. In this country money was being raised to enable the women in El Alto to put a roof on a building they were planning to use as a 'safe' house for women coming into the city to find work. The money has been raised and additional gifts are being used to help them

buy equipment for the home.

Swanwick Weekend 2020

This is the weekend 3rd-5th April 2020.

Booking forms will be on the web site in November. A free place is available for someone who has not been to a Swanwick Weekend and bursaries are also available. The District Executive decided to give financial support, if needed, in addition to the money available from the central funds. Please encourage women you know to apply. This is a popular event and groups of women go from other Districts. Jill Baker will be leading on the theme of Pilgrimage.

A full report from the recent Forum meeting held in October will be available on the MWiB web site with further information on all these issues. Please contact me, Mary Gill, the Northampton District Forum Representative if you have any questions. I am always willing to come to talk to your church or fellowship groups about the role of Methodist Women in Britain.

Mary Gill

From Ros Vernon

In the summer edition of The Beacon, I saw the article about Empowerment Gifts, under Methodist Women in Britain.

At **Mayflower**, we support a Ugandan charity, Africa Greater Life Mission, which runs a children's and young people's project near Kampala. Their objectives are to change the life prospects of children and young men and women from impoverished backgrounds.

This seemed an ideal candidate for an Empowerment gift. The charity would use the gift to help the young women in two ways.

- a) Supporting their sanitary needs, which are difficult because of living in a location without a sophisticated sewage system, and no form of refuse collection service.
- b) b). The second use of the money is to support vocational training for young women.

I was delighted to receive an e-mail this week, telling me that the project has been granted an Empowerment gift of £500.

It is wonderful that the Methodist church reaches out to disadvantaged women in this fashion.

Christian organisations working with children & young people in Cape Town.

In September I was privileged to visit Cape Town and visit the Beautiful Gate project operating in several townships. Also, I met with Jaki North, an Interventions Worker working at the Trinity Children's Centre and then heard a little about the St Stephen's Church supported Arise project as well as adding website information on all these projects. I hope this information stimulates interest in our local churches.

GRACE2LEARN – A Christian organisation involved in self-directed learning & management and financial skills management with young people aged between 13 & 30 to help improve their work ethics & culture. They use a lot of creative work through art, photography, games, web design and music to help young people achieve their goals. They work in Cape Flats, Cape Town, an area greatly affected by economic hardship, broken education & criminality.

Contacts: info@grace2learn.co.za or use website e-mail address

ARISE – A Christian organisation using social workers and psychologists to offer therapeutic interventions for children/young people & their families in Heideveld, Cape Flats, Cape Town. They offer counselling, advocacy & support services and also fostering and adoption and have a Family Centre and use this to work with families and to co-operate with other similar organisations (possibly Grace2Learn who are local to them). They also work in schools, help strengthen & support families and offer annual holidays.

Contacts: info@arisefamily.org or Tel: 27 (0) 21 633 4058 between 9.00 – 16.00 or use website e-mail

BEAUTIFUL GATE - A Christian organisation focusing on family strengthening and child health & education using doctor & nurse team medical interventions regards HIV etc, abuse and other conditions and also pastoral & education health care for families. They work with families where drug & alcohol abuse feature and where gang violence occurs.

The work is in the Philippi, Crossroads, Khayelitsha and Capricorn townships. There are clinics, centres where sports development feature and the social services are based. There is a children's residence for orphans and some are fostered or adopted from there. A careers service, believed to be the first in Africa, has just opened up to reach out to unemployed youth & to offer something different to this deprived culture.

Contacts: lousienadin@doctors.org.uk or Tel: 27 (0) 829 564 585 or use Whats App

Office Address: 73 Stock Rd, Philippi-East, Cape Town 7785 Tel: 27 (0) 21 370 2500

Office e-mail: support@beautifulgate.org

TRINITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE (TCC) – Trinity Children's Centre is a Christian child-centred organisation with a teaching & counseling interventions team working in Heideveld, Cape Flats offering educational and parenting support work with 90+ children (Grades 1-7) and their families many of whom are from a Muslim background. As above, they are working in an area where drugs & alcohol abuse, gangsterism, child abuse and violence have all increased in the area. Jaki North (from England) & Yolanda (local), both Christians, are part of the interventions team & have recently reported back to St Stephen's Church who support their work.

Contacts: Jaki North by e-mail: Jaki@trinitychildren.org.za or Yolanda Karstens at: Yolanda@trinitychildren.org.za or admin@trinitychildren.org.za or Tel: 021 007 1960

Office Address: 6 Palestrina St, Eastridge, Cape Town 7785

Two poems written for the Cape Townships.

TOWNSHIP POTATOES

Potatoes have tumbled
from the wagon, scattering
over the road: their livelihood
spilled out under crushing car wheels.
They live vulnerable like babies
to a road's rank indifference
as cars rush rudely by
chasing their own pipe dreams.
A man's business is crushed before time,
a mess on roads like local lives.

All over this broken township
there are mashed lives,
hopes crippled by rank power
and the greed of a wealthy few.

CHILD'S HAND

A child's hand uplifted
in the sunshine rays
and a smile belying
that history of pain behind it.
A small voice raised in song
from new joys found
in the sanctuary of rescue
and a waiting there for hope.
What new ventures
will await this child
as days turn into months
and years clock up new hopes?
Will people come one day
with their hands outstretched
to offer simple sanctuary,
a home of peace and love?

Careers Advice at the Hub, Syston



Summary of clients seen between October 2018 & 2019

Altogether 13 clients were referred or self-referred to see me and my co-worker, Lisa Emerson who is now unable to continue this involvement because of her own work commitments. 11 of those attended at least once while no more was heard from the two non-attenders and it was known that one had permanent and serious physical health problems which would render a commitment to work very difficult indeed.

Of the remaining 11 it is known that 5 are or have been in regular work, whether full or part-time according to their needs and aspirations, while another is thought to be in work but has not confirmed with Jo Kay that he is definitely working. Two others are undertaking voluntary work, mostly at The Hub itself and one of those is not in a position to seek paid employment at this time while another is still looking for paid work. Of the other three one finally chose an education destination by managing to get herself on to a professional course which she can finish in Australia where she has now returned to and where she will find part-time lecturing work. As far as is known only two are still unemployed, one because of her child care situation although she is likely to secure employment in the long term because of her sound work history, and the other has other personal motivational barriers caused by long-term employment.

More publicity will be needed upon my return but I shall no longer have the invaluable assistance of Lisa Emerson who is owed a debt of immense gratitude as she carried this work in the face of her own work commitments and ongoing health problems.

Robin Perry (advisor)

Meditation by Rumi

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing is a field.

I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass,

The world is too full to talk about."

Attending Methodist Conferences - Stephen Thompson

I was always aware since being a little boy that in June/July every year there was a major event in the Methodist Church calendar called the 'Methodist Conference' which was held in a different place each year, and looked forward to seeing the reports and pictures in the Methodist Recorder after the event. I did wonder whether it would ever take place in Leicester, and was pleased to find out in the mid 1980's that it was coming to Leicester in 1989.

The main venue for the 1989 Conference was the DeMontfort Hall, and I sat in the Public Gallery to witness the opening ceremony, and when I was free in the evenings, to listen to the debates and join in the hymn-singing which took place to lighten the atmosphere at regular intervals. I did wonder whether I would ever have the opportunity to be a District Representative to the Methodist Conference, but having fixed holidays due to working in the hosiery trade, and 8 years as a Leicester City Councillor and other commitments ruled this out until recently.

The actual inspiration for me to consider standing in the elections as a representative for our District to Conference came when watching the Presidential Address in 2018 by Rev. Michaela Youngson and the Vice-Presidential interview with Bala Gnanapragasam (who had also been a Councillor for 8 years) and I felt now was my chance to put my name forward. I also later on in 2018 became a Circuit representative to our District Synod.

Before the September 2019 Synod where the elections to Conference 2020 took place I filled in an election to Conference form, got the required 2 nominations and sent it in by the required deadline. I had to list on this form my current appointments within the church, and up to 25 words of relevant additional information.

The day of Synod arrived, and on our seats were papers in assorted colours, a white one with a list of candidates with the information that we had supplied, and a pink one which was the Ballot paper. There were 2 elections on the same paper, one for the Ministerial representatives, one for the lay representatives. We had 5 votes for each, on a first past the post basis. At the stated time we filled in our ballot papers, in secret, folded them up and passed them along the rows of scrutineers to count and report back to Synod later in the day.

Sadly I was not successful. But I would like to congratulate the other two members of our Circuit Meeting who also stood as they were both elected to the 2020 Conference in Telford, Rev. Paula Hunt and Pedzisai Kadsande.

Sharing Good News James Blackhall– Children & Youth worker

Conference

I am delighted to have been selected again to attend Conference in 2020 (along with Paula and Pedzi from our circuit) I thoroughly enjoyed last year and would love to talk to people about my experience or anything that was discussed. Do feel free to talk to me about your views on anything coming up in this year's agenda as it comes out. One of the things I am particularly looking forward to is getting to see Rev. Richard Teal, the minister who baptised me and a friend of my parents during his time in Berwick, become President of Conference. Conference is such an uplifting time with great worship and prayer as well as the serious business that is conducted. I was particularly impressed by how difficult issues were discussed prayerfully and lovingly. Although I was daunted by the enormity of the task beforehand, I was delighted at how supportive everyone was towards those who were new to conference.

The main highlight for me was most definitely seeing ministers being received into full connexion and then seeing my friend Paul Parker (from the Cornwall district) being ordained in Wolverhampton. It was a truly joyous day and to be part of conference which declared "they are worthy" on behalf of the whole church. I am looking forward to attending ordinations again next year.

Birstall After School Club

"Happy hour" continues to go from strength to strength and is a real asset to the witness of our church. Although the club does not run as a Christian club we witness through service and love to those who come. We are also going to provide each family with a book that tells the Christmas story and links to the displays that will be in the windows of "The Entertainer" (a toy shop in Leicester")

Rothley Children's Activities

Over the summer we decided to run three children's craft mornings in the coffee shop. These were a great success and attracted some families who attend Messy Church and some families who we have never had contact with before. We had a great time following the Biblical themes of creation, the lost sheep and Jesus calming the storm. This was such a success that we decided to do the same in October Half term which resulted in 6 children coming and enjoying crafts based on the parables of the lost coin and the hidden treasure. This was great fun both for the families and for us.

Our Messy Church continues to go from strength to strength. Our first one back after summer was our Messy Harvest and we enjoyed looking at apples and then eating a lovely apple crumble provided by Sue Wainwright and apple juice provided by the apple day at Birstall Methodist. We also collected 2 boxfuls of food for the local foodbank which was a great way to connect our Messy Church with the wider church and community.

The Leprosy Mission Stephanie Houlden (Birstall)

I have supported the Leprosy Mission for many years, since I found out that this disease still exists, despite a cure being available since the mid 20th century, and that millions of people are living with leprosy related disabilities globally. Did you know that it costs less than £30 to treat a person with leprosy (with additional cost for reconstructive surgery, hospital stays and physiotherapy when necessary)

People who have leprosy often keep it a secret, for fear of being treated the same as in biblical times, and so can end up losing fingers, toes, and often their livelihood, as well as being forced to leave their community.

My friend Sylvia Taylor invited me to join her for afternoon tea with Pam Rhodes, the Vice President of The Leprosy Mission, at St Martins House. Davis and Jean Webster also attended.

Pam encouraged everyone to have their photograph taken with her, and the four of us decided to have a group photograph, so that it could be included in the Beacon. **(See photo centre pages)**

We were all amazed when Pam recognised Sylvia. She had been introduced to her over 20 years ago and was only in her company for about a minute. Pam spoke about her visit to Nepal and what the leprosy mission are doing there to help people, as well as their work around the world, not just treating leprosy, but helping the people and their families until they are able to support themselves again.

The talk was very informative and Pam is obviously very passionate about her work with the leprosy mission.

We had a lovely tea, and chatted to the others. Two people at our table were from a church on New Walk, and two had travelled from Nottinghamshire. We all agreed that our church family were great supporters of this very worthwhile charity.

Let's pray that it isn't long before Leprosy is completely wiped out.

The Tolpuddle Martyrs and Methodism

And the renovation of the Old Methodist Chapel in Tolpuddle

In the summer of 2010 Pauline, my wife, and I visited the village of Tolpuddle in Dorset, the home of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. If you are a bit hazy about who the martyrs were and their connection to Methodism and the trade union movement perhaps I should start with a word or three by means of explanation.

In the 1830s bad winters, poor harvests and the introduction of machinery resulted in harsh conditions for agricultural workers in Dorset. Labourers in Tolpuddle asked for an increase in wages from 7 shillings (35p) to 10 shillings (50p) a week but the farm owners reduced the wage to 6 shillings (30p) a week instead. As a result six Tolpuddle Dorsetshire labourers who worked and lived in Tolpuddle, George Loveless, James Loveless, Thomas Stanfield, John Stanfield, James Brine and James Hammett met to form a Lodge of the 'Friendly Society of Agricultural Workers' with the aim of improving wages and working conditions for its members. The first five were members of the local Methodist Church and the Loveless brothers and John Stanfield were local preachers. Membership of the Society involved the taking of an oath of secrecy not to disclose anything about the work of the Society. Whilst membership of such societies and trade unions was not against the law the land owners and government were alarmed by their spread. In February 1834 the six men were arrested on a charge of swearing an illegal oath. The men were found guilty and were sentenced to 7 years transportation to Australia. This sentence was seen as sending a warning to all would be members of friendly societies or trade unions. The sentences caused outrage amongst the general public and there many demonstrations and petitions asking for the men to be pardoned. The government eventually bowed to public pressure and the men were released and given free passage back to England. For various reasons not all returned at the same time. George Loveless returned in 1837, James Loveless, the Stanfield brothers and James Brine returned in 1838 and James Hammett in 1839. James Hammett was the only one to return to live in Tolpuddle. The remaining five and their families moved to Essex but eventually emigrated to Canada. In 1838 these Dorsetshire labourers became known as the Tolpuddle Martyrs.



Each July the Trades Union Congress (TUC) organise a festival in the village to commemorate the martyrs which attracts over 10,000 visitors including members of the Methodist Church (photos 1 & 2)

The Old Methodist Chapel in Tolpuddle, where the men worshipped and preached, was built in 1818 and was in use as a chapel until 1844 when the lease expired. When we visited in 2010 it had been in use as an agricultural building and was in a very dilapidated condition after 164 years of neglect (photo 3).

A new Methodist Church was built in the village in 1862 and the Martyrs are commemorated on the chapel gateposts (photo 4). On returning from holiday I made some enquiries of the Methodist Church, the T.U.C. and others to see if there were any plans



to renovate the Old Chapel but it seemed that the owner was unwilling to sell and, although everyone was in favour of the Old Chapel's restoration, no one was taking any practical steps to bring this about.

I was, therefore, pleasantly surprised when I recently discovered that, In February 2015, the building and site had been purchased by a newly formed Building Preservation Trust –The Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust (TOCT). The Trust has six members including Rev'd. Stephanie Jenner, Superintendent Minister of the Dorset South and West Methodist Circuit. The Circuit has also made a loan to the Trust. With the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the Architectural Heritage Fund, Dorset County Council and West Dorset District Council the Trust have produced detailed plans for the renovation and repair of the former chapel, as well as creating interpretation and community engagement activities to tell the history of the building and its connection to Methodism and to the Tolpuddle Martyrs. Photo 4 shows the Old Chapel as it is today after some emergency restoration work. An artist's impression of how the Chapel will look after renovation can be seen at photo 5.

In August this year the National Lottery Heritage Fund announced that it would make a grant of £329,300 to help save the Chapel. The total cost of the renovation will be £655,000. The Trust has already raised £290,000 and is working hard to raise the balance of £36,000 required for the restoration project. If you want to learn more, visit the Trust's web site at <https://tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org/> or Twitter @TolpuddleOCT .

You can; 'Become a Friend of TOCT', or make a donation. Use their website.

For further details contact;

Brian Pearson (Edgehill MC) email: brian.pearson49@btinternet.com

News from the Churches:

Aigburth

Aigburth residents and staff are delighted to tell you that

Marilyn Bowles has received an MHA Oscar Award, for

‘Supporter of the Year’ 2019. Marilyn has transformed

the gardens at Aigburth, making them colourful and welcoming for both residents and visitors. The award also makes us known in the community as a caring place to live.



Our next Coffee Morning will be Saturday December 7th from 10—12,30.

Please come and join us.

Birstall

Down Memory Lane

Afternoon Tea

at Birstall Methodist Church Coffee Shop, bi-monthly

2.30 -4pm

7th Dec 2019....Ukulele Band



Are you feeling isolated or lonely, or are you having problems with your memory ? Or if you know someone who is , why not bring them, and join us.

“Down Memory Lane” is very informal, it begins at 2:30 pm, but it’s ok if you are a bit early, or a bit late.

One of our helpers will welcome you, and find you a seat at one of the tables.

The entertainment, which always involves music and singing together, will begin when we think everyone has arrived.

After about 15 minutes, tea and home made cakes are served, then there’s more entertainment and time to chat.

So please come and join us , we would love to see you.

To find out more , please contact Janet (0116)2671471

I had heard good reports about this, so decided to see for myself.

There were about 30 people there including helpers.

I sat with Peggy and her niece Sandra, and we chatted and got to know each other before the singalong started. We were given a song sheet, but they were all well known songs. Jill played the piano, and Shirley led the singing.

John read a monologue about Albert and the lion, which was really funny.

A lovely selection of homemade cakes and scones were served, with tea and coffee, and when we'd had enough, the singing started again, and John read the sequel, The Return of Albert, which was as funny as the first monologue.

It was a lovely friendly atmosphere, and I intend to go back in December to hear the Ukulele Band, who everyone said was so good last time.

I'd recommend this event to anyone who is lonely, and wants a friendly chat with entertainment, and cake 🥰👍🍰

Blaby

So at the start of August we had a successful *Costa del Blaby* for two days, as we ran our second *Holiday at Home*. It had a Spanish holiday theme, but complete with English fish and chips. Thanks go to the local chippy for giving us a discount, and also to local shops that donated bread, cake and sandwich fillings. Together with a grant from the District Council, this meant we could keep admission free.



After a morning sing-song, various craft activities were enjoyed, and the mosaic stands made from brightly coloured tiles proved a popular new addition. There were table-top games such as quoits (borrowed from the Scouts) available in the church hall, with hook-a-duck and a coconut shy outside. Each afternoon offered a film for any who wanted a less active afternoon. And we ended with a visit from an old-fashioned ice cream trike – when we enjoyed eating ice creams in the sun, trying to avoid any drips as they melted.

See Photos centre page

On 15th September we hosted a Churches Together *Songs of Praise*, about which we have had positive comments, about the service itself and the

welcome that people received. As all hymns chosen were in *Singing the Faith*, we were able to use the hymn books, but nearly ran out, even with using all the music and large print copies.

Tiddlers, Messy Church and Bible Study have all started again after the summer and numbers are good. *T @ 4* has established itself on the fourth Sunday afternoon, and is attracting some from outside the church congregation. Our Harvest on 6th October had a good display, with fresh produce then going to Action Homeless and dried/tinned goods to Countesthorpe foodbank.

So Christmas is fast approaching, particularly as we start Advent with our Christmas Tree Festival, on Saturday 30th November and the afternoon of Sunday 1st December. There are stalls on the Saturday, lunches too, with refreshments available both days. This year we are supporting *Heartlink* for our local charity. If any circuit friends are near Blaby that weekend, we would love to see you.

Countesthorpe

We have a fantastic catering team here in Countesthorpe - their success is due, for the most part, to the fact that I keep out of the kitchen!! However, we gave our cooks the evening off when we held our annual Long Ally Skittles Evening in Whetstone in August. The pub put on their usual great menu and the skittles were fun. 'No one was hurt or injured during the making of the evening (can be a bit close sometimes)!!'



The last day of August was the date for our Garden Party at 17 Linden Avenue. The weather had been forecast as being somewhat inclement. We had a lovely enjoyable summer afternoon with lots of cakes and cups of tea for just £2!

Our Harvest Festival was on Sunday 15th September when the chapel was decorated to celebrate the good things that the Lord has provided. The following evening we continued our celebration with our Harvest Supper.

At the beginning of October, we celebrated our Chapel Anniversary - Jenny, our minister, led our worship. Later in the month, on the 12th we held a Cakes, Books and Bric-a-Brac Sale.

On 27th October we will be holding one of our informal Café services.

We will be joining in the Remembrance Service at St. Andrew's Church on 10th November. Bold and bright, the poppy is a well-known symbol of remembrance. Each November, millions of people wear theirs with pride; some with sorrow, but all with gratitude. We never forget the sacrifice that countless Service men and women made for our country.

November 17th is the date set for our annual Gift Service - this year we will be supporting the work of the Salvation Army.

Our Christmas Market is on 30th November and our Christmas Tree Festival two weeks later on the weekend of 14th/15th December. On the Saturday light lunches will be available and an opportunity to listen to the singing and the music of some of the pupils of Countesthorpe Greenfields Junior School - always fantastic! The Sunday service will include Christingle. We are looking forward to our Carol Service on 22nd December. As with most chapels and churches we will be lighting our Advent Candles throughout Advent, culminating with the all important white candle on Christmas Day.

Friday October 4th was a special day, it was 'WORLD SMILE DAY' and the following poem is quite appropriate:

Smiling is infectious. You catch it like the flu.
Today when someone smiled at me I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner & someone saw me grin
When I smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile and knew it had true worth
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick & get the world infected.



Great Glen

The Church at the Cross

Some of our braver members attempted to attend the 20/20 county cricket match between Leicestershire and Lancashire in July, accompanied by our minister, Derek. What a wash-out! The match never began due to the heavy rainfall that continued all evening despite the optimism of the commentator, who

insisted that it may still go ahead if the umpires decided so. We all ate our picnics and gave up at 7.30pm, most of us returning home with soggy clothes.

Our 'Soggy Bottom' coffee morning in aid of Toilet Twinning raised over £400 so we were able to 'twin' our toilets with a toilet block in Bangladesh, and latrines in Central African Republic, Nicaragua and Afghanistan.

We were delighted to host the 'Sparklers' pre-school children and their parents/grandparents or carers for six weeks when the group normally breaks up for the holidays. This was well attended and it was good to have the patter of tiny feet around again.

Our Cafe Church and Local Arrangements are still very well attended, particularly Cafe Church when we can enjoy fresh coffee, cakes and scones served during the service. This, together with our Ukulele group playing, makes for a very joyful time of worship.

Our new sound system was dedicated in August, having been generously donated in memory of her mother, Tot Roberts, by our member Judy Buffrey. We now can all appreciate the wonderful sermons and prayers we have been so blessed with by the likes of Dr. Clive Marsh and our Superintendent Minister, Paula.

Our 'Big Harvest Welcome' service was held on the last Sunday in September when we celebrated God's gifts to us of food. The produce, both fresh, tinned and dried was donated to the Salvation Army food bank. Afterwards about fifty people shared a Harvest lunch in the schoolroom.

We now look forward our Advent Services each Wednesday in December for three weeks, led by Miriam Stephenson and to sharing the Christmas celebrations with Houghton and Oadby.



Mayflower

We have had an excellent start to the new connexional year at Mayflower.



As last year we held our Covenant Service on Sunday 1st September, and following the Service most of the congregation went to Launde Abbey for a picnic lunch, a short devotional Service in the Chapel at Launde and afternoon tea. This was a blessed day of commitment and fellowship. We thank Saidu for his ministry during this event.

On 15th September John Aldridge led our morning service, and the theme was Outreach. The Service was enhanced by several young musicians from Soar Valley Music Centre who provided music before and during the Service, and they were supported by their parents too. There was also a string quartet and a young organist. Gary, a 5 year old, who is part of the United Methodist community at Mayflower played the drums! John thanked all who took part. It was a lovely inclusive service.

We were sad to have to say goodbye to John Atkinson, and have really appreciated his and Vera's support over many years.

We were blessed to receive a visit from Rev Alison Geary from Birmingham on 22nd September, and friendships were once more renewed.

On 29th September there was a christening Service for Grayson, who was supported by his close and extended family and friends. Saidu led the service. This was a happy occasion for all.

Last Sunday Saidu led our Harvest Holy Communion service; Dr Douglas Beoku preached. This included a film about the potato from All we can. The United Methodist congregation joined us on a memorable occasion.

Several of our regular user groups helped by decorating the church and contributed gifts for Harvest.

The produce from the Harvest was given to the Community of Grace in Evington along with a cheque to assist with their winter fuel bills, the money being raised through sharing in cake after the service and a bring and share lunch on Monday.

Several of our members and friends at Mayflower supported Music Centre during the week as they celebrated the 45th Birthday of the Organisation. This was

a very happy, and successful event too.

At Mayflower we feel blessed by the varied community of four churches, and many friends who use the building, and also the involvement of a range of young people and their families through the music activities.

We look forward to Advent and Christmas together.

Church of the Nativity

Now an Emergency Centre

It was agreed at a previous meeting of the Church Council to look into the Church becoming an Emergency Centre with Leicester City Council for the local community and beyond.



Nativity is now on the City Council's "list of pre-identified potential emergency centres." This means that the Nativity would deal with "smaller" emergencies such as the Hinckley Road Explosion or the gas leak on Anstey Lane and Blackbird Road which happened in early December last year. In both incidents, the Emergency Centres were local churches. The major incidents in the local area would still be dealt with by Aylestone Leisure Centre, King Power Stadium or the Tigers' Ground.

This is another example of The Church of the Nativity being at the heart of the Community.

Oadby

Saint John Henry Newman

Canonised by Pope Francis at a ceremony in Rome on 13th October, John Henry Newman has been described as "*Britain's saint for our times*". There will be an opportunity to celebrate his life and work— and to sing some of his hymns during our evening service at Oadby Trinity on 17th November. The service starts at 6.30 pm.



Please come and join us. "All are welcome in this place"

Howard Smith



justice and hope for the forgotten

Peace On Earth

The 2019 Amos Trust Bethlehem Christmas carol service tour will be coming to Oadby this year.

We will be joined by Sami Awad from the Holy Land Trust in Bethlehem as well as guest performers including Garth Hewitt.

Sami is a leading Palestinian peace activist who will be explaining why non-violence is at the heart of the Christmas message and of his family in Gaza.

All proceeds will go to the Amos Trust 2019 Christmas appeal for their partners in Gaza and the home and peace-building work of Holy Land Trust.

**19:00 Monday 9th December,
Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby, Leics. LE2 5AF**



The Methodist Church



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER 2019

AT 7.30 P.M.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, OADBY

Tickets £8.00 (£4.00 under 18's) in advance from
Zeph's Café

Jim Gannon (07831 157845)

Tickets on the door £9.00

FANCY A BITE TO EAT FIRST?

Zeph's Café will be open until 7.00 p.m.

selling meals, snacks,

Delicious cakes and beverages

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

AT ZEPH'S CAFÉ

21ST AND 23RD DECEMBER

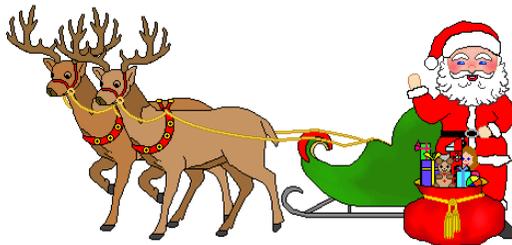
AT 9.00 A.M.

Tickets £8.50 available from *ZEPH'S CAFÉ*

Early Booking Essential

Children's ticket also includes:

Present from Santa and craft activities



Syston

1st Syston Girls' Brigade

We meet at Syston Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings (6:30-8pm term times) for a varied programme of fun and activities. In recent weeks we have had a pizza party and had a few evenings looking at the story of Moses. We will have a Light Party on 29th October (where we will be using some of the Scripture Union resources as a Christian alternative for Hallowe'en, sharing the good news of Jesus). Then we will be starting some Christmas activities, ending the term with our Christmas event on 10th December – all family and friends are welcome to come to this event where we will be singing Christmas Carols and hearing the Christmas story.



Girls' Brigade (GB) is an international uniformed Christian organisation which is over 125 years old, and more information can be found at: www.girlsb.org.uk. Every GB group is different and joining a GB group is a great way for girls to make new friends and take part in exciting activities in a safe and friendly environment. We are trying to recruit more girls aged 5-12 years to our group at Syston, and for more information about us take a look at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/1stSystonGirlsBrigade or contact Marie (marie_vernon@hotmail.com or 07786486504)

Uppingham Road

At Uppingham Road the harvest thanksgiving all-age service this year was led by Miriam Stevenson. Our harvest appeal was for Methodist Relief and Development 'All We Can' and had the theme 'Deepen Your Roots this Harvest'. We had a wonderful service celebrating the power of potatoes and learned how they can make a practical difference to farmers in Ethiopia.



Sadly, there is also need closer to hand and we support our local foodbank throughout the year.

During September and October there was an exhibition at New Walk Museum entitled *100 First Women Portraits* taken by photographer Anita Corbin. These striking images celebrate pioneering women of the 21st century across all manner of disciplines, including sport, media, military, business, arts, music, adventure and politics.

One corner of the exhibition was devoted to women from Leicester and featured our own Elvy Morton. Elvy has worked with the African/ Caribbean community for 40 years and founded the Leicester Caribbean Carnival with the aim of educating young black people about their history, tradition and culture and also promoting togetherness and integration for all the people of Leicester.



Elvy received an honorary degree from the University of Leicester in 2001 for her contribution to community relations.

Looking ahead we have events planned that all are invited to share with us.



Christmas Fayre

Saturday 23rd November 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

a bar, stalls, Santa's grotto, hand-made Christmas cards, raffle, tombola, two course meal and refreshments.



Uppingham Road Drama Group, **The Cast Offs**, present '**Cut and Dried**' a 1970s themed comedy production on **Friday 29th November 7.30 p.m.** and **Saturday 30th November 3 p.m.**

at Mayflower Methodist Church Adults £5 Children £3



Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 6th and Saturday 7th December 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

£1 entry for adults free for children. Hamper raffle, refreshments and warm mince pies.

South Wigston

September has been a very busy month for South Wigston and in the process we have raised a considerable amount of money for charity.

At the beginning of the month our Monday evening Ladies' Circle held a Ploughman's Supper when £65 was raised for the Rainbows Children's Hospice.



Our Harvest Festival was held on 22nd of September which was a Songs of Praise, with music provided by the Lutterworth Town Band. All produce was donated to our local Food Bank.

The loose change and donations, which raised £250, were sent to Toilet Twinning, and we were able to pay for a toilet block at a school in Malawi.

Three of our ladies took part in the Historic Churches Ride and Stride Day and with money still coming in, they hope to raise £300 between them.

Janet & David held their annual McMillan Coffee Morning on 27th of the month and made £217 for that worthwhile appeal.

During the summer we welcomed Justine, a lady from Cameroon, to church. She was on a three month visit to her daughter who lives in South Wigston. We had a lovely relationship with her, especially the ladies at our Monday evening Ladies Circle. When she went home she took 25 crosses, made by Beryl, to give to her friends at home, and she in turn gave the Ladies Circle members beaded bracelets made by her friends at home. We have promised to keep in touch and pray for her and the situation in Cameroon.

Our Shoe Box Appeal will be at our LWT service on 27th October, when we will collect boxes for the Link to Hope Appeal. These are not only for children but also the elderly who are now being left alone due to their families moving away.

The church will be supporting BBC Radio Leicester's Sing Christmas on Monday 23rd December. This will be held in the Working Men's Club next door and is always a very happy occasion. Come and join us!

Wesley Hall

On Saturday 21st September we had our Harvest Fish & Chip Supper followed by a Beetle Drive which was a fun night enjoyed by both young and old. On Sunday we had our Harvest Festival conducted by Graham Tomkinson and again we supported the All We Can Harvest Appeal in our offering. The Stewards provided a small display of produce (see photo). The fruit was given to the Wesley Hall Community Centre and the vegetables were given to the Community of Grace, which is a community for men who were once homeless.



We celebrated our 125th Church Anniversary on 19th/20th October. On the Saturday we had our 'Church at Home' hosted by Monica Wilkinson and our Guest Speaker was Rev. Jenny Impey. We enjoyed supper of Caribbean and English food, followed by our own 'home grown' entertainment. On Sunday we welcomed Rev. Jenny Impey to take our service. A good weekend was had by all.

Looking ahead to Christmas when we will again decorate our Church with trees.



On Sunday 8th December we have our Gift Service where gifts will be given to The Bridge for the homeless. On Sunday 15th December we will have our Carol Service. On 22nd December we are invited to join with the Moravian Congregation in their Christingle Service and on Christmas Eve we meet with Mayflower for midnight Communion.

We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and every blessing for 2020.

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

10A Bishop Street, Town Hall Square, Leicester, LE1 6AF
www.bishopstreetchurch.org.uk 0116 255 4111

Saturday 9th November 2019

2.30pm

A concert of popular and
light classical music by

Nigel Ogden

*'The Organist
Entertains'*

Admission £10
(children under 12 free),
payable on the door,
including light refreshments
at the interval.



A concert of popular and light classical music played by Nigel Ogden, for many years the presenter of BBC Radio 2's 'The Organist Entertains'. Nigel now spends his time travelling across Britain to play recitals on theatre, Church and cathedral organs, and we look forward to this return visit to the recently restored and highly regarded Bishop Street pipe organ.

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Holocaust Remembrance



The Council for Christians and Jews run an annual study tour to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.

Rev Derek McLean, Methodist Minister at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church will speak about what he learned on that tour.

2pm, 13th November 2019

Oadby Trinity Methodist Church



This meeting is part of the regular series of talks organised by WOW (Welcome on Wednesday) to which all are welcome.

A contribution of £2 is requested to cover speakers costs and contribute to our charity for the year.

The **Methodist** Church 

Harvest displays



**Wesley Hall
Uppingham Road**



Blaby



**Miriam making
'Superspuds' at
Uppingham Road**



Dedication Service of Avoca Methodist Church's new roof. Revd Edson Dube and Revd Milton Kumire (Superintendent)



**Holiday @ Home
Blaby**



Artist's impression from South by Adrian Whittlesea

Tolpuddle Martyrs House & Parade



Talking to Justine at South Wigston



Messy Church



Supporting the Leprosy Mission @ St. Martins House



Rothley

O Emmanuel

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

The Bright Field

*I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*

R.S.Thomas