

LEICESTER TRINITY CIRCUIT

The Beacon

Summer 2018

Superintendent's letter



Our mission statement:

“The Leicester Trinity Circuit aims to inspire and enable its people to love and serve God made known to us in Christ, and likewise God’s people”

To my brothers and sisters in the Lord

I welcome you all, our faithful readers to our Summer issue of The Beacon Quarterly Newsletter. In this issue I intend to give an update on the implementation of the circuit vision and the progress of all our mission initiatives. I will as always highlight the achievements that we can thank God for and where we could have done better with the hope that we can learn from those experiences as a reflective community.

In our Circuit Vision we put in place action points that we needed to implement in order to achieve the goals of the Vision. One of our priorities was to produce a Mission Statement for Leicester Trinity Circuit that expresses our calling. I'm pleased to say that prayerfully and with listening to one another we have been able to present it to the Circuit Meeting for approval. With some minor changes the mission statement was approved and is going to be available to all churches. We may be asking ourselves why we need this document? The answer is that this acts as guide to how we wish to live our faith as disciples of Christ. It is also one of the requirements when applying for loans and grants for all projects that we may be undertaking as churches. I will encourage all our church structures to make sure that this Mission Statement is

made accessible to all our members. I will therefore circulate it to each one of our churches and ensure they all have a laminated copy.

As a new Circuit it has become clear that to cover all areas of ***Our Calling***, the Circuit Leadership Team has put in place Teams/ groups headed by the ministerial staff as follows: a. Process / Implementation, b. Intentional Faith Development, c. Enabling and Empowering d. Property and Finance, e. Employment, f. Safeguarding. It is my hope that through this shared leadership we will be able to discharge our responsibilities efficiently. In order to achieve their tasks, the teams will need a lot of goodwill and support from each one of us. Further to this, the Data Protection legislation has resulted in the delay of producing the Circuit Directory. We are in the process of verifying what needs to be done in order to comply with the regulations.

In addition to the meeting stipulated in the standing orders, we have encouraged more interaction among the churches in the new circuit. We have organised more circuit events and services in order to get to know each other. I am glad that so far these events have been well supported. I therefore wish to thank those churches who have participated in the following circuit events; Circuit Service on Prayer in Oadby, One Sound at Christchurch and Raise a Roof at South Wigston. I would also encourage those who didn't consider participating, to do so in the future as we seek to be one family in Christ. I would welcome suggestions on what circuit events we can organise next.

Soon we will be bidding farewell to Rev Warnock and welcoming Rev. MacLean and Rev. Yovan, Let us say 'farewell and welcome to them by joining together in our numbers at their upcoming Services.

As we move towards our **ONE YEAR** celebration as Leicester Trinity Circuit we thank God by shouting with joy "EBENEZER" for taking us this far. We have learned from our experiences, worshipped and prayed together, created friendships and challenged each other through the journey. In all this we are encouraged by what has been achieved and pray that God guides us into the future as a discipleship church shaped for His mission.

Yours Sincerely Revd Edson Dube

When; Where; What.

Sat	May 12		Wesley Hall	Table Top Sale
Sat	May 26		Contesth...	Spring Fair
Sat	June 9		Nativity	Flower Festival
Sun	June 10			
Sat	June 9		Mayflower	Women's Conference
Sat	June 16		Christchurch	BBQ
Sat	June 23	2pm	Upp Road	Quiz & Tea
Sat	June 30	10—4	Syston	Flower Festival
Sun	July 1			
Fri	July 6	12 noon	Upp Road	Community meal
Sat	July 7	6pm	Mayflower	Karoake
Sat	July		Countes....	Lasagne lunch
Sat	August 18	6pm	Upp Road	Caribbean evening
	August		Countes....	Skittles evening
Sat	Sept 8		Wig Magna	Grand Wigston Show
	Sept		Countes..	Garden Party

Regular Prayer meetings



Day	When	Time	Venue	
Sun	2nd of month	6 pm	Bishop St.	Inspiration eve...
Sun	3rd of month	8.45 am	Sth Wigston	Bible Breakfast
Tues	4th of month	1.45pm	Syston	Julian Prayers
Tues	Monthly	1.30pm	Wesley Hall	Church Bible Study
Wed	Weekly		Blaby	House group Bible Study
Wed	1st of month	11am	Wig, Mag.	Church Service
Wed	2nd of month	10.30am	Mayflower	Devotional room Healing service
Thurs	Monthly	7.30pm	118 London Rd. Oadby	Julian prayers 2718948
Thurs	Weekly	10am	Christchurch	Prayers
Sat	Weekly	10.15am	Oadby	Meeting room Prayers

“Chatter and Natter”

Loneliness is currently being highlighted as a serious problem for an increasing number of people in the U.K. That means, of course, that some of the lonely live in our communities. Some might even be members of Trinity Circuit



The Government is on to this: The Prime Minister, Teresa May, in a recent statement said: “For far too many people, loneliness is the sad reality of modern life”.

Mrs. May has asked Tracey Crouch (who is the Under Secretary of State for Sport and Civil Society) to co-ordinate the Government’s response to this growing problem and has appealed to us all “to confront this challenge to our Society.”

I think that Oadby Trinity is very good at this and when a problem is identified, telephones ring and action is taken. Like so many churches, we are a caring family and so much thoughtful and supportive contact goes on, mostly unheralded and unacknowledged.

Writing in a recent edition of the Methodist Recorder, the Rev. Elizabeth Clark who is National Rural Officer for the Methodist Church, writes of the Church providing a safe and accessible area for those who are lonely, or troubled, or grieving, to come to our Churches and to be still and to find peacefulness and comfort in a noisy busy, world.

She wrote: “In order to do this our Churches need to be open in the first place.” This is one of the many benefits provided by Zeph’s and the Syston Hub Café, where our buildings are now filled with warmth, light, activity and scrumptious food and drink.

At Oadby a once empty foyer now has a “Help Desk” occupied daily by a welcoming, helpful and smiling Church member. The Worship Centre is open, the lights are on and there is a prayer circle for those who wish to pray and meditate. In Syston access to the church is available through the Hub Café at all times and there is a prayer station with a secure box for prayer requests.

Beyond this Zeph’s and the Hub Café have introduced a “Chatter and Natter” table. Clearly marked, and in a discreet corner of the Café, a “Chatter and Natter” table is a place where customers can sit if they are happy to talk to other customers. If someone seeking a chat - some basic human interaction - sits at that table, it’s an unspoken invitation for someone else to join them.

The “Chatter and Natter” concept has become a national organization with Cafes all over the U.K. committing themselves to the concept. (You can see more on their web-site. Just visit www.thechattycafescheme.co.uk).

BBC Radio Leicester recently broadcast a piece about this on local radio, so the word is spreading.

Zeph’s and the Hub Café have put OadbyTrinity and Syston Methodist Church where they belong – right at the heart of the local community. Together we can do something about loneliness.

John Aldridge.

The Hub Café has always been intended and understood

as a Mission Project (which is why it has “A Syston Methodist Church Project” as part of it’s logo). We are unashamedly part of the work of Syston Methodist Church, yet Church Members are only about 10% of our customers. In particular Sue Alexander and Jo Kay have been tireless in keeping that connection by engaging with individuals and groups through the Hub Café. A strong Community has been created in and through the Hub Café, a community that welcomes, includes and supports many people who are otherwise unconnected with the Church and who often feel excluded even by other Cafés. Within this community we have wide-ranging conversa-



tions that allow us to connect our faith and mission to people's lives whether it be through traditions around festivals, or discussing big issues such as death.

The Lonely

Loneliness is a huge problem in our society and we find lots of people come and spend time in the Hub who otherwise don't meet anyone. It can take some of them several weeks to feel safe enough and welcome enough to start to talk to people. Now there are many of them who talk openly to others about the transformation they have experienced in their lives through the Hub Café. These include people who have been hurt by Churches in the past and one of these is so appreciative that she made a sizeable donation to our roof fund because she wanted to thank the Church for opening the Hub. The Hub Café is now an official member of the "Chatty Café" scheme with a "Chatter & Natter" table. This is a nationwide project gaining a lot of attention for it's ability to help tackle loneliness. We are hoping to get our MP Edward Argar supporting this as through Zeph's Café (at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church) are doing with their MP Neil O'Brien.

Here at Syston we are looking forward to a warm summer so that we can sit out at the Hub Café while having coffee. The Hub Café is used as a meeting place for people who need a friendly and safe place to be. We have several regulars who need our help as much as we need to see them, they are part of our local community. There are several groups that have made the Hub Café their home, from crafters to The National Federation for the Blind Leicestershire Branch who had their start up meeting and luncheon there.

The Syston and District U3A have many of their groups meeting in our rooms, with the largest group being the Ukulele group, who are going to perform a concert later in the year in aid of our New Roof Project.

Also look forward to our new Minister coming in September.

Raise a Roof Recap

The Circuit's Raise a Roof fundraising evening on 14 April was replete with song, laughter, joyous conversations and delicious food. Over 110 attended the evening's celebrations held at South Wigston Methodist Church, including 10-15 spirited children, which kept volunteers in the two children's rooms on their toes! We set for 70 people and when the numbers began to escalate, speedily set an additional 40 seats, scrambling for table decorations, cutlery, and anything that resembled a water jug. Members of Christchurch sorted out the raffle, circuit stewards and ministers did a lot of the washing up, and between them folks from Syston, Bishop Street, South Wigston and Birstall pitched in, some with leading singing and others in the children's rooms.

The remarkable Methodist Church Zimbabwe Fellowship and United Methodist Church Zimbabwe cooked some amazing dishes on site (the peanut butter and cabbage stew was fab!) and the cauliflower and cheese, bacon quiches, cottage pie, cakes and desserts went down a treat. The total raised that evening was an astounding £1,300, which included ticket sales, donations, pledges, raffle and auction. The evening's joyous atmosphere inspired members of Mayflower Methodist Church to take a special offering the following morning at its Sunday service!

To date, the Circuit has collected around £1,800 to contribute to a roof for Avoca Methodist Church in the Bulawayo District, Methodist Church Zimbabwe. It is estimated that the cost of the roof will be somewhere around £3,000 depending upon exchange and inflation rates, so we are well on our way! The funds are administered through the office of the Conference Secretary, Methodist Church Zimbabwe who are working with the local people in Avoca.

Avoca is a small region in Matebeleland, part of the Bulawayo East District, Methodist Church Zimbabwe. The district has 3,100 members, 2 schools, and 9 circuits. Avoca is part of the Mzinyathi Circuit.

One of the speakers in the evening, the Revd Cleopas Sibanda, national chaplain to the Methodist Church Zimbabwe Fellowship spoke on the joys of giving and

used Proverbs 11.24-25 to remind us that when we give joyfully, remarkably we never feel empty because God continually refreshes and fills us up.

²⁴ Some give freely, and grow all the richer;
others withhold what is due, and only suffer want.

²⁵ A generous person will be enriched,
and one who gives water will get water.

If you couldn't get to the fundraising evening and would like contribute to this project, the Circuit is still collecting! Contact Diane Allen, djallen415@aol.com, or Revd Fran Rhys, fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk, Cheques payable to Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit, clearly earmarked for Raise a Roof can be sent to South Wigston Methodist Church, Bably Rd. Sth Wigston LE18 4PB.

I can't speak for others but by the evening's end I really did feel enriched and filled to overflowing

See Photos centre pages.

Diane Allen Circuit Steward

Faith Exploration Saturdays!

These themed sessions come from the national *Worship: Leading and Preaching* course used locally to train Methodist local preachers and worship leaders and they are offered by members of the training team for Leicester and the surrounding area: Richard Gill, Clive Marsh, Howard Smith, Miriam Stevenson.

Intrigued? It would be great if you could join us. All you need is a pen and paper, an open mind and a willingness to think and talk! All Are welcome.

Exploring images of God in Hymns

30th June – Venue to be confirmed – 10am – 1pm

What pictures of God feature in hymns? Are they all positive and helpful images? How do they actually 'work'? What if the pictures seem to contradict each other?

Please get in touch so we know you're coming.

For more information or to let us know you're hoping to come along contact clive.marsh@btinternet.com

News from the Churches

Birstall

We are pleased to see that plans to establish a food parcel collection point in the Methodist Church Coffee Shop are making good progress. In response to publicity in the December edition of the Birstall Post

we now have over 20 volunteers to help. This will enable us to offer the service each week on a Tuesday morning. The training for volunteers is planned for mid-February and we hope to open in late March.



Village Churches Celebrate Covenant

On 22nd January 1997 a Covenant was signed by representatives of the three churches in Birstall. Some of us still remember this being reported in the February 1997 edition of the Birstall Post.

On Wednesday 24th January 2018 the Churches Together in Birstall and Wanlip had a very special 21st Anniversary Party! We all gathered at St James' Church to celebrate and worship God. Readings and prayers were led by different members from each church. We also lit candles on a special arrangement in the shape of the Churches Together Logo.

After the service of celebration we enjoyed refreshments and fellowship together, where we shared a food buffet with wine, tea and coffee, and of course the Churches Together 21st Birthday cake!

Thanks to everyone who took part and helped organise the event. It was a very enjoyable evening and we are looking forward to the next 21 years of Churches Together!

Walk of Witness

As in previous years we organised a Walk of Witness on Good Friday. We started from the Tesco store, down Sibson Rd, stopping several times along the way to sing a hymn and say a prayer. We handed out palm crosses to our local community as we progressed, finishing at St Theresa's with some light refreshment.

Children's Craft Corner

This event held in the Coffee Shop during February half-term was a great success. The Coffee Shop was buzzing with young families - children busy with their crafts & colouring, Lego building, cars & word searches. All this while the parents & carers enjoyed home-made scones, cake & coffee.

Our next session was held during the Easter holidays.

Is this going to happen again during the summer holidays?

Blaby

We have just revised the Churches Together leaflet for Blaby – as well as Jenny being our (relatively) new minister, there is also a new rector at the Anglican church. It came as more of a surprise to see the changes in weekly activities across the churches, but then perhaps we should not be surprised to find that things have changed.



For the church not to adapt to changing circumstances, internal or external, suggests stagnation.

So for ourselves, for several years *Messy Church* has taken place on Sunday afternoons. It meets once a month, on the second Sunday apart from July and August. Numbers vary, but a lower attendance can make it easier to talk to individual children or their parents. As well as the craft activities, there is time for a Bible story and the 'messy grace' before tucking into tea. The biggest problem is in getting the number of sandwiches and cakes right! – but goody bags to take home help

with a surplus. The preachers at our evening service may be getting used to a congregation that remains seated for the hymns, as our energy levels tend to be a bit depleted!

Cameo (Come And Meet Each Other) continues to meet at 2.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Not everyone who attends comes to church on a Sunday, but we hope that all feel included in the fellowship. Typically there are about 15 attending each time, but not always the same 15. Speakers are drawn from within Blaby Methodist, from local preachers (many thanks) and sometimes from charities or similar organisations. Recent topics include preaching, suffragettes, Inter Care and the Leprosy Mission. The charities benefit from generous ad hoc donations. This year, the summer outing will be to Stratford-on-Avon.

You might not have heard of Inter Care, although it has Leicester roots, having been started by two Leicester-based GPs in 1974. It sends targeted medical aid to rural health units in some of the poorest parts of Africa. The health units supported by Inter Care serve a catchment population of over 10 million and include clinics, hospitals, dispensaries and centres for orphaned and vulnerable children in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia. Medicines and healthcare goods are donated to them from pharmaceutical companies, medical manufacturers and health professionals. They maintain close relationships with all the health units they support and establish partnerships only with those that provide free healthcare to the most disadvantaged patients.

I hope it has been interesting to read about two of our regular activities. No doubt there are parallels in your own church, so there are links between us of which we may be unaware.

Christchurch

OneSound certainly delivered in terms of talented musicianship - joy, challenge, hope and renewal, through contemporary worship and modern song. A real treat!

We have been blessed to be able to invite back throughout the last year ten former ministers or former members of our congregation who then candidated for ministry. They all helped to mark our 25 years as an LEP. A real pleasure!



Action for Children fundraising on target for 2017/18

Easter 2017 we set ourselves the target of raising £2500 good the charity. We have raised £2380 to-date and are confident that Home Collectors' boxes will ensure our target is achieved.

Our charity for 2018/19 is Toilet Twinning - a part of Tearfund - a supporter of community led total sanitation. Each toilet costs £60. We have twinned our first and once all our toilets have been twinned, any additional money raised will be donated to Waterside.

We held our first Community BBQ on Saturday 28 April with another to be held on Saturday 16 June. Groups using our church building have been invited to attend. All are welcome.

Cosby



The Women's World Day of Prayer, on 2nd March had to be postponed for two weeks due to snow. On the 16th March we shared in a lovely service at the Community Church.

Despite our best efforts by inviting the Girls' club, the Play group and member's grandchildren to attend, the service on Mothering Sunday only had 3 young girls present. It was rather disappointing but we'll continue to invite younger people in different ways.

We held a very successful Spring Fair on 17th March and the money raised went towards Rainbows and also towards installing a ramp at the back of the church for easy access to the schoolroom.

We joined with other churches in the village for three Lent Studies, under the heading "Betrayal". It was interesting to hear the various takes on the subject. The speakers were from the Community Church, the Parish Church and our own minister, Rev. Jenny Impey.

Good Friday saw the usual Churches Together meeting, but as the weather was so inclement it was held in the Bunning Hall instead of outside. There was quite a good turnout.

Easter Sunday morning we held an 8am Communion service led by our minister, followed by breakfast. We were pleased that 14 members and one from Blaby attended.

Regular Bible study meeting on alternate Wednesday

See photos centre pages

**THE BEST PREPARATION FOR GOOD WORK TOMORROW IS TO DO
GOOD WORK TODAY.** Elbert Hubbard

Countesthorpe

Our third Café Sunday Service was linked to our missions work and took the theme of 'sharing' - our faith, God's love and God's resources. This more informal way of worship is not for everyone, however the services are well supported.



Items for the Food Bank were gratefully received at the service. Our next Café Service is on Sunday the 20th May.

The Bible Study Group discuss various aspects of Christianity and build up their faith together, meeting in fellowship with Bibles, tea, coffee and cakes!! What a combination!

Each year the Tuesday Fellowship have an Easter Tea and this year was no exception. It's not only for members, but it's also a 'thank you' for speakers and supporters - always a tea not to be missed!

At our Mothers Day and Easter Services small bunches of daffodils were given to members of the congregation.

We enjoy our meals together and in March there was a Sausage and Chip Saturday Lunch and in April a Spring Tea. We are holding our annual Spring Fair on 26th May - lots of home made cakes and jams plus greetings cards and new gifts to buy. Light refreshments will be available.

We are planning a Sunday Lunch and a Saturday Lasagne Lunch for July, a Skittles Evening for August and a September Garden Party not forgetting our on-going weekly Saturday Morning Coffee Shop.

There have been discussions lately about plastic in our seas. The Secretary General of the United Nations reminds us 'We have a roll to play in protecting our only home: we can use less plastics, drive less, waste less food and teach each other to care.' In The Women's World Day of Prayer service the message from the women of Suriname was to care for God's wonderful Creation - something that we should all endeavour to do.

Being appreciative of warm sunshine, cooling breezes, the colour of the sky at sunrise and sunset can lead us into seeing our world in a different way. They can lead us to wonder and awe and to worship God the creator. *(Quote from the Methodist Chapel, Newport Isle of Wight)*

See photos centre page

Houghton

Houghton Methodist Church has recently been given a copy of a biography of Dr. Leslie Weatherhead by Christopher Maitland. Some of you may remember that we previously wrote in the 'Messenger' about the young Leslie preaching his very first sermon one Sunday evening at Houghton.



Leslie Weatherhead moved from London to Leicester with his family in 1895 when he was two years old. Whilst attending Alderman Gabriel Newton Secondary School in the city, he began to preach locally. He was only seventeen. Later at the age of nineteen, he spent two terms at Cliff College where he trained as a lay preacher. It was interesting to read of his first sermon at Houghton. We knew of his nervousness and how he had looked out on the expectant faces. We were also aware that with dismay he realised he had unpicked the cord that edged the cushion on the pulpit desk. We did not know about his views of the congregation.

It seems he found the congregation to be 'small, simple, uncritical'¹ In 2018 we are wondering if visiting preachers find us to be the same! Since September 2017 when we welcomed Rev. Jenny Impey as our new Minister, we have met a number of new preachers at Houghton Chapel as well as our more established ones. Although we remain small in number, we perhaps do not wish to be thought of as simple but we hope we are uncritical. We welcome any visitors to our fellowship when they are visiting Houghton and give thanks that re-

cently some new people have started attending some of our services. Come and see us sometime! ¹*Dr. Lesley Weatherhead by Christopher Maitland* - Published 1960 by Cassell & Co.

See photos centre pages.

Mayflower

We keep going, and in fact on the very snowy and icy morning when several churches cancelled their services, we held a wonderful service with SEVEN people worshipping together. We have also recently had a "LocalArrangements" service which proved very popular, and we have asked the Circuit Planning Committee whether we can have another, please.

Many people offered their favourite hymn, and members of the congregation led the prayers, read Bible passages and contributed to the service telling of their experiences and how God has helped them in various ways.



We have been able to get to know some of the North Circuit ,and have already welcomed Andy Biggins and Jo Kay with Juliet Kisob to conduct our services.

Recently, we have supported several charities, WaterAid during Lent, Easter Offerings, Traidcraft Plus, and Raise a Roof for a church in Zimbabwe. We have a Zimbabwe congregation which meets in our church on Sunday afternoons, and another which meets on Saturdays. The premises are used by neighbourhood groups for private parties, as well as adult dance groups, an Asian Ladies' fellowship group and an Afro-Caribbean group, an Operatic Society and a Symphony Orchestra.

Women's Conference

Saturday 9th June 2018, 9.30am to 3pm
at Mayflower Methodist Church,
Ethel Road/Evington Drive LE5 5PE

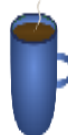


The theme for the day is

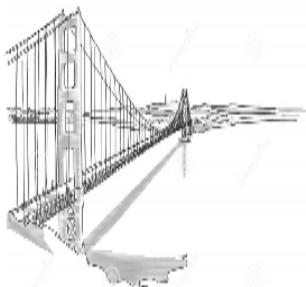
'Building Bridges'




- Within the Church
- With Young People
- With Care Homes and the Elderly



There will be tea and coffee on arrival, speakers, worship, bridge building activity, buffet lunch, discussion, questions and feedback.



All women are welcome. For catering purposes please let us know if you will be attending this event. Contact:- adelaidebris@yahoo.co.uk or paulette.matthew@btinternet.com by the end of May



The Church of the Nativity
Cavendish Road/Richmond Road,
Aylestone Park

**FLOWER FESTIVAL &
ARTS & CRAFTS
EXHIBITION**

'SIMPLE PLEASURES'

SATURDAY 9TH JUNE

10AM - 4PM

SUNDAY 10TH JUNE

12 - 2PM

**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
ADMISSION FREE**

Nativity

'Simple Pleasures'

The Church of the Nativity is hosting a Flower Festival and Arts and Crafts Exhibition on Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th June 2018. See poster for opening times.



We all need a hobby to relax and de-stress in this busy and demanding world; so Nativity has chosen to create floral arrangements and displays based on the theme of 'Simple Pleasures'. They include gardening, fishing, walking, knitting, singing, scouting, art, to name but a few. Our local Resident's Association will also be contributing to the exhibition with a display on the history of Aylestone and Aylestone Park.

The event will conclude with a special service on Sunday 10th June at 10.30 am to celebrate 'Simple Pleasures'. The church and hall will remain open until 2 pm on that day.

Everyone is welcome to this event, which we hope you will enjoy and fill you with inspiration. Refreshments, including sandwiches and cakes, will be available on Saturday.

Free entrance, although donations in aid of church funds will be most welcome.

Syston Methodist Church

Flower Festival

Saturday 30th June / Sunday 1st July

2018



Our Favourite Hymns

Come and see our interpretation of some of our
most well known and loved hymns in flowers

Open from 10am until 4 pm on Saturday

From 12pm to 4 pm on Sunday

All monies raised will be donated to the

Roof Fund

Syston

Easter Monday hike.

Keeping in step with tradition, despite dire weather forecast 26 walkers set out from Syston. We drove to Glenfield, parking our cars near to the old disused railway line. The well made path follows the route along which Stephenson's locomotive "Comet" travelled in 1832, driven by George Stephenson himself. We walked as far as the A46 and M1 but unfortunately, although the rain had stopped when we started the walk, the floods were so bad that the route under the major roads was totally blocked. After trying an alternative very muddy path we turned back to our start. Visiting the area where the tunnel starts in Stephenson Close, the tunnel is just over a mile long. At the other end, in the Fosse Road area, Leicester, there is a large mural of the Comet coming out of the tunnel. We then enjoyed a delicious lunch, joined by 6 friends who couldn't join us for the walk, an excellent way to continue our Easter celebrations.



Syston Flower Festival

Over the weekend of 30th June and 1st July Syston are having a flower festival to celebrate our well known and loved hymns. The church will be open from 10 till 4 on Saturday and between services on Sunday and refreshments will be available. All donations from the festival will go towards the roof fund so why not help us raise the roof and support the fund by visiting the festival. You might even recognise some of the hymns

DISTRICT WORLD CHURCH CELEBRATION SERVICE

Celebrating the Methodist World Church

*featuring churches and fellowship groups
from all over the world*

Preacher:

Rev'd Helen D. Cameron

Chair of the District

at

Park Avenue Methodist Church

10 Park Avenue North,
Northampton NN3 2HT

on

Sunday 15th July 2018

4.30 pm for refreshments and food
followed by worship and praise
at 6 pm

Uppingham Road

We want to try and make links with the people who live in the area around Uppingham Road and Northfields and on 9th January we held a 'Community Lunch' in the church hall. The lunch was free and open to everyone, particularly those in need. Leaflets had been distributed principally through the local Food Bank. Unfortunately not many people turned up and some of our members went outside to encourage people to come in and all those who did attend were very grateful.



We held our Church Anniversary on 25th February and Rev Jill Marsh led the All Age morning service. There was a meal after the service as we celebrated the church's 89th birthday.

We joined with the other 'Churches together in Humberstone' for the Lent Course which was held at different churches each week. At these sessions we studied the booklet 'One with a purpose: Unity in Christ' by Gavin and Anne Calver. We joined together again on the evening on Good Friday for a walk of witness followed by a service at Abbot's Road church.

Our church Gift Day took place on Saturday 17th March along with our Spring Fayre. There were stalls selling various items and lunches were also available.

Some of our congregation attended the Maundy Thursday service at Wesley Hall and the Good Friday Service at Bishop Street and also the 'Leicester at the Cross' events in the city centre. On Easter Sunday morning, as we celebrated Christ's resurrection, our Lent Cross was transformed into a colourful Easter Cross by the congregation.

We are trying to do more fundraising events so that our church can survive for as long as possible. We held a Books and Cakes Sale outside the church on Friday/Saturday 20th & 21st April to attract the many people who walk past the church every day. Over £200 was raised for church funds.

Please look at the poster on your church's notice board for more details about the Women's Conference on 9th June

Other events planned for the next few months - fundraising, social, helping the community - are: -

Sunday 20th May 4pm	Pentecost celebration, Thurncourt Rd.
Saturday 23rd June 2pm	Quiz and Afternoon Tea
Friday 6th July 12noon	Community Meal
Saturday 7th July 6pm	Karaoke Evening (at Mayflower)
Saturday 18th August 6pm	Caribbean Evening
Saturday 6th October 2pm	Games Afternoon

Our website is available for everyone to visit at uppinghamroadmethodist.org.uk

Wesley Hall

By the time you read this, we will have had our 'Free Food and Games Night' which was a joint social event between the Methodist and Moravian congregations. Posters were also displayed in the Wesley Hall Community Centre and it was a great joy to have members of the local community join in and enjoy the fun. Great fun was had by all with a variety of games followed by hot dogs and cakes.



On Saturday 12th May we are having a Table Top Sale fundraising event between Methodists, Moravians and Community Centre.

A trip to the seaside is on the cards for Saturday 16th June for our annual outing, so let's hope the sun shines!

On Saturday 9th June a joint Women's Conference is to be held at Mayflower. The theme for the day is 'Building Bridges', See poster for details. if you wish to attend the buffet lunch, please email either Adelaide Kanu at adelaidebris@yahoo.co.uk or Paulette Matthew at paulette.matthew@btinternet.com by the end of May, for catering no's

Wigston Magna



We are very proud of the uniformed organisations that meet here at Wigston Magna. Recently we have celebrated with one of our members Ann Valentine as she received an award for long service of over 40 years. with the Guide movement. As well as her official presentation Ann received a bouquet of flowers from the church at our recent Parade Service. Another of our leaders, Victoria Dunn, has been selected to go next year with other leaders from across the country to work with and mentor girls and young women in Zambia. Victoria is now busy raising money to fund her trip. We wish her well and look forward to her presentation on her return.

Looking forward to the rest of the year -preparations are under way for our Grand Wigston Show- now in it's 3rd year. It will be held on September 8th and will have a number of classes including baking, preserves, fruit and vegetables and art and crafts. The following day will be our Harvest.

2018 / 2019 marks 200 years of Methodism in Wigston. There will be exhibitions, a floral display in the Memorial Peace Garden and many other events starting in January 2019.

We will also be inviting past preachers from both Frederick Street and Cross Street to join us in our commemorations.

We have already welcomed back Rev David Palmer on Racial Justice Sunday and look forward to welcoming back Rev Martin Smithson in June.

We see the events as celebrating the past but also building for the future and will be happy to welcome you all to join us. More information about events will follow in the next edition.

GRAND WIGSTON SHOW & CRAFT FAYRE

WIGSTON MAGNA METHODIST CHURCH
SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2018

OFFICIAL OPENING 2PM BY THE MAYOR
CRAFT FAYRE 10AM - 4PM

AWARDS SPONSORED & PRESENTED BY JAMAL SHEIKH OF CLIFTON PACKAGING
AND CHRIS SURRIDGE OF MERIDIAN HEATING

VARIOUS CATEGORIES:

VEGETABLES, FRUIT, FLOWER ARRANGING, CAKES,
BOTTLED PRESERVES, PHOTOGRAPHY,
HANDICRAFTS AND PAINTINGS



REFRESHMENTS
&
ENTERTAINMENT



BOOKING FORMS FOR A TABLE AT THE CRAFT FAYRE FROM
DAVID CAWTHORN EMAIL CAWTHDJ@WEBLEICESTER.CO.UK

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
DAVID CAWTHORN 0116 2884382 / 07850 871359
BARBARA DEARING 0116 288 2075

A chance comment about woodworm in a Church cross led me to ask 'Isn't there something in the Bible about woodworm and gall?' Then I realised that of course it's Wormwood and Gall!! Well, by that time I was hooked, so here you go with some thoughts about the phrase.

Wormwood

Heb. la'anah, the *Artemisia absinthium* of botanists. It is noted for its intense bitterness (Deuteronomy ; Proverbs ; Jeremiah ; Amos). It is a type of bitterness, affliction, remorse, punitive suffering. In Amos this Hebrew word is rendered "hemlock" (RSV, "wormwood").

The name by which the Greeks designated it, absinthion, means "undrinkable." The absinthe of France is distilled from a species of this plant.

Lamentations 3:19-20 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁹ The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down by it.

It is a bitter, poisonous herb the juice of which is thought to be the "hemlock" poison Socrates drank. Gall was frequently linked with wormwood to denote bitterness and tragedy. Wormwood and gall were often associated with unfaithfulness to God, either as a picture of the unfaithful

Deuteronomy 29:18

'so that there will not be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of those nations; that there will not be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood.'

On the cross, Jesus was offered sour wine drugged with gall, perhaps opium, which He refused.

Matthew 27. 33-34

And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink.

Some more random Biblical quotes

Simon the magician was described as full of the gall of bitterness (Acts 8:23) because he wanted to prostitute the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 5:3-4

For the lips of an adulteress drip honey And smoother than oil is her speech; But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

'In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight, they shall observe it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Found on the Internet

The other night at Bible Study, we were studying the events of the crucifixion of Jesus, and noted, "**they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.**" (Mt.27:24)." We normally pass over this, it is interesting that Jesus did not drink it, which begs the question why? This is debated, about whether it was just Roman mockery of the dying or whether it was actually a mercy that they offered the dying. So, from those three aspects, it is worth studying.

First, let's look at the materials "**wine mixed with gall.**" What is termed "*sour wine*" here, was reported to have been a general drink of the common people and Roman soldiers of the day, with the best wines going to the rich and opulent.

This was mixed with the next substance "**gall.**" While the other gospels use this term, Mark uses "myrrh." Gall, is from the Greek Term "chole" pronounced

khoh-ay'. It was commonly called "bitters" because it was bitter tasting. Gall was a substance that was made for medicinal purposes of the day, to be a stupefying agent. It was equal to the 18th Century Laudanum and Morphine. Whether it

was the mixture I doubt, but they offer Jesus a second time (Mt.27:48; Mk.15:36; Jn.19:29) the sour wine, just before He "gave up His spirit."

Was this a mockery or a mercy? Whether it was something done out of routine performance or a merciful act towards the criminal during his last breathing moments; the concoction seemed to have had the intent of making the execution of crucifixion somehow bearable for the person undergoing it

This brings us to the next question, why did Jesus refuse to drink it? We aren't told, so the best that we can do is speculate. However, I do believe the scripture "***For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.***"(Heb.4:15)" is relevant here. He bore it all, so that there would be no point where we could say that God does not understand our pains, impulses and anguishes. For us, many of us in our striving against sin, have not had to do so to the point of shedding our blood for it. Jesus did, and He was without sin as even attested of Him by the Romans who were there.

Peoms

The Darker Side. - Poem by Alfred Castner King

They say that all nature is smiling and gay,
And the birds the most happy of all,
But the sparrow, pursued by the sparrowhawk,
Savors more of the wormwood and gall.



They say that all nature is smiling and gay,
But the groan may dissemble the laugh;
E'en now from the meadow is wafted the sound
Of a bovine bewailing her calf.



They say that all nature is smiling and gay,
But the moss often covers the rock;
Every animal form is beset by a foe,
For the wolf always follows the flock.

For the animal holds all inferior flesh
As its just and legitimate prey;
Every scream of the eagle a panic creates
As the weaker things scamper away.

They say that all nature is smiling and gay,
But the smiles are all needed to sweeten
The struggle we see so incessantly waged
To eat, and avoid being eaten.

And men, with their genial competitive ways
Present no decided improvements,
For their personal gain they will sacrifice all
Who may stand in the way of their movements.

EASTER



He didn't want to die. Who does?
What human being, and that He was,
Would not cry out; "Why must this be?"
Oh take this awful cup from me!

He knew the answer would be no,
The death to follow would be slow
And agonising. Full of dread
The painful lonely hours ahead.

What criminal is this who dies
Whilst lightning rends the blackened skies;
Who can forgive with his last breath
The jeering mob who urged his death.

His 'crime' was making blind men see,
Flouting the Law's authority.
"He heals before the Sabbath's done,
And claims He is the holy one!"

Supposing He came back today,
Would we still treat him in this way,
Or fail Him with our apathy?
That answer lies with you and me!

MY FRIEND THE TREE

My friend the Tree
A sure reminder of God's great provision for us
And for all His Creation
A changing canopy.
Showing us God's cycle of life.
Your unseen roots,
Are the means of anchorage and sustenance
You hide your age within your gnarled body
The wind blows and the rain beats upon you
And we hear you bend and sigh.

You stretch out your arms
To the dome of the sky
And you allow others to make a home with you
The birds nest within your branches
Rabbits burrow beneath you
And squirrels make a larder and use you for a motorway
You are a refuse for life

In winter your skeleton provided a framework of beauty
And as your sap rises then you are transformed
By a shimmering cascade of green life
In summer we walk and rest in your shade
And as the days diminish
You are transformed by Nature's artist
With a thousand different shades.

LORD MY LIFE IS LIKE A TREE
Half visible, half hidden
Drawing my life from You
The darkness and light,
Storm and sunshine

Shade and colour
Stillness and movement
Waiting and growth.

Live in Me Lord,
And help me to grow in your strength
To be lovely in your sight
In all the seasons of my life.





Reading the Bhagavad Gita and the Bible Together

An opportunity to build mutual understanding through text focused encounter which allows Hindus and Christians to genuinely hear what each other finds important within their sacred texts.

Venue: Edward Cadbury Centre at the University of Birmingham

Day and time: Saturday 16th June 2018, 9:30am to 2pm.

This event is jointly organised by the St Philip's Centre and the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies as part of our ongoing work of developing constructive relationships between Hindus and Christians in the United Kingdom.

There will be an opportunity to watch a model discussion of foundational texts (Bhagavad Gita 10:8-11 and John 14:1-7) before taking part in a discussion of texts that focus on divine descent (John 1:9-14 and Bhagavad Gita 4:7-9).

The event will conclude with lunch and networking opportunities. The event is free, but places are limited and booking is essential. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. Book a place at <https://www.stphilipscentre.co.uk/Event/reading-the-new-testament-and-the-bhagavad-gita-together>



A RECOGNISED INDEPENDENT CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

