

The Beacon



Quarterly Newsletter

www.leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk

Winter 2018/19



LEICESTER TRINITY CIRCUIT

The Beacon

Winter 2018/19

Superintendent's letter



Dear Reader

As we enter the Advent period, I would like to thank you all for all the prayers and support we have given each other during this year. It was full of exciting stories of successes as well as areas which called for us to pray without ceasing. Beginning with the good news, the money raised through the generosity of the giving for the Raise a Roof, has finally been transferred to the Christians in Zimbabwe after the delays caused by the circumstances in Zimbabwe that are beyond our control. I'm therefore thankful to individuals, congregations and the circuit for making this dream a success, **£2162. 18** was raised. We look forward to receiving reports about the progress on the roof at the Avoca Methodist Church, Insiza Circuit. It is envisaged that when the rainy season begins in Zimbabwe there will be a roof over the worshippers of Avoca.

The Circuit Prayer Diary has been produced and is now available in every church. The purpose of this is to help us share stories of prayer needs from churches around Leicester Trinity Circuit. The work and skill in producing the material in the Prayer Diary is of very good quality, and I therefore encourage all to make appropriate use of it as part of our daily devotions for our Circuit.

While most leaders in our different organisations in the circuit have had some Safeguarding training, it is important that we go to refresher courses. It is also a requirement for everyone who holds any office in the church. The Circuit Office in the last two months has requested information about those who hold office and need Safeguarding training. Unfortunately, half of the churches have not submitted that information. May I emphasise the importance of providing this information from all our churches. I would be grateful if you could inform me of any difficulty the Churches are having in providing the relevant information requested.

We continue to build on our circuit events that encourage us to meet every so

often. They are aimed at providing networking, meeting new friends and building relationships amongst our people. One of those events was the Songs of Praise held in an open field at Rearsby. It confirmed that it is still possible to hold an open-air service, the response from around the churches was encouraging. I would encourage all of you to be on the lookout for the opportunities for mission and evangelism where we are located. I thank those who had the vision and courage to spearhead the open -air service.

The Circuit Leadership Team resolved in their last meeting to look at the possibility of holding a circuit review in the coming months. It is our hope that this critical review will help re -examine the current state of our circuit and make recommendations, encouraging us to express our direction for the future. This should be seen by all of us as a step in the right direction and viewed as a progressive strategy that the church members should celebrate together.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas season and a prosperous 2019

Kind regards

Rev Edson

Editorial:

Once again we'd like to thank you for your contributions this quarter and to apologise if YOURS hasn't been included. We've kept everything and will include them in the next issue if still appropriate. Some sadly arrived past the closing date. It would be good if you could let us have items for the Spring issue by 15th January.

We like to have photos of events but also appreciate looking forward to the future - especially if the items are about mission or outreach in your area.

I'm just back from the annual ArtServe festival. ArtServe grew out of the old Methodist Music Society and now covers all aspects of the arts in worship. I'm going to make sure that one magazine is available in each church. So if you write, paint or draw, dance or play an instrument and enjoy meeting people who do the same --or if you'd like to try something new, then drop me an email at jokay1947@gmail.com or ring me on the number on the plan and I'll give you more information. Alternatively check out the website at artserve.org.uk

Jo and Anne

The picture on the front cover is the Nativity Scene from Brussels Cathedral.

Thank you Mary

When; Where; What.

Sat	Nov 17th	10am-2pm	Upp. Road	Christmas Fayre & meal
Fri	Nov 23rd	? evening	Mayflower	Upp. Rd. Drama Group
Sat	Nov 24th			'The Casts Offs'
Fri	Nov 23rd	10am-5pm	Birstall	Christmas Festival
Sat	Nov 24th	10am-2pm		
Fri	Nov 9-30th	10.30-3.30	Bishop Str	Painting exhibition
Sat	Dec 1st	All day	Blaby	Christmas Tree Festival
Sun	Dec 2nd	afternoon		
Sat	Dec 8th	10.30-1pm	Nativity	Christmas Fair
Sat	Dec 1st	7.30pm	Oadby	Christmas Concert
Sat	Dec 15th	9am	Oadby	Santa breakfast
	and 22nd			
Sat	Dec 8th	10.30-3.30	Houghton	Nativity scenes
Tues	Dec 18th	7-9pm	Syston	Christmas Celebrations
Mon	Dec 31st	11.30pm	Harrison Rd.	Circuit watchnight service
	<u>Wigston</u>	<u>Magna</u>	<u>200 years</u>	<u>Celebration</u>
	Jan 19	10.30	Covenant service	Rev. J Impey
	Jan 27th	10.30	Secretary of Methodist conference	Rev. Canon Gareth Powell
	Feb 2nd	10am-4pm	The Beginnings	Open day
	Feb 3rd	10.30am		Dr. Clive Marsh
	Feb 10th	10.30am	Café worship	Re. J Impey
	March and	April	events	Next time

Regular Prayer Meetings



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

Introducing our new Ministers.

Derek McLean.

After our first couple of months we are beginning to feel settled in the Oadby manse and all set for an exciting new adventure serving God in this place. We previously completed five years based in Abbots Langley, just outside Watford.

Prior to that, we lived in Bournemouth, which was a fabulous place to bring up our family. We are both life-long Methodists and we met at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church in Surrey.

Tom, our oldest, is an Anglican curate serving in Higham Ferrers; Clare works in London for the Civil Service, and Matt is a Primary School teacher and still lives in our flat in Bournemouth.

Our other daughter, Rachel, sadly died six years ago. She had a rare chromosomal abnormality which meant that she had medical, physical and learning difficulties, but her presence was a wonderful blessing to us all.

Before becoming a Minister, Derek worked in Investments, based in the City, and Chris did voluntary work in Rachel's school in the little spare time she had from bringing up the family. Chris continued to work in a special needs school in Abbots Langley.

You will not be surprised that inclusion of those with different needs is a particular passion.

Derek travelled to Israel-Palestine with Christian Aid earlier in the year, and you should expect to hear a lot more about his interest in that area over the next few years.

We are looking forward to getting to know a new place. Until we moved, we didn't know the area at all – and Chris has never previously lived this far north. We're beginning to find out about the vibrant multi-cultural city of

Leicester and the beautiful countryside around it. We will often spend days off walking. Derek is already cheering on Leicester City and the Tigers.

We look forward to following Jesus' call to this place and serving you in your Mission here.

Derek & Chris McLean

Daniel Yovan

Dear brothers and sisters,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ, who is and who was and who is to come. It is my honour and privilege to be in the Leicester Trinity Circuit to serve God's people in their walk with God. I am overwhelmed by the love and support I've received from all of you. It is your prayers that brought me here. I was anxious and nervous during the stationing period. Even though I am still nervous about the future ministry as a probationer, I feel at home amongst you. Hannah and I are very grateful for your prayers and support. The children are settling very well by the grace of God. I am trying to distribute my time for ministry, studies and family in the right proportion.

One thing which connects us all together is the love of Jesus. We all have a part to play in the body of Christ. God who called us from darkness into the marvellous light, has a plan and purpose for our life. Everyone in God's kingdom is unique and important. We are called not to hide our gifts and graces but to use them for the glory of God. No matter how small or weak, God is able to use them for his greater purpose. No part of the body can operate successfully without the co-operation of the others.

I am here to pray, learn and work with all of you for His mission. My prayer is that our lives may become a torch which leads people to Christ. May the Spirit give us confidence and wisdom to preach the Gospel to those who have never heard it. May our churches be the 'gates of heaven' to those who walk through the doors. May they find Christ, who forgives sins and offers eternal life. And the peace of God which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus as we eagerly wait for his coming.

Hannah Yovan

I greet you all in the name of our Saviour Jesus.

It is a great pleasure to be able to introduce and contribute to this edition of Beacon news as the minister's wife; the wife of Rev. Daniel Yovan and a mother to 3 sons and a daughter.

Firstly I would like to say it has been a great privilege and by the grace of God to be able to come into ministry with my husband & family into Leicester and serve the community of Leicester Trinity.

I was born in a non-Christian family in Birmingham and grew up only knowing the teachings and words of Hinduism & Sikhism, but was never encouraged to follow any religious path. In 2008 I took my first steps into Christianity after encountering the presence of God at a very difficult time in my life. In 2009 I took the decision to be baptised along with my sister-in-law. We were the first Christians in the family but not the last, as many followed.

[John 6:37](#)

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

During my walk with Christ, times have not always been perfect, but Christ has always been there for me, especially at the time when I lost my father (my best friend) and my son Samuel at birth. During these difficult times I have learnt to give all my burdens to God and watch my cup over-flow with many blessings; my 6-year old is one of the greatest testimonies according to the promise of God's living Words today. He was born at 25 weeks weighing 1lb a very premature baby and was only given 24hrs to live. Today by the grace of God and his blessings & Prayers he is a happy healthy 6-year-old boy.

[Matthew 11:28](#)

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

We have now been serving the community of Leicester Trinity for one month. We have really been overwhelmed by the support & love of the community. One of God's greatest commandments was and still is today to Love and I am proud to walk into church and feel the presence of that love through the congregation and community of Leicester Trinity.

[2. John 13:34-35](#)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”

As a family we will continue to serve and pray for you all through the Love of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

God Bless

Hannah

The Methodist Modern Art Collection.

Hearts Strangely Warmed

The Methodist Modern Art Collection (MMAC) is coming to 4 venues in Leicester City Centre between 1 May – 9 June, 2019. These venues are Bishop Street Methodist Church, Leicester Cathedral, St Andrews and St Nicholas. The MMAC has gained international recognition through including works from well-known artists such as Graham Sutherland and Elizabeth Frink, and we're very fortunate that it's coming to our doorstep. The 50 something works can be viewed on the Methodist Church website under "Our faith".

Fellowship groups are invited to book an evening or a day based at Bishop Street MC inspired by the presence of contemporary Christian art-works. It's an event to which you can bring a friend who likes art but may be more sceptical about Christianity. Further enquiries can be made with the project coordinator Bethany.Piggott@leccofe or fran.rhys@methodist.org.uk

Please also put the following dates in your diary and come along:

Sat 2 March 2019, 10.30 - 1 pm MMAC Preparation Day (venue to be confirmed later.) Come and find out how you could make use of *Hearts Strangely Warmed* as a resource for your church's involvement in *Thy Kingdom Come* or *Together* missions days.

Fri 3 May, 6 – 7.30 pm Opening at Leicester Cathedral. Hear from one of the artists about their process as an artist with Christian faith.

Sat 8 June, 10.30 – 4 pm Urban Retreat at St Andrews Jarrom Street, Leicester LE2 7DH organised by the Learning Network with artist Jamie Poole.

Talks, creative worship, art or craft workshops, therapeutic and devotional events will be advertised on www.bishopstreetchurch.org.uk or on a dedicated website [tbc: Hearts Strangely Warmed](http://tbc:HeartsStrangelyWarmed), Leicester May-June 2019.



Mark Cazalet, Nathaniel (asleep under the fig tree)

From the Methodist Modern Art Collection , copyright

TMCP, used with permission

METHODIST WOMEN in BRITAIN.



The best part of being chosen as District President of MWiB is that I choose a charity to support during my term in office. As I live and worship in Syston, I chose Inter Care which is a UK licensed and registered charity based in Syston, which sends targeted medical aid to rural health units, including clinics, hospitals, dispensaries and centres for orphaned children in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Tanzania and Malawi. This supports more than 10 million people with 950 boxes of medical aid each year, costing £611,000. The items are packaged and protected with knitted baby clothes and blankets, and toys rather than throwaway packaging.

Inter Care does not receive government funding but relies entirely on gifts of money to buy the medication and equipment and also to pay the shipping costs. If you feel you can raise some money for them it would be greatly appreciated. Any cheques made out to Northampton District MWiB could be sent to me % Syston Methodist Church, High St., Syston, Leicester.

If you are looking for something to knit over the winter the double knitting patterns can be found on Google by typing in ...fish and chip babies.

Baby jumper in DK on 6 (5mm) needles

Baby Blanket DK yarn size 8 (4mm) needles

Please contact me for details: Janis.bayley@outlook.com

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you will be able to help.

Janis Bayley. Email;

District M.W.i.B. President.

Methodist Women in Britain Annual Conference 2019
Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick Derbyshire
April 3rd to 5th 2019

Booking for this conference opens on November 1st 2018. Key note speaker is Val Ogden.

There are bursaries available from MWiB and the District has a free place for some-

one attending for the first time. If 2 women wish to go then the free place could be shared. Please contact Mary Gill if you wish to know more and arrange transport to the Conference venue.

Methodist Women in Britain Forum meeting at the Hayes Conference Centre September 28-30th 2018.

This was my first official Forum meeting as the Northampton District representative. It was very much a getting to know the other representatives. They came from all over the connexion to learn about all the visits, conferences, World Federation events, grants to projects both here and abroad that Methodist Women in Britain either attend or fund.

A new Vice President/ President for 2018-2022 was also elected. Her name is Hilary Evans from the Southampton District. She serves as Vice President for one year, then two as President and a final year as vice President, supporting the incoming President. I commend going onto the web site for more details and to read Hilary's profile.

Why not sign up to receive the quarterly newsletter so you always have up to date information about the forth coming events and reports on the different projects and grants on offer? Log on to www.mwib.org.uk

I will be the District Forum Representative for the next 3 years. If you are still not sure what Methodist Women is all about, please ask me to come and talk to you. Our aim is to get what we do more widely known and dispel any misconceptions that many people have.

Mary Gill : richardandmarygill@gmail.com

Helen Kim Memorial Scholar

Applications for a Helen Kim Memorial Scholar are requested. This is A World Federation Scholarship offered to a young woman between the ages of 18 and 30, no older than 30 in 2021. It offers leadership training to young women from each section of the World Federation. The scholar has her visit to the next World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM and UCW) paid for by the World Federation. Very often this suits someone at University who has had a responsible position in a uniformed organisation or youth group.

More information via the MWiB web site: www.mwib.org.uk and look for the link to WFM and UCW for more details.

SAFE SPACE COUNSELLING SERVICE

This is our circuit counselling service. It operates in Syston and Birstall. Appointments are available day or evening to suit, and it is for EVERYONE who might need our help in this way.

Our counsellors are trained, and supported by a qualified counselling supervisor. The service is managed by Audrey Baker who is always willing to talk about the service to anyone, and will come and talk to groups about what we offer.

We can be found at safespacecounselling.org. We are in the process of acquiring a new email address, but the phone number is 07938779477. This is always an answerphone but a message will be returned very quickly.

Please give us a call.

Aigburth win at Wigston Magna Show.

‘Aigburth Residential Care Home (MHA) were delighted with their success at Wigston Magna Produce Show on 8 September. Although their tomatoes, runner beans and carrots didn’t impress; their strawberry, bunch of grapes and an eating apple won first prize in the 3 Fruits Category and Best in Section rosette! They also ran a £1 stall which was very successful, giving the volunteer gardeners on it lots of opportunities to explain about the garden improvements at Aigburth. They have already planted specimens bought with the money raised on the day!’

Mary Bryceland, Marilyn Bowles

Please see back of cover for photograph.

Remembrance 2018 – 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1

As we remember the end of the First World War with the many thousands of casualties, we need to remember that many of them were young and did not have families of their own to keep their memories alive for future generations.

However all of them would have had a 'Next of Kin' and after my Father, Brian Thompson died in 2011 I became next of kin to my Grandfather's Cousin, Charles Burch, a WW1 casualty, with responsibility for having custody of his medals on behalf of the family, and the task fell to me to do something to commemorate the actual day of his death (4th Oct 1917). The only other mementos we had were a few photos of him and his gravestone at Ypres, and a post-card album containing a collection of picture post-cards from all over the world , which he was given as a present in 1905,

What I decided to do was send one of these postcards to each of my Grandfather's surviving descendants, together with a copy of the photos and a letter of tribute I compiled. I should add that my Grandfather, J Hugh Thompson and his Cousin Charles Burch were both only children, thus explaining why my Grandpa became Charles Burch's next of kin. I also took photos of these post cards to put back in the album, and I expect future generations of the family will continue to remember him, as one of the many casualties of this war.

Stephen Thompson.

**The Battle of
The Somme.**

WW1



War Poem by Rachel Parkinson

Drain colour from a war
and you fillet its pain
and its passion
Mute its soundtrack
and you silence
the suffering
So bring your palette
and all the orchestra of war;
spare not our senses
Bleed crimson into torn flesh;
Flash with white the bone surprised
to be exposed;
Spill purple over the disembowelled;
Bubble yellow into froth
from gas-choked lungs
Bring khaki, blue and grey
so men may know their enemy;
Spare the gold -
but every shade of brown
for mud and shit and upturned earth;
Black for blasted trees and hearts.
Add a mad cacophony of chaos:
Barked orders; suicidal whistles;
bagpipes' wail.
Hail of machine gun;
crack of sniper;
boom of big guns.
Add the low moan of the dying;
A tin can rattling on the wire
Will this breach the trench
'tween black & white silence
and our gaudy noise?
Will we feel enough
to hear the story
and know the road we must not take?

Prayers of intercession based on Hymn 524

‘Listening God you hear us’ (by Debbie L & Chris S - Syston)

1. Listening God, you hear us when we can't find the words to express our inner feelings, when we despair, feel depressed, anxious or frustrated. In love you reach out to us, sometimes through other people within the church, or through those we meet in other areas of our lives. Your grace reminds us that you love and care for us, even when we find it difficult to talk to you in prayer. Help us to accept that grace with open minds and hearts.

2. Searching god, you know every hair on our head, every thought in our mind. At times we think only of ourselves, disregarding your way of love, yet you seek us again & again, leading us back to your way & gently guiding us to show where we have strayed. Help us to follow the way that you are showing us.

3. Suffering God, help us to remember that you understand our grief, our loss our sadness, when we think that no one can appreciate our deepest feelings of loneliness. You, in love, touch us, reminding us of the suffering of Jesus, your son, upon the cross, the heart wrenching feeling of loss. We pray for those facing bereavement, especially any known to us. Be with them and show us how to help and comfort them, in your name.

4 Risen god, you have shown unbounded love that defeats even death. Your love can reach so deep that even those in the darkest chasm of despair will be revived & renewed in hope. We ask that for all those facing times of trial & tribulation your wonderful peace may be revealed to them.

5. Lastly we pray for ourselves. God's unlimited love pours out to us whatever our need. We graciously accept the outpouring of that love with grateful hearts. Lord, guide us in our daily lives as we live to love and serve you. Show us the way you would have us go and may we wait patiently for your prompting and guidance.

Amen

Toilet Twinning and WaterAid Update (Christchurch)

All 7 of our church toilets have been twinned! Fundraising at the community Barbecues, Queens Road Street Fair, cake sales and individual donations meant that we were able to twin them all between April and July, The toilets

we've twinned with are in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, Guatemala, Myanmar, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.

So far, £852 has been raised, with £429 going towards toilet twinning and £423 to WaterAid. The rest of the money raised this year will be for WaterAid, and the next event planned is the quiz on Saturday 27th October.

If you want to find out more about WaterAid, visit <https://www.wateraid.org/uk> or for Toilet Twinning, visit <https://www.toilettwinning.org> , where you can also twin your own toilet.

Thank you to everyone who has donated, hosted events or supported in any way. **See back of cover for photo.**

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

at Christchurch

Our church will again be appealing to our members to contribute to this appeal. We have boxes – (free this year) for you to fill with small gifts for a child overseas who may only receive this one box at Christmas time. Just choose the age group and whether it's for a boy or a girl and buy small gifts to fill the box. Suggested gifts are: a small toy, school supplies – pens, pencil case, colouring book, felt tips, notebook etc, toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, comb, flannel, hat, gloves, scarf, hair accessories, jewellery set, craft objects to make up etc. You don't have to include ALL these items, just a few!

I have the boxes and leaflets you will need in order to complete your shoebox. Our boxes will be collected and dedicated at the Sunday morning service on 18th November.

More information about this appeal can be found on the website samaritans-purse.org.uk

Please join in this worthwhile cause if you feel able.

Thank you

Olwen Simons



Belgrave & Rushey Mead Churches Together Quiz & Supper evening. Stephen Thompson.

In what is becoming an Annual event Belgrave & Rushey Mead Churches Together (which includes the 3 Methodist Churches of Clarendon, Harrison Road & Edgehill) held an enjoyable Quiz & Supper Evening, and again I was the quizmaster. There were people from five of the churches in Belgrave/Rushey Mead present, and the evening started with a picture quiz with Leicester photos on the tables for people to answer the 25 questions about them while they chatted and caught up with each other's news before the Fish & Chips arrived.

After everyone had eaten we went through the answers, there were 6 teams and the team from Edgehill Methodists won the Picture quiz on this occasion. Then we had the main event, General Knowledge questions, 20 per round, with each round being answered before the next round and the running scores announced. Sometimes if it was a music question there would be a bit of singing when we went through the answers, which added to the evening's entertainment!

In a closely contested quiz the lead changed regularly with the winners being only one point ahead of the runners-up at the end of the contest. We've yet to have a quiz where the winners of the Picture Quiz round also won the 'main event', so we'll see if next year a team can win this elusive 'double'!



Birstall Methodist Church CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

2018

Decorated Trees



in the Church



Free admission

Donations welcome to Birstall B.A.G.S.

Friday 23rd November 10am - 6pm

Saturday 24th November 10am - 2pm

Santa's Grotto



Christmas Gifts and Hampers - Decorations & Crafts

Hot Dogs & Pancakes - Tombola, Raffle, Pick-a-bag

Homemade Cakes & Preserves,

Children's Toys & Games

Refreshments and Light Lunches

LE4 4JS or BUS 22A or 22B from Haymarket

Bishop Street Methodist Church

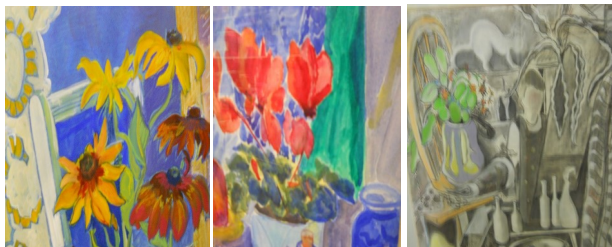
Town Hall Square

Friday 9th November until

Friday 30th November 2018

Monday to Friday 10.30am – 3.30pm

Saturday 10.30am to 2.30pm



An exhibition of original paintings (framed and un-framed)

by local artist

Joyce Hulford

now resident at

Aigburth Methodist Care Home, in Oadby

Proceeds from sales to supplement Joyce's care

Free admission



THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY



Cavendish Road/Richmond Road, Aylestone Park

CHRISTMAS FAIR

**SATURDAY
8TH DECEMBER**

10.30AM – 1PM

VARIETY OF STALLS - LIGHT LUNCHES
CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS IN THE CHURCH
'THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD'



**ADMISSION FREE
EVERYONE WELCOME**



Houghton on the Hill Methodist Church

Saturday 8th December

Coffee Morning

10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.

Including a display of Nativity Scenes



Donations for Action for Children

If you have a Nativity scene which you might like to display, or you wish to make one, the Church will be open on

Friday 7th December from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

to accept deliveries and on

Monday 10th December from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

for collection



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY 1st DECEMBER 2018

AT 7.30 P.M.

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

**MUSICAMICI WOODWIND ORCHESTRA
THE GRIFFIN SINGERS
SOLOIST: MARIA O'CONNELL**

Tickets £8.00 in advance from: Zeph's Café or

Jim Gannon (07831 157845)

Tickets on the door £9.00

FANCY A BITE TO EAT FIRST?

***BREAKFAST WITH SANTA -
AT ZEPH'S CAFÉ***



15TH AND 22ND

DECEMBER AT 9.00 A.M.

Tickets: £8.50

Tickets available from *ZEPH'S CAFÉ*

Early Booking Essential

Children's ticket also includes:

Present from Santa

and craft activities

**Zeph's Café: Trinity Methodist Church, Harborough
Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4LA**

Tel: 0116 2717575 Email: info@zephscafe.co.uk

Diligence. A Sermon by Leon Dundas

Leon Dundas presented us with a challenging sermon in The Space on the 2nd September. I am grateful to him for allowing me to rehash it for the newsletter.

He began by asking us all to think about the different parts of our bodies, describing them without naming them, for our friends to guess and draw. He linked this activity to the well-known quotes from Paul likening the parts of the body to the Christian church. Paul considered mainly the external parts and linked them to traditions and doctrine of the church and from his viewpoint as a Pharisee, the importance of observing the customs of the day.

Leon then went on to deepen the discussion drawing comparisons between the parts of us which are unseen either because we keep them covered or because they are internal, the parts we do not often think about unless they give us problems. He questioned whether those less public parts also have lessons for us in our Christian life. Do we consider our internal convictions in the ways in which we relate to those around us, particularly those with whom we might feel uncomfortable? He mentioned examples: those with different backgrounds, do we always react with sympathy to stories of mental illness, broken relationships or just lifestyles outside our own experience. Do we value their contribution and the chance to learn from them?

The reading from Deuteronomy describes diligent obedience linked to truth (diligent was a word that Leon had considered in his time with the children). Observance of Gods laws is important says Moses but wisdom in their application is true diligence. Brain, heart and gut for example are all linked together and cannot function alone. We do need to be holistic in our approach and not limit ourselves to the external. Paul's training may have led him to the view that the body of Christ were Chosen people. Perhaps our thoughts and actions should be more inclusive, considering the parenthood of all humanity.

We should not focus too closely on the external (age, race, orientation, disability, status, class, religion, refugee). In our hearts we must seek Gods view and give a true welcome to all not just those who are from our majority.

Mike Asher (Christchurch)

Rearsby Songs of Praise

On Sunday 9th September it was a privilege and delight to lead an ecumenical Songs of Praise with Syston Town Band.

Over 100 people joined together on a cloudy but dry afternoon in Rearsby Play Park. We sang our hearts out to traditional and modern hymns. Gathering before and after for tea and coffee in Rearsby Parish Church.

Our thanks to Syston Brass Band, members of Rearsby Parish Church and all those who contributed through prayers, reading and songs.

Thanks also to the Parish Council, and Rearsby Vicar Rev'd Sis Mary A'Herne-Smith for helping to make the occasion a time of renewing worship.

I like to think that John Wesley who we believe preached from a stone in the village would have approved!

With new friends made and a request to "do it again" a good time was had by all.

Thanks to all those who shared in the worship and made what one man said after, "If the churches could come together like this I would consider joining". We pray he might soon!

The offering of £229.83 covered the cost of Syston Band, printing and a donation to Rearsby Parish Church with the remainder £13.83 going to the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal.

Rev Tony Pick

Please see back of cover for photos

A Thought 4 Your Week

Some time ago Sue was arranging flowers in the porch of the church to welcome the Art Beat festival that was being held in Clarendon Park. As you probably know Art Beat was using our church for some of its performances. Sue had taken a music stand, a scarf and a few flowers and created a wonderful piece of floral art. I asked her if she had that finished image in her mind before she started or whether it developed as she went along. Sue said that she had a general impression of what she wanted but as she started making the arrangement the materials influenced her thoughts and helped produce the final creation.

Recently we had a discussion in one of our evening cafe services as to whether God had a plan for each of us and if so did we have a real choice in the decisions we make. The picture of Sue creating her artistic display came into my mind and I wondered if that is a simple analogy of how God works with individuals and groups of people. God has a general picture of his purpose for us, but the final creation is dependent on how you and I respond to God and to each other.

John Fowler (Christchurch)

My Pop Group Encounter. Stephen Thompson.

I was asked if I could go to a recent talk at Bishop Street Methodist Church at which people were going to speak about reminiscences of Pop Group Concerts they'd been to.

Unfortunately I was unable to go, but the story I was going to tell was that I'd actually EATEN relatives of a pop group which had had a record in the Pop Charts, and this event happened at a MAYC (Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) Provincial Weekend back in 1983.

We passed a farm where I noticed a sign saying that some of the sheep from there were those who were part of the group called 'The Singing Sheep' which released the record 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' which was in the UK Pop Charts for 5 weeks from December 1982.

We arrived in Norwich for our evening meal which was 'Roast Lamb!' I enquired whether this lamb came from this farm we'd passed near Norwich, and the answer was 'yes!' Given that the Sheep had performed this song in late 1982, and given birth to their lambs in Spring 1983, these lambs would have been the ones we had our roast lamb from in October 1983, hence my claim!

At each Provincial Weekend the evening's entertainment included a Barn Dance, Disco and the Miss MAYC Personality Girl Contest. The Winner this time was Miss Micky Robson, and she led the opening prayers at the Sunday Morning Service. She is now Rev. Michaela Youngson, our President of the Methodist Conference, and is due to visit our District in March 2019.

News from the Churches:

Birstall

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL @ BIRSTALL

METHODIST CHURCH

FRIDAY 23rd November 10 am – 6 pm

Saturday 24th November 10 am – 2 pm.



In 1999 Pat Hilton suggested a Christmas Tree Festival. The church was filled with Christmas trees and supported by a cake stall. Since then it has gone from strength to strength with a variety of stalls: Christmas hampers & gift baskets, Christmas decorations, preserves, cakes & pastries, tombola, raffle, Pick-a-Bag. There is also a Craft and Table-Top sale.

The coffee shop is open throughout serving cakes, drinks and light lunches. On Friday from 3pm – 6pm the aroma of hot-dogs and pancakes fills the air.

There is no admission but we welcome donations to B.A.G.S. a cancer support group based in Birstall.

This year the theme is simply 'Trees'. We guarantee to delight you with the display – also don't forget to bring your Christmas present list.

Susan Wheeler

Cosby

Our Harvest Festival on 22nd September was a lovely service, led by Audrey Baker and Moleen Chikumba. The church was beautifully decorated as usual, by a few faithful ladies.

The windows had displays from various groups, including the Girl's Club and the Play Group.



Please see back of cover for photo

We are holding a Coffee Morning and Sale on Nov. 24th
December 16th at 4pm we will be holding our Christingle.

December 23rd at 10.30am is our Carol Service.

Rev Jenny Impey will lead our worship on Christmas Morning at 10.15am

Our ladies Bright Hour is growing in numbers, as is our Girl's Club.

Our Bible Study group meets on alternate Wed.

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

**Elbert Hubbard**

~~~~~

CHURCH AT THE CROSS Great Glen



We have settled in to our refurbished Church and find it a much more user friendly and adaptable space, which means we have been able to introduce Cafe Church: an informal service where we sit around tables with fresh coffee, croissants and more which are served throughout the service. This takes place once a month.

The Church is open every Saturday from 9.30am to 11.30am for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of quiet.

There is a 'Coffee Drop-in' every Saturday from 10am to 11.30am and on the first Saturday of each month there is the added attraction of 'Bacon Butties', which is always popular!

We held a concert in June given by the Griffin Singers to raise funds for the Church which was very successful.

Looking ahead: The Carol Service is on Sunday 16th December at 6.30pm and the Christmas Eve Candlelit Service is on Monday 24th December at 8pm. The Church will be decorated by members of the congregation for these services.

Craft and Creation is an activity which takes place in the church each Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm when we meet to sew, knit, do jigsaws or anything which we can share and enjoy one another's company and meet new people.

We have welcomed our new minister Rev. Derek McLean and his wife Chris. His first service with us was on the 9th September when our friends from St. Cuthbert's Parish Church joined us. We enjoyed his first Harvest Service with us on 30th September.

We are delighted to say that two young people have recently become members and two people have transferred membership.

Some members of our congregation have formed a ukulele group and their contributions at Cafe Church and Local Arrangement services add a joyful sound to our worship.

Everyone is welcome to join any of our services or activities.

Houghton on the Hill

On Sunday 23rd September we welcomed our new Minister the Rev. Derek McLean and his wife Chris to our Harvest Festival Service and Faith Lunch. It was good to meet together.

Please see back of cover for photo

You will see from our advertisement, that we intend having a Coffee Morning for *Action for Children* on Saturday 8th December from 10.00

a.m. to 12.00 p.m. We are hoping to welcome people from the Circuit as well as villagers. Come and join us at Houghton!

The morning will include a display of Nativity scenes and we are hoping that adults and children in the village and possibly people in the Circuit may wish to bring along scenes that they own or ones which they have made. The Church will be open on Friday 7th December from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. for deliveries and on Monday 10th December from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. for collection. If you are travelling a distance, then you may wish to take your Nativity scene away after the coffee morning.



Mayflower

Most weeks we have a reverent and meaningful service on the Sunday morning, but just now and again, we have a complete change from the normal, and during this quarter we have had three unusual and crowded services. On the first Sunday in August we had over one hundred members from The Cameroon to join us in a lively service of praise and worship, accompanied by music from the visitors, This was followed by a generous lunch completely provided by the Cameroon friends where we were able to "mix our friendly souls "in conversation and fun.



On the first Sunday in September, we held our Covenant Service, celebrating the start of the Methodist year. and then most of us had a picnic lunch at Launde Abbey. It was a lovey early September afternoon, and we enjoyed the grounds at Launde. This was an experiment, but appreciated by those present, and it was suggested this arrangement could be continued in subsequent years.

On the first Sunday in October, we held the Harvest Festival. In previous years we have always held it on the last Sunday in September. The reason for having these special services on the first Sunday of any month is that our minister, Saidu, is normally planned for a Communion service on those dates. However, it was agreed that we should revert to holding the Harvest Festival the last Sunday in September for the following years.

On other Sundays in the month, we are served by ministers and local preachers planned by the Circuit, and from time to time we have "Local Arrangements " services which are quite popular, it is a time when the members of the congregation can choose their favourite hymns, readings and prayers.

In July we shared a Karaoke evening with a Bring and Share Supper, with friends from Uppingham Road and Wesley Hall. This was a very successful and happy event where many of the group sang.

Mayflower felt privileged to host the first Prayer Breakfast on 22nd September, and many of our community came and supported the event. It was a resounding success – despite the early start, everyone at Mayflower really enjoyed the worship, the fellowship, and the food!

Our church community is much more extensive now than it ever has been. On 16th September we had an uplifting service in the morning with Douglas, who is on Note as a Local Preacher, and an extended Service for ladies associated with the Pentecostal church of Zimbabwe in the afternoon.

After this there was a celebration of 35 years of Independence for Nevis, and the church was packed with many folks from Nevis. This was a truly memorable event for all, and a great privilege for our church community.

We have quite lively outreach connection with the community, as many groups hire our halls. The latest development is a potential link with St Phillips and their Inter faith activities. We are excited to see what will develop.

Oadby

We have recently celebrated our harvest festival and the church was tastefully decorated by members of the church family.



The harvest display at the front of the church was made up of items of food suitable for the food bank, to which it was donated. Other displays focused on the harvest theme from 'All we can' Thanking God for the Sun and Light. It included solar panels that are being introduced to Malawi to help with irrigation.



Zeph's Café continues to be busy and well patronised by the Oadby community. In October we had an "Olde School Days" week, with a fish and chip supper on the Friday evening. **Remembrance Week (November 5th to 9th)** - will be featured in the Cafe finishing with a "Remembrance Fish Supper" on Friday 9th November at 6p.m. Battered cod, chips and peas, followed by a choice of dessert, including Apple Pie and Custard, Creamy Rice Pudding and Jam, or Sticky Toffee pudding, all for £10.95.

These events are always popular so it's wise to book in advance. Simply telephone: 0116 2717575.

Our Christmas Concert is being held on Saturday 1st December here at Trinity at 7.30 pm. **See poster for details.**

South Wigston

Sunday 2nd September was a special and memorable occasion at South Wigston. Not only was Rev. Arthur Rowe preaching (always a treat) but the service celebrated 50 years since Arthur and Ann began their service to the people of South Wigston, Blaby and Cosby.



Arthur preached on 'The woman at the well' with members of the congregation performing a dramatised version of the story.

Arthur chose a simple Iona service for the communion liturgy.

We had planned a secret faith lunch to follow the service and Ann was in on the plan to the extent that she prepared their usual roast lunch - but didn't put it in the oven! We think it came as a lovely surprise to Arthur. We were also pleased to welcome several people from churches in the circuit where Arthur had served.

Harvest on 23rd September was a great time of worship at South Wigston. The Lutterworth Town Band had agreed to come for the morning service, instead of the evening as in previous years. We enjoyed both traditional and modern harvest hymns, as well as pieces from the band which included 'What a wonderful world' and a medley of popular songs from the First World War. The young people from our Junior Church received their book prizes. Those who were able to stay, including members of the band, enjoyed sharing a faith lunch.

Please see back of cover for photo

Fire update

Fire update: just to let everyone know that the damaged woodwork in the ceiling was skilfully repaired and the new high-level LED lights were finished on Friday 28th September. Thanks to all who asked to be kept up to date with our progress.

Syston

An early notice that this year's **CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS EVENING** will be on Tuesday 18th December between 7.00 - 9.30pm at Syston Methodist church. Get the date in your diary and please put your name on the sheet in the Link as soon as it is available. You know just how popular this event has become and a guarantee of Festive Music, Poems, Readings, Great Festive Stories and Food. Don't miss it – Keith and Audrey Baker, keith.baker01@btinternet.com for information



Wigston Magna

Tales from Wigston Magna

We enjoyed a very successful day in September with this year's Grand Show being the best to date. There were more people through the doors; more entries in every category; more cakes bought and eaten; more conversations;



more music and hopefully more friends made. There were many more willing and press-ganged helpers who made the day worthwhile. Thank you.

November 10th and 11th we join in a special weekend to remember the men of Wigston Magna who gave their lives for us during WW1. Our church will be open on the 10th from 10am to 4pm for remembrance and reflection and for a display of the Frederick Street Church war memorial with details of the men who died, together with the Moat Street Roll of Honour. On Remembrance Sunday whilst some are worshipping, others will parade from All Saints' Church to Oadby for a special act of remembrance.

Then Advent and Christmas will be upon us. A joyous time beginning with the Advent Carol service on Dec 2nd and culminating with a family Carol Service on the 23rd, the Christmas Eve Christingle Service and of course the family service on Christmas Morning.

We will then move into our celebrations of 200 years of Methodism in Wigston Magna. How different things are now to what they were in 1818/19 or are they? Will we make a difference in the next 200 years or at least in the foreseeable future? So it's:

'Back to the Future'

Radical Grace Transforming Hope

Remembering our Roots and Re-Imagining the Future;

There will be six exhibitions with Open Days during the year which cover the past, present and future of the Church. Come and find out about us. There is also a programme of invited preachers.....Keep your eye on the plan!

In this article we look briefly at the beginnings of the two Methodist Churches in 1818 and 1819.

It seems to have been a difficult start for what became Moat Street, when a small group of people tried to start a fellowship after a camp meeting in 1818. Two houses were obtained as a meeting place but the venture failed. It started again in Parsons Yard, Mowsley End, and later moved to a house in Moat Street. It was not until 1846 that they were able to build a small Chapel on the site of the present Church. These were the Primitive Methodists.

It was 1819 when William Kirby of Great Glen began to preach in Wigston at a house in Chapel Yard, thought to be in Bell Street. This was the beginning of the Wesleyan Methodists in the village and in 1839 a small rectangular Chapel was built in Mill Lane (Frederick Street), seating 200 and costing £300 with a loan that took over 30 yrs to repay. The two chapel buildings were established within 7 years of each other.

Both buildings were enlarged but eventually new chapels were built on the same sites. In 1885, the 49 members of the Wesleyan Chapel looked to the future and went forward in faith having only 20% of the cost in hand. The chapel seated 360 with the old chapel converted into school premises. In the following year the Primitive Methodists opened their new cruciform shaped chapel seating 350 with an adjacent schoolroom. 460 people were at the opening service. We will keep you updated in 31 the next issue.

Blaby

When the last Beacon was going to print we were approaching Blaby's *Holiday at Home*. Well it went ahead and was very successful, providing a chance for those no longer able to get away to get together with others in the same position.

Blaby by the Sea might not have provided sea breezes, but there were deck chairs and ice cream, fish and chips and funfair games. There were quieter activities if preferred and films to watch in the afternoon: *Summer Holiday* and *Carry on Camping*. There were two days of fun and fellowship, not just for those associated with the church but others who wanted to come along too. The sun kept shining – in fact it was so hot on the first day that the planned outdoor picnic was held inside to be a bit cooler.



We were very grateful to the local businesses which provided food for the picnic and the local chippy which provided the fish and chips at a discount for the second lunch. Whilst the ice creams were welcome on both days, it was an extra treat on the second day for it to arrive via an old-fashioned ice cream trike. Those who started by not knowing each other were soon chatting like old friends – and then some found that they knew each other from way back, having been at the same school in Blaby many years ago, or from their children having known each other.

It was hard work but much appreciated by those who came, so, yes it will be repeated next year. **See back of cover for photo**

We now look ahead towards Christmas, starting with our Christmas Tree Festival on December 1st and 2nd. We know that many locally look forward to this, some entering a tree, others coming along to see what others have done. This year the proceeds, usually around £1000, will be shared between church funds and Action Homeless. This local charity also received the fresh produce from our recent Harvest Festival, with the dried and tinned goods going to the Countesthorpe food-bank.

Our regular activities are well under way after the summer break, so there is always something going on, but grounded in our Sunday worship.

Wesley Hall

On Saturday 11th August we held our second Games Evening together with the Moravian Congregation and the Community Centre which again was a huge success. Another Games Evening has been arranged for 27th October.



On Saturday 22nd September we held our Harvest Supper when we enjoyed Fish & Chips, followed by a Beetle Drive which was a fun night enjoyed by both young and old. On Sunday our Harvest Festival was conducted by Stephen Owen.

Our 124th Church Anniversary was held on 13th/14th October. On the Saturday evening we had our 'Church at Home' when we enjoyed a three-course meal – a choice of 'English' pork chop or 'Caribbean' curry goat. This was followed with entertainment by the Marydene Guitar Society. Our Host and Hostess for the evening were Mavis and Terry Weston and the Guest Speak was our Superintendent, Rev. Edson Dube. Sunday morning worship was led by our very own Rev. Saidu Kanu. A good weekend was had by all.

Looking ahead and Christmas will soon be upon us and our Church will be resplendent as we decorate it with trees. On Sunday 9th December we have our Gift Service where gifts will be given to The Bridge for the homeless. On Sunday 16th December we will have our Carol Service. On 23rd December we are invited to join with the Moravian Congregation in their Christingle Service. On Christmas Eve we meet with Mayflower for midnight Communion. On 31st December at 11.15pm we shall be holding our Watchnight Service at Wesley Hall to welcome in 2019 when local neighbours listen while we sing Auld Lang Syne.

We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and every blessing for 2019.

Countesthorpe



We've been quite busy over the Autumn - starting with a fun Skittles Evening way back in August. At the beginning of September we held a very successful garden Party. The sun shone all day and many people came who had not been before. Later in the month we celebrated the Harvest and the following evening we had our popular Harvest Supper.

Our Cake, Bric-a Brac & book sale went well, although the weather was somewhat inclement. This was followed by our Chapel Anniversary, led by Edson Dube, and included a short history of Methodism in Countesthorpe.

The Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship and our Bible Study evenings are doing well and our Saturday Coffee Shop continues to be a popular meeting place.

As I write, Christmas is still several weeks away but by the time you read this, Advent will almost be upon us. Our Advent ring will be part of the 4 weeks of anticipation of the *reason for the season*. However, during the shopping and preparations let's make sure that we do not forget that *reason for the season*!

Our anticipation starts here in Countesthorpe with our Christmas Market on 24th November. Two weeks later, on the 8th December, will be our Christmas Tree Festival when the Greenfield Junior School will delight us during the morning with their fantastic singing, their band playing and their great enthusiasm - the highlight of the day!

The Christingle Service on 9th December is another event to look forward to - the Christingle itself says so much with just one orange - and it's fun too. I can't wait to eat the sweets after the service (plus anyone else's given the opportunity.)!

This just leaves two more special services - Our Carol Service, on the 23rd and our Christmas Day Service which will both be local arrangements.

I came across this quote recently; 'All children should have a stable background'. So true!

“A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah: chapter 9 verse 6 (Good News Bible)

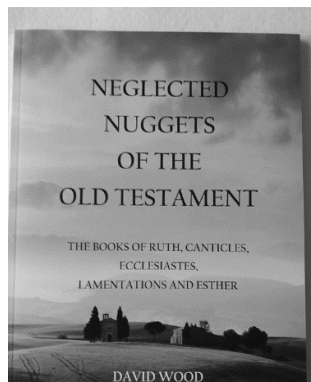
It was many centuries before Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled.

Let us make sure that we keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas celebrations and remember the words of Ebenezer Scrooge from ‘A Christmas Carol’ - “I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year”.

Book review

Neglected Nuggets of the Old Testament

This is a book written and published by Rev David Wood, who was a minister in our circuit from 1979-1984. It will, I am sure prove a valuable resource for those of us whose knowledge of the Old Testament could be improved [and also for those who wish to study these Old Testament books in house groups or individual devotional study.



Copies of the book can be obtained by contacting David directly. His address is: 4 Burrill Road, Bedale, North Yorkshire. DL8 1ET. The book costs £10 [+ £2 p&p],

[In accordance with GDPR, permission has been obtained from David to publish his personal details—Ed]

Poems

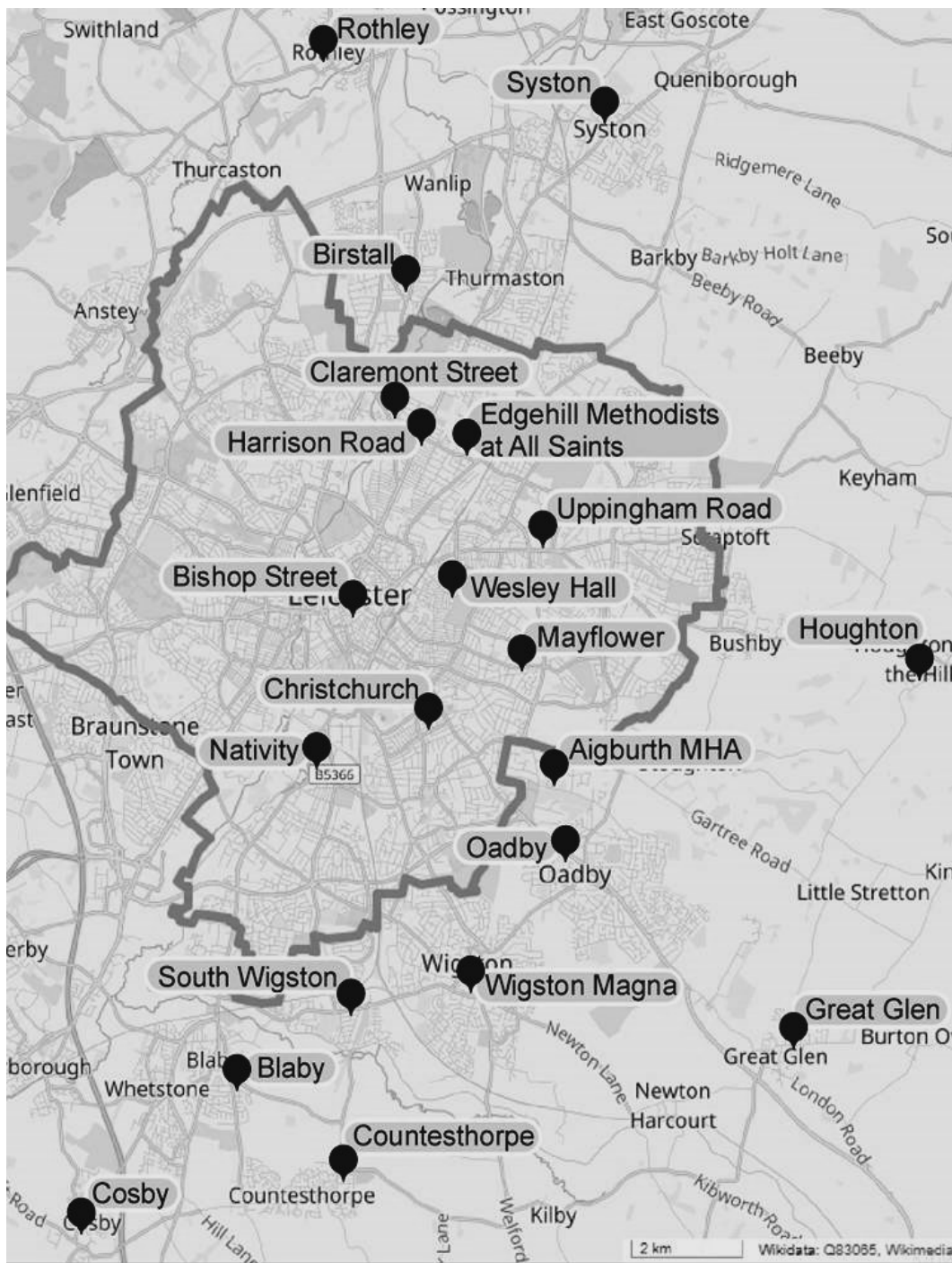
REFUGEES

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

Poem is by Brian Bilston. His poems are published on the web for all to share
www.brianbilston.com

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Cosby Harvest Display



Sth Wigston Harvest - Lutterworth Town



Argurth winning display at Wigston Magna Show



Blaby Holiday at home event



Rearsby Songs of Praise



Houghton Harvest Faith Lunch With Derek & Christine McLean

