

The Beacon

'For the fruits of all creation'



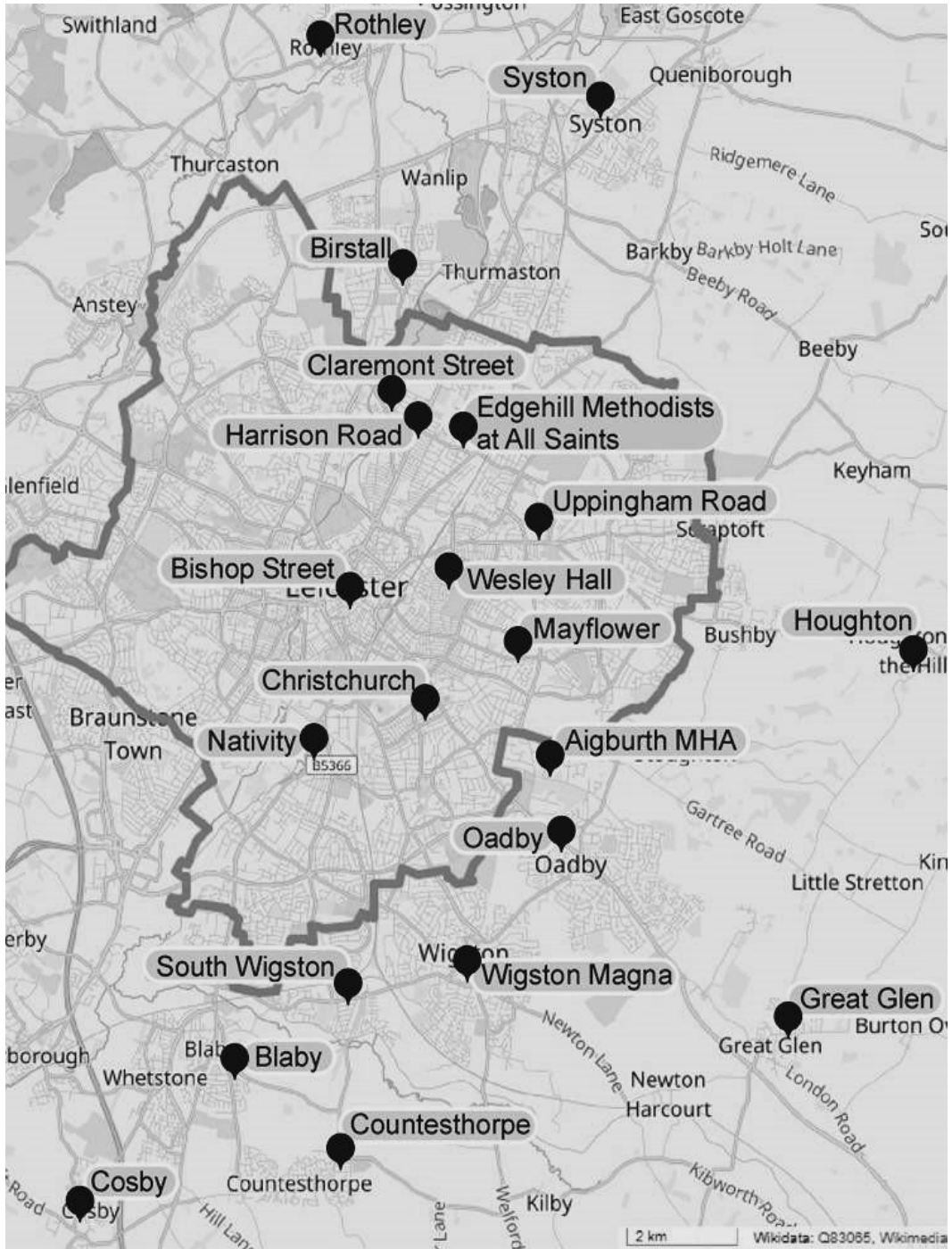
Quarterly Newsletter

www.leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk

Autumn 2019



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LEICESTER TRINITY CIRCUIT

The Beacon

Autumn 2019

Superintendent's letter

Dear Friends



The Summer edition of the Connexions magazine has just arrived, along with a letter from Barbara & Clive, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference. In the letter, they write about how much they are looking forward to hearing our stories as they travel round the Connexion during their year in office, and they want us to “tell it like it is!”.

We hear a great many stories - and I, too, love to hear about what is going on, how God is at work in the lives of God's people, and in the lives of our communities. I love to hear the stories of how people took risks, and how those risks have paid off. I also like to hear about what we have learned when the risk hasn't paid off, and what has happened as the result of (apparent) failure.

Each of our own individual stories is, of course, part of a much greater story - the story of God's love for the world, and the story of the ways in which God comes to us, and “abides” with us. God is with us, and that gives our individual stories their meaning.

Sometimes, the stories that I hear are stories of decline and weakness, of how things are not like they used to be. We can talk ourselves into believing that there is no hope, that there is no point trying anything, and that we are doomed to failure.

At other times, though, we try to edit the story to take out the difficult things, the things that we're not proud of. We pretend that everything's fine.

It is important to remember that we are part of the story of God. Our lives are held in God's grace and care, and God is at work in us and our lives, in our struggles, triumphs and failures. We need to try to tell the whole story, to show how God is at work in the world.

When I read the encouragement from Clive and Barbara to "tell it like it is!", I thought of Jesus' words, "you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32).

The truth - the whole truth - of God's love for us, and God's constant, faithful presence gives our story a new meaning, one full of hope and grace for all.

Perhaps that simple phrase should be our motto. We are a people who will "tell it like it is". Telling honestly of the Good News of the gospel, as we see it in the lives of the people around us, so that everyone we meet might come to know the goodness of God in Christ.

May God bless you in all that you do.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Editorial.

Hello everyone from Anne and me, well we've done it! We've managed, thanks to most of our lovely contributors sending articles early, to have this issue sent out at the same time as the Plan. Not without some minor problems along the way though. Due to circumstances beyond my control I had several issues to deal with on the days leading up to our first planning meeting and on the day itself - the main one being I forgot about it! The reason I'm telling you this is that there may well be some glaring but unnoticed errors as I ran out of time to proofread some articles - we apologise for any you might notice but ask your indulgence and unless the error is of staggeringly importance please don't email us to tell us as we'll probably notice them ourselves. Talking about proofreading could you please send all articles in Calibri font size 11 in single line spacing with no 'hidden' formatting to both of us as Word docs and not PDF as we can't edit these easily. Also, in the email subject please put '**Beacon**' and name of Church. Please send all your articles to both of us, not to the office, as it falls to me to proofread and if I don't get the copy then Anne has to forward it. All these will make our task easier so thanks in advance.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Beacon and we look forward to receiving your next articles between the **13th and 21st of October 2019**

Jo and Anne

When; Where; What.

Sat	Sept 7th	12-2pm	Christchurch	BBQ
Sat	Sept 14th	4 pm	Upp Rd.	Games afternoon
Sat	Sept 28th	10 am	Birstall	Apple pressing
Thurs	Sept 26th	7.30 pm	Houghton	Musicamici
	Oct 24th	7.30 pm		Gilbert&Sullivan
	Nov 21st	7.30		Tea for 3 Trio
Sat	Nov 9th	2.30	Bishop St.	Concert
Fri &Sat	Nov 29/30th	??	Mayflower	Drama Group 'Cut and Dried'
Sat	Dec 14th	3 pm	Bishop St.	Handel's Messiah
Sat	2nd Sat of Month	10 am –12	Countes.....	Paws 4 Coffee
Sat	Dec 7th	7.30 pm	Oadby	Christmas Concert
Mon	Dec 9th	7.30 pm	Oadby	Amos Trust Carol Service

Regular Prayer Meetings



Day	When	Time	Venue	Event
Sun	2nd of month	6.00 pm	Bishop Street	Inspiration eve...
Sun	3rd of month	8.45 am	Sth. Wigston	Bible Breakfast
Mon & Wed	Weekly	1.00-1.30 pm	Bishop Street	Prayer/service
Tues	4th of month	1.45 pm	Syston	Julian Prayers
Tues	Weekly But	10.00 am	Syston	Holy Communion
	1st Tues	11.00 am		
Tues	Monthly	1.30 pm	Wesley Hall	Bible Study
Wed	1st of month	11.00 am	Wig Mag	Service
Wed	2nd of month	10.30 am	Mayflower	Healing Service
Wed	Weekly	9.30 am	Birstall	Holy Communion
Wed	1st of month	1.00 pm	Bishop Street Phone	Holy Communion
Thurs	Monthly	7.30 pm	2718948	Julian Prayers
Thurs	Weekly	10.00 am	Christchurch	Prayers
Sat	Weekly	10.15 am	Oadby.	Prayers

Summary of Clive Marsh's Conference Speech

At the beginning of his year in office as Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Professor Clive Marsh, set out how life-experience can be contained in the relationship between pleasure, piety and politics. In addition, this framework can be used to commend the Christian faith to others.

Professor Marsh is Head of the University of Leicester's Vaughan Centre for Life-long Learning and an International Research Consultant at the Queen's Foundation. He seeks to help people think creatively about how faith, life and popular culture interweave, and what happens to theology as a result.

In an address at the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference in Birmingham on Saturday 29 June, Professor Marsh said: "faith does not squeeze the pips out of life. On the contrary, faith allows us to enjoy life to the full. It gives us a measure of, and ways of discerning, what is genuinely life-enhancing."

Piety, Professor Marsh said: "at its best is about having a balanced, grounded, nourishing approach to daily life. Piety allows us to "make prayerful evaluations and hard choices about both the pleasure and politics which make up our life."

Contending that we "cannot let our lives be a simple amalgam of pleasure and piety", Professor Marsh said: "With all that's been happening in recent years – in this country and elsewhere – it's understandable, of course, why people have become disillusioned with political life. Brexit hasn't exactly encouraged British citizens to feel confident about the world of politics. Christians must not, though, become detached and distant from political processes."

For further details or to hear the speech in full or read it please go to methodist.org.uk and click on conference and you should be able to access it. Any problems call or email me Jo Kay



Inclusive Church

What does it mean to be Inclusive?

Being welcoming?

Being friendly?

Perhaps having a ramp - but up to a side door, where it won't spoil the look of the church?

Being truly Inclusive is much more than this.

Being truly inclusive means knowing that we really are all members of one another, and we belong together. Knowing that the person whose mental health is fragile is a member of the Body of Christ. And so is the person whose child is fractious and disruptive (and so is the child). The person from a different culture, the one who has difficulty walking, and the one whose partner is the same gender - as well as the person whose gender we're not sure about - all these are beloved children of God, and part of the Body of Christ.

And so are the people who don't agree with us - and this is where it can get tricky!

Because the ones who think that we shouldn't waste money on repairing the loop system, who think that children should be silent in church, who think that women shouldn't preach, or teach, and who think that people who are new to the church should learn how to fit in with the way that we've always done it those people also belong in the Body.

Being truly inclusive is hard work. It requires patience, and tact, and making people welcome even if they don't agree with us (whilst not compromising or watering-down what we believe). It means being absolutely sure that God's love is for all, and every single one of us has a valuable contribution to make. It means treating everyone with respect.

Inclusive Church is a network of churches, groups and individuals who have committed themselves to making this real in their lives together. This is their vision:

"We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church

- *which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ;*
- *which is scripturally faithful;*
- *which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation;*
- *and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."*

Three of the churches in this Circuit belong to the Inclusive Church Network - look out for the logo on their Noticeboards and posters!

But shouldn't every church be like this?

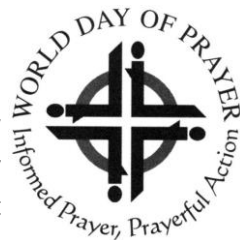
If a church doesn't think like this, it probably isn't much of a church. By the same token, a church which is trying to be the Body Christ, to be a living witness to the love of God as expressed in the life of Jesus, will be inclusive.

If we, as church, are not *being* what we proclaim, then we won't have much of a mission either. For who will join us, if they do not feel that we respect them, value them, and listen to them?

+ + + + +

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Women's World Day of Prayer: My Experience



This was the first time participating and it was through word by a dear friend and also church member that I came to know about the Women's Prayer Day movement. It immediately triggered my interest because I imagined how beautiful it would have been to meet other women of faith collaborating, praying, working and having a good time together. I also felt that I needed a moment of retreat in my life where I could just pause and reflect, a moment of quiet-ness and stillness far different and away from my daily "busy" life schedule. The WWD met all my expectations and even more. We prayed, sang, did fun workshops such as composing poems and creating handmade accessories to take back home and ate together as our Father taught us to. We were women belonging to different churches, from different age groups and different experiences, but it didn't matter because at the end we all felt at peace within ourselves and in a safe, non-judgemental environment where we could share our own stories and listen to other peoples stories and be in awe of God's love and the beauty in the diversity of His creation. It was a beautiful experience that I will gladly share and hopefully get other women to experience too in the future.

Francisca Incoom (Bishop Street Methodist Church)

A Day to Cherish

When the Methodist Art collection came to Leicester recently, I was intrigued to see the wide range of events connected to it and resolved to book a place on a day of "Reflective Drawing" – and I'm very pleased I did!

A small group of us met initially at the ancient Leicester St Nicholas Church with the option of moving on to the Cathedral. I felt that St Nicholas with its Anglo Saxon heritage and calm atmosphere was a lovely place in which to reflect on the art

work we had come to see. Led by artist Donna, we were invited to quietly move round, gazing gently on the pictures until one of them "spoke" to us, and evoked a response. Donna called this Visio Divina – gazing (reading the picture), receiving, responding.

My eyes fell upon Christ's Entry into Jerusalem by Norman Adams born 1927. In the reproductions I've seen of this (it's about 32 x 28 inches in water-colour) it has always seemed a bit of a jumble – flowers, especially sunflowers, animals, flags, dark figures standing out against vivid colours. But where is Jesus? It's always been difficult to find him. However, in the original there he is! In the centre, with the donkey in delicate shades of gold and green. And I thought – yes – that's how it is sometimes; we don't always find it easy to discover where Jesus is in the varied events of our daily lives. Sometimes we need help to see him and simply time to stop and gaze upon him.

Like the others in the group I was soon busy with paper, paints and colours and at the end of the day we shared any responses we had made to our chosen picture. It is always a special time when we can share, verbally or visually what we have experienced, and this seemed to me to be a worthwhile way of praying. It also opened my eyes again to the wealth of images, icons, sculptures, and other works of art which we find in our churches – if only we take time to stop and stare.

Thank you to everyone who made this Collection available to us, also to Donna and the lovely people I shared the day with.



Dorothy Hutchinson (Syston)

A Celebration Faith in Flowers:

On a very wet Saturday in June, a year in the planning, two very busy days, our Sanctuary was transformed. A vision of creative skill & beauty, showing God's wonderful creation.

We had invited Wigston & Knighton Floral Society who are celebrating their 50th Anniversary to be part of our Bicentenary celebration. The ladies had worked with the title "A celebration in Faith & Flowers". We certainly experienced a journey in faith.



In the foyer we were met with "The World is my Parish", an explosion of yellow orchids, variegated greenery (I'm sorry their species names escape me), descending from a globe of the earth depicted in green & white chrysanthemums, this acknowledged the importance of John Wesley in our story of Methodism. Inside the church sanctuary "The Golden Celebration" golden chrysanthemums, yellow roses, orange & yellow gerberas. Alongside a huge white arrangement with white hydrangeas, roses & carnations sitting at the bottom of an empty cross. Every window had an arrangement, representing the life of the church & groups that use our building, Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Pre-School, Art Group, Choirs, Music, white lilies & carnations flowing from organ pipes, paper roses made from manuscript paper, Worship and Sunday School.

The communion table an amazing display with white, pale blue & dark blue delphiniums reaching up to our cross above the table. "All come together", celebrating the sacrament with God.

The fragrance was all around in that space the fragrance of nature, the beauty of our world

From the past, present & future where will we be on our journey in the next hundred years.

Paul and Jenny Gilbert (Wigston Magna)

‘The True Sabbath’

I read somewhere recently that we should all try to reinstate the true Sabbath-- not a bad idea I thought.

Be good if someone has something to say on this matter and would like to write an article for the next Beacon.

So wrote the Editors in the last edition of the Beacon.

I, alas, almost got ‘caught out’ by not knowing the detail of the Jewish Sabbath! My account may not be what the editors had in mind, but I hope you enjoy my tale when I learnt a bit more about the Jewish Sabbath.

In 2015 Sue & I were on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. For the first part we were based at a hotel near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem. Over the 10 day very moving pilgrimage there was almost no free time in the busy schedule, except for a few hours from about 3pm on Friday afternoon.

In our travels around Jerusalem I had spotted the new tramway that had been built through the city. Sue went back to visit the ‘Garden Tomb’ which we had visited the day before and I went off for a ride on the tram.

There was only one ‘line’ so I thought I could not get lost. At the Damascus Gate ‘station’ I purchased the ticket for about 2 hours travel and boarded the tram intending to ride to the terminus and back to see some of the engineering involved in construction of this modern tramway.

I travelled north; I got chatting with another passenger who was quite amazed that I had joined the tram simply for the ride, but threw his hands in horror when I said I would be returning almost as soon as I arrived at the terminus. He said I should probably be stranded there because the trams stopped running on the Sabbath. I would need a taxi to get back!

When I said I understood the Jewish Sabbath was a Saturday, he explained it started on a Friday before sunset. I thanked him for his explanation and hurriedly alighted having only travelled part-way along the tram route and caught the next tram going south to avoid being stranded at Pisgat Ze’ev which was the terminus, and a long way from our hotel! My lesson learnt that (thanks to the passenger I chatted to) the Jewish Sabbath isn’t just on a Saturday!

Tony Moore (Birstall)

'The True Sabbath'; Continuing

In the Summer edition of The Beacon, the editors challenged us to write an article on this subject.

So, what is THE true Sabbath? I could write much but in the limited space for this magazine, I will try to be brief,

I have just returned from an inspiring, challenging and even disturbing service held at Rothley MC. It was led by one of our LPs On Trial, Juliet Kisob. She preached from Isaiah 65: 1-3 and Galatians 3. Juliet reminded us that God sent the Ten Commandments, laid down by Moses and that these had been destroyed! The Israelites continued to indulge in sacrifices, idolatry etc They wanted human pleasures instead of God's commands..

Juliet moved on to the New Testament and the freedom which Jesus offers us as He paid the price for it on the Cross. She mentioned the incident when Jesus healed a man with physical disabilities on the Sabbath—unheard of in the rules and regulations of Jewish Law. Jesus brought His own law of love.

We are forgiven people! However, we continue to make our own rules like Sunday shopping etc.

When I was a child, I was not even allowed to play outside with my friends on the Sabbath, another human rule which I vetoed for my own child. Today's children have so much more going for them on the Sabbath including football, boxing, etc. These activities are vital for their mental and physical growth.

So, what is the "true" Sabbath for Christians now in 2019? I would venture to say that maybe it lies somewhere between the two extremes as it did for the Israelites of old and the young Christian church at Galatia. We need to pray, PRAY, and pray more to explore the will of God for today on this issue.

Sue Moore (Birstall)

Volunteer chaplain at

Foxton Grange MHA home



District World Church Service: 14th July 2019

I was pleased to be able to go to this memorable and joyful occasion at Park Methodist Church in Northampton, I'd hoped to go to the equivalent event the previous year, but my car was off the road then so didn't make it. Coincidentally last year's event took place on the same day as the Football World Cup Final and this year it was on the same day as the Cricket World Cup Final and the Men's Tennis Singles Final but despite the excitement of both of these sporting occasions I would have been even more sorry to miss our District's World Church Celebration!

It started late afternoon with food, and we did indeed have a wonderful collection of food items prepared by Methodist people from the many countries of the world who are living and worshipping at Methodist Churches in our District. Among these countries are Kenya, the Netherlands and China (which I have visited) and Ghana, India and Zimbabwe (which I've yet to visit). My favourite food item was the Brown Fried Rice which the Chinese Methodists provided. Oh, and there were some English items, including pasties and Bread & Butter pudding! Lovely to see and sample such a variety of food items and meet people from different countries, some of whom dressed in their national costume and others wore clothes from countries they had visited.

We then went into the church for the service which lasted nearly 2 hours, but the atmosphere was so good people would have stayed longer if they could. Among the contributions to the Worship were a group of Zimbabweans singing various songs, and also a group from the island of Tonga who sang some verses and I can truthfully say I'd never actually seen any Tongan Methodists performing before. Our Preacher, one of the Co-Chairs of the London District (and originally from South Africa) preached an excellent Sermon, including reminding us that John Wesley said 'The World is my Parish'. All in All a great Methodist occasion, and I hope, having myself spent a lifetime supporting the Methodist World Church including worshipping in Methodist Churches in over 10 countries around the world, that there will be a similar event next year or even sooner.

Stephen Thompson (Edgehill)

News from the Churches:

Birstall.

THANKS from Birstall Methodist Women's Group

We had a fundraising Coffee Morning on Saturday 1 June. The total raised was an amazing £513 which will be divided between the Birstall Food Hub and St

James' Day Centre; two worthy local causes. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity; donating items for the Tombola, Raffle, Plants, Books and Cakes. We also had delicious Samosas for sale on the day! We would especially like to thank everyone who attended and who helped in any way. This was our final fund-raising event and we are hoping that the total raised throughout the year will reach £2,000! Our Monday Group will not meet for the summer months, but we look forward to getting together again from September; every Monday evening in the Coffee Shop at Birstall Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Don't sit at home feeling lonely – come along to our Group and meet new friends (and old ones too).

Eileen Molesdale, Secretary.



Monday group. Travels of a £10 Pom

It was my first time at the Monday Group.

As a visitor I only had to pay £2, and that included a hot drink and a biscuit . I was made welcome as a newcomer, and I soon realised that there were people there that I knew.

Shirley started the evening by reading a monologue about a child's trip to the seaside, in the style of Pam Ayres. It was very entertaining and later she told me that she had written it herself. She also told me some details about her earlier life, which would make another interesting talk.

Val told us that she had trained as a nurse in U.K. then went to Australia as a £10 Pom, and trained in Sydney as a midwife. She was the only non -Australian on the course. She said people under 40 would not know the term £10 Pom, and I confirmed this by asking my nephew , and a young friend.

Val took a job working at a mission in the outback of Queensland, caring for Aboriginal Australians. She knew nothing about their culture, was not aware that the hospital was an unfinished shell, and that the team she was joining was actually just her.

She told us that she left for Sydney after a few weeks, when a child nearly died because of her ignorance of tropical diseases but was saved when the flying doctor was sent for. Since then she has read up on the history of the missions, and how the Aborigines have been treated over the years.

I intend to go again, as they have a varied selection of speakers, and hope that Val is soon invited back, so I find out what happened next.

Stephanie Houlden from Birstall



A Pressing Engagement

Do you yearn for a delicious and refreshing fruit drink, free from additives, 'e' numbers and no added sugar? If so, then why not come along to Birstall Methodist Church on Saturday morning September 28th at 10:00?

We celebrate Harvest Festival when we produce fantastic apple juice, made in the traditional way. Why not bring a few surplus apples along? You can have a 'hands on' time and enjoy the taste of the finished product. Bring along a bottle so you can take some juice home.

Oh, and we shall have activities for children as well.

Come and join us for a novel, pressing experience.

John Towson



A black and white image of a musical score with several staves of music, including notes and clefs, positioned diagonally on the left side of the poster.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Saturday 14th December 2019

Bishop Street Methodist Church
Town Hall Sq. Leicester, LE1 6AF

10am-1pm Rehearsal

3pm Performance

*With the Knighton Chamber Orchestra
conducted by Dr Paul Jenkins*

Come and sing or listen

Tickets on the door:

£5 to listen; £10 to sing.

If you would like to sing in the performance,
the rehearsal will take place on the same day
between 10am and 1pm.

Hire parts will be available, but bring your own
Wetkins Shaw or Novello edition.
Black and white dress.

Further details from Fran.Rhys@Methodist.org.uk

www.artatthechapel.com

Bishop Street

re Handel's Messiah

Performance of Handel's Messiah at Bishop Street

with the Knighton Orchestra,
conducted by Dr Paul Jenkins
Come and sing or listen



Saturday 14th December 3pm Performance

Tickets: £5 to listen; £10 to sing.

If you would like to sing in the performance, the rehearsal will take place on the same day between 10am and 1pm.

Concert

Bishop Street Methodist Church, Saturday 9 November 2.30pm.

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

Arts Enabler Leonie Dubarry-Gurr.

Leonie Dubarry-Gurr is the new Arts Enabler at Bishop Street Methodist church and she is busy curating a series of exhibitions in the chapel to follow the successful exhibition featuring a large selection of items from the Methodist Mod-ern Art Exhibition held from May 3rd to June 9th this year.

She has set up a Facebook page which will feature all the forthcoming exhibitions, workshops and events. Please use it to find out what is happening.

www.fb.com/ArtatTheChapel.BishopSt

Blaby

So, at the start of August we shall be off to *Costa del Blaby* for two days, as we run our second *Holiday at Home*. It will have a Spanish holiday theme, but complete with English fish and chips. Aimed at the over-60s, there will be quizzes, films, craft, sing-a-longs, and hopefully the ice-cream man will call as well as the fish and



chip van. Having lost the support from the now closed supermarket in Blaby, we are pleased to have obtained a grant from Blaby District Council, which will enable us to keep admission free, so no one needs to be put off by cost.

We hope for a nice day, which would lift the spirits, but hopefully not as hot as the recent hot Saturday when Blaby held its Summer Fun Day, and Churches Together had a stall with children's craft activities. We managed to attract a few, despite competition from donkeys, Punch and Judy and fairground rides. Doing a shared stall meant that each church only had a short slot to cover. Our next Churches Together event will be a *Songs of Praise* in mid-September, which we are hosting, so the current task is to extract the hymns from everyone.

Other than that, it's a quiet time of year as the weekly activities take a summer break. All too soon, the summer will have flown, and we shall be approaching Harvest.....

CHRISTCHURCH

Lord, have Our chosen charity this year is **Leicester City of Sanctuary** (LCoS) and we have been making great progress with our fundraising to date:

Over £500 was raised when our Thursday Art Group sold some of their paintings and prints along with support from Wild Honey selling some products too!



Amelia's 'Lucky dip', together with a bake sale, added a further £70+ for LCoS.

During Fairtrade Fortnight, yet more cakes!! Baked as far as possible with fair trade ingredients the sale of these raised £100 for Traidcraft Exchange.

Traidcraft did not cease trading on 31 December 2018 as was feared and the latest news is encouraging. Christchurch Traidcraft has been running since 1992 and our sales have reached £21,4016. We thank our team for keeping our stall going every Sunday and thanks to all our customers for supporting this worthwhile venture.

Exercises for the over 50's - come along and join in

We meet regularly every Thursday from 1pm until 2pm in Christchurch Hall. You are invited to come and try a session to see if it suits YOU with no obligation. Plenty of room for new members and it is not too difficult to pick up the moves to music, devised by Linda, an experienced, trained pilates, yoga and keep fit teacher. The cost for each session is currently £3 per person.

Community Barbecues:

Saturday 29th June and Saturday 7th September – Noon to 2pm Bouncy Castle booked!

Opportunities to engage with our local community

Father, You are always loving, always generous and kind to your children. Please have mercy on us as a nation at this time of turmoil and division. Help us to be tolerant and understanding of those who have different, sincerely held, opinions. Guide our leaders so that your will be done in our country and in our relationships with each other, with Europe and the rest of the world.

Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us and heal us. Amen

Countesthorpe

We have had quite a busy few months since the Spring Beacon. The Spring Fair in May was well attended and successful, as was our War Time 40s Tea on 15th June. Several people dressed up in 40s style clothes, from the Lady of the Manor (obviously the local WI President) to a person of



a little less social standing - who wished to remain anonymous!! The food was perhaps not quite completely authentic, but we did have spam sandwiches! To round off the afternoon we were entertained by a group of singers from Lutterworth who, with the help of some period costumes, entered into the war time theme.

The next day, Fathers' Day, Jenny took our morning service. It was a threefold service being Fathers' Day and Gift Day Services plus a big thank you to Joy on her retirement as a Sunday School Teacher of 40 years! Jenny did a great job combining the three occasions.

Our Bible Study Group is discussing and wrestling with the questions around suffering using many Biblical references.

On Saturday 22nd June our summer activities continued when we held a Missions Coffee Morning with cakes, jams and Bric-a-Brac on sale. The money raised, plus the collection boxes money, will be divided between a home charity and an overseas charity

On the 2nd July the Tuesday Fellowship had their annual Garden Party at 17 Linden Avenue - sandwiches, cakes and a Strawberry Cream Tea being the order of the day. The weather was good - warm enough to sit outside and not too hot to make it uncomfortable. The group always enjoy the variety of speakers at their informal 'get-togethers'.

You may have noticed that here at Countesthorpe we enjoy eating together, so it will come as no surprise that our latest Sunday Roast Lunch was at the beginning of July. Many people at the lunch booked their places for our Lasagne Saturday Lunch a little later in the month.

We would like to invite you to our annual Garden Party on 31st August at 17 Linden

Avenue Countesthorpe. Admission is just £2 and includes tea/coffee and cake. There will be a gift stall (all new items), cakes and jams and greetings cards and, of course, excellent company!

Summer officially ends with the Autumn Equinox on 23rd September which means that our Harvest Festival on 15th September will be our last planned Summer Service. However, I'm sure there will still be many sunny days ahead to enjoy the beauty of Autumn.

"Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing." Camille Pissarro

Cosby.

In Cosby, we will be holding an Apple Day event on Saturday October 19th 12.00 until 3.30pm. There will be a chance to taste heritage and unusual apples (not the common supermarket ones); people can bring apples for us to try and identify; displays on Leicestershire Heritage Apples and advice on growing apples. Activities and cakes etc will be on an apple theme.



(See poster on back of cover)



We are also holding Paws 4 Coffee on the second Saturday of every month.

Dogs are allowed to bring their owners or walkers! Whatever the weather, we are there.

Next dates are August 10th September 14th, October 12th, November 9th and December 14th

Great Glen

On Sunday, 30th June we shared with the Methodist Conference service held in Birmingham. Our minister, Derek (a technical wizard!) arranged for the live streaming of the service and apart from a little

'buffering' we managed to join in the hymn singing and watch the dedication of the new ministers. Our Cafe Church is very popular, especially when we have a quiz from Derek. Last month's Cafe Church was also a local arrangement with almost everyone contributing something to the service, so much so that we didn't finish until almost 12 o'clock.

Linda and John Warner arranged a Treasure Hunt at the beginning of July at Medbourne followed by a meal at the Neville Arms, raising £251 for Christian Aid. We are having a coffee morning with cake stall and raffle on 10th August to raise funds to twin our two toilets with somewhere in the world who need these facilities.

"The Church at the Cross goes to the Cricket" is happening on Friday, 19th July when several of us and our minister, Derek, are going to watch Leicestershire beat (sorry play!) Lancashire at Grace Road. Picnics are the order of the day and we hope for fine weather.

Looking forward to the Autumn we are holding a Bring and Share Harvest lunch following our Big Harvest Welcome Service on Sunday, 29th September. We aim for everyone to invite friends, neighbours and family who wouldn't necessarily attend church to this service which has proved very popular in the past.



Harrison Road

Mission Together - Harrison Road

This mission together fun-day was purely led by God, evidences from the people gathered on this day. Harrison Road Methodist Church was opened to the public from 1pm till 6pm on 15th June 2019. There were many activities, including mini golf, ball game, karaoke music, colouring activity etc.



The highlights of this event were the prayer corner and one to one gospel talk. Many souls were touched by God through prayers and by sharing the love of

Christ. We gave away plenty of token gifts for the people to take with the un-failing love of Jesus. The surrounding was filled with joy, peace and lots of emotions which reflected the presence of God.

God expects us to do a mission like this.

Mayflower.

We have been blessed as a church community in many ways over the last few months. In some ways our activities and range of outreach have increased, and we are happy to report that we



have a happy and supportive atmosphere of friendship across the range of user groups, and the four churches who meet at Mayflower.

We are served well and inspired by the preachers who come to visit Mayflower, as well as the commitment and energy of Saidu. Over the year so far, we have welcomed several preachers from the other part of our new Circuit, and this has been refreshing too.

We have accepted a resignation from Rosalind Thompson in her role as the liaison with visiting preachers, which she has done diligently for many years, we thanked her at the Church Council meeting for all her support and dedication over many years,

Easter Sunday was the highlight of our Lenten Journey at Mayflower. It was a wonderful Communion Service shared by Saidu and Graham and was well attended. We all brought flowers for the Lenten Cross.

Our wider church community has held various successful events at Mayflower including a national conference for the Apostolic Church which meets with us each Saturday, and there have also been several national events for the United Methodist church of Zimbabwe. Our latest church group – The Blessed Redeemer – Bethel group meets each Sunday morning and seems settled with us.

We have had two church lunches after Communion this Spring, and we enjoy Sai-du and Adelaide joining us for these social events. Also, we were privileged to host the Confirmation Service at Mayflower two weeks ago. Last Sunday we celebrated our Church Anniversary with a visit from Gill Bumphrey, and it was a special occasion for us all to see Gill again.

So – what are the plans over the next few weeks? We have a Karaoke evening on Saturday 6th July at Mayflower as a fund raiser for Wesley Hall, Mayflower, and Uppingham Rd. and on 4th August we have a special International Concert at Mayflower in the church in the evening.

For the new Connexional Year we are holding our Covenant Service on Sunday 1st September followed by an outing to Launde Abbey for afternoon tea, and a short Service in the chapel.

We are thankful to be able to celebrate a lively community of friends at Mayflower, and the wider community in the area with our regular user groups, as well as our Muslim and Hindu friends who enjoy holding their special family celebrations at Mayflower. These developing friendships are so vital at this time of uncertainty and change in our country at this time.

Houghton-on-the-Hill

Autumn concerts at Houghton Methodist Church - Dates for your diary!

A series of fund-raising concerts have been planned for the autumn. Ticket information will accompany posters which will arrive in Churches at the beginning of September.

Thursday 26 September 7.30 - *Musicamici* (woodwind ensemble) Conductor David Calow will perform music in a range of musical styles interspersed with an introduction to some of the instruments.

Thursday 24 October 7.30 - *The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan* - Michael Lessiter, bass and violin, Alan Herringshaw, piano, with narration by Gilbert and Sullivan themselves!



Nativity.

Ordination of Deacons

Sunday 30 June 2019 was a special day for Nativity as during the Eucharist Service held at Leicester Cathedral our Anglican Lay Associate Minister, Ivan Bennett, was, along with a number of other people, officially ordained as a Deacon in the Church of England.



So many of Nativity's congregation expressed a wish to attend this special event that it was decided to close the Nativity on this date.

A beautiful gift of a stole was presented to Ivan by the Nativity, which had been paid for through a collection held amongst the congregation. As well as badges of the Anglican and Methodist Churches this stole was also decorated with badges of all the other activities which Ivan has been responsible for during his time at the Nativity.

These stoles were part of the Deacon's uniform and were placed on the left shoulder of each Deacon by the Training Incumbents during the service. The Bishop also presented each new-ordained Deacon with a Bible.



The Service concluded with an invitation for everyone to meet the Bishops and those newly ordained over a glass of wine in the Cathedral Gardens.

The following Sunday, 7th July, was once again a special event as this was Ivan's first service at Nativity as an ordained minister and during his welcome speech Peter was able to proudly introduce him to the congregation as the 'Rev'd Ivan Bennett'.

Following the service 60 of us met for a delicious meal organised by Peter and Margaret in the schoolrooms amongst a lovely friendly atmosphere.

The next stage in Ivan's journey will be his ordination as a 'Priest' and we look forward to our continued journey of faith together.

(See photos in centre pages)

Patricia Ewen

South Wigston.

On 1st April our Ladies Circle welcomed 2 consultants from the University Hospitals of Leicester, Dr Esther Moss, who is a consultant gynaecologist and her colleague, Dr Aemn Ismail, who came to talk to us about Robotic Surgery for Women. They asked if we would be happy to take part in a study to help them continue to improve the care they offer patients who would be offered this surgery for a hysterectomy.



This involved hearing what they had to say about the surgery, then reading an information booklet, and lastly watching a short information DVD. After each part we were asked to fill in a questionnaire.

We all really enjoyed the evening which did not show any images of operations, only the robot in an empty operating room, but it is amazing what progress surgery is making. This kind of operation means a shorter stay in hospital, less pain, quicker return to normal plus other benefits.

We hope that, with our help, some ladies will not worry because they have not heard of robotic surgery before.

(Apologies that this article was omitted from the Summer Beacon)

New News from South Wigston!

Last year we held our first Big Lunch which was a great success. We repeated it this year on Saturday 1st June with a table of free food and drinks to give out to passers-by. Giant bubbles were an attraction for the children. Fewer people attended this year but the event and the food were enjoyed by all. Some people were reluctant to accept free food, so we had a donations jar – over £70 was raised for LOROS.

On Sunday 30th June we held the last of our monthly café-style services before the summer break. We have started holding some of these services in the downstairs hall which is less formal and easier for wheelchair users to access as our worship area is upstairs. Our theme was a well-used one – caring for God's creation. Diane Allen gave a thought-provoking illustrated talk about Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church which has received the Gold Award from Eco Church. Diane emphasised that prayer, discussion and investigation were key to the transformation which has taken place over many years. We then took part in craft activities using various materials such as tins, plastic bottles, and juice cartons to make planters, bird-feeders, vases and pencil holders.

On the same day Megan, one of our Junior Church members, held a charity tea in aid of the RSPCA and the RSPB. Helped by her family a sumptuous table of cakes was laid on together with endless cups of tea and coffee. Megan raised £175.64 for the charities. This event was inspired by sessions on charities in Junior Church.

Margaret Edwards has been running our toddler Group, Little Angels, for a very long time but has taken the hard decision to 'retire'. Thanks go to Margaret, and her various helpers, for all their hard work. It is hoped that a new toddler group will be opened in the autumn. Her final event will be a Teddy Bear's picnic on 7th August.

Forthcoming events

Friday 19th July 3 to 5 pm. Cream teas, £5 in aid of church funds. All welcome.

Wednesday 7th August 10-11.30 Teddy Bear's picnic.

(See pictures centre pages)

Aigburth.

We had a Working Party morning in our 'reviving' garden at Aigburth on Saturday 18 May when residents, relatives and volunteers continued to battle with our pernicious (definition 'having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way') weeds. The 'gradual and subtle' very aptly describes the insidious progress of bindweed and horse tail amongst the borders!



Our Cream tea in June did not have the balmy, sunny weather we'd anticipated but we enjoyed welcoming people from six of our Circuit Churches plus relatives and friends. The most amazing thing was having 19 helpers – several of them new people - for which regular helpers were extremely grateful! 30 people went in small guided tour groups round the gardens. We raised money for the Amenity Fund and the garden improvements – both bottomless pits of need!

On Sunday 23 June we were pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. Chris Swift, Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality for MHA. He came for lunch, then visited several residents and toured the gardens before taking the Sunday afternoon worship. Resident, Brenda Impey, reported to Gardening Club that he changed one of his readings to reflect the work going on in the garden with which he was most

impressed.

We have been proud to have workers from ASDA helping in the garden and a Leicester U3A Bridge Club group sponsoring improvements in a bed of lady's mantle in the East Garden, transforming it into an alpine/succulent bed. This did necessitate the use of a pickaxe!

We are always looking for more volunteers to help in the garden and with residents' activities within the home. Please contact shraddha.chaudhuri@mha.org.uk if you would like to get involved.

If you cannot afford the time but can spare £10 a year to become a Friend of Aigburth please contact Mary Gill. Thank you.

Marilyn Bowles Volunteer

Gardener (See photos centre pages)

Syston

Getting to know you.

Earlier this year, an increased awareness of the gap between community and church led Syston to consider, in response to God's call, to share the good news of the love of Jesus, and how that gap might be further bridged. We called upon the District Mission Enabler, (Rev Jill Marsh) for help and were introduced to the District Together Mission Project which encourages circuits and churches to cooperate with each other in their mission schemes. With the advent of several recent housing developments springing up in the area, we decided on a community barbecue to be held on one of them, rather than in church premises. Volunteers from sister churches in Syston, Circuit and further afield, met for prayer before going out to deliver leaflets to all the houses in Liberty Gardens. Finding our way round the estate was an interesting experience! We followed this up by going out in pairs, knocking on doors with a personal invitation to the barbecue. Residents told us of the lack of community facilities, we were met with courtesy, interest, and some interesting conversations ensued. The Yovan family generously agreed that we host the event in their home. How glad we were for their spacious garage as the weather forecast was entirely accurate. It rained and rained – and the rain was very wet!! Were we downhearted? By no means! The chef's team is very used to wet barbecues, and were well able to provide appetising



burgers whose inviting aromas drifted round the houses. It was very cosy inside the garage where there was seating, drinks, leaflets and small gifts to give away. All of which helped conversation to flow. For those who needed peace and quiet, the gazebo on the lawn provided an oasis. Entertainment by the Syston and District U3A Ukulele band was much appreciated. Later, as the rain subsided the miniature golf game came into its own and it was good to be able to pack up in dryness. Our gratitude goes to all who took part, especially to Hannah, Daniel and family who so generously opened up the Manse garden and facilities. What will be the outcome? Who knows? We hope and pray that this at least may be the start of greater contact with this community.

Dorothy Hutchinson

Uppingham Road.

Sharing food together seems to have been a theme at Uppingham Road over the summer!

In June Saidu and Adelaide invited *Reflection* (a joint ladies' group with Wesley Hall) to the manse for fun, food and fellowship. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all. This was followed in July with a picnic.



Our drama group, The Cast Offs, got us in the mood for their next production 'Cut and Dried' with a 70s themed quiz and afternoon tea. On Friday 12th July we opened our doors and invited the local community to share a meal with us. We served 50 lunches and everyone who came was most appreciative.

Our Karaoke evening in July started with a meal before the singing commenced.

Uppingham Road took part in *Together Mission* with a prayer station outside the church on Wednesday 5th June. Members from Uppingham Road, Wesley Hall and Mayflower manned the station together with Rev. Saidu Kanu and Rev. Jill Marsh.

On 16th June five of our young people were confirmed, along with ten from Wesley Hall, in a service at Mayflower. This was a very moving service conducted by Rev. Saidu Kanu and Rev. Paula Hunt.

This summer we also had a fundraising Fashion Show with our own members modelling a selection of the clothes.

(see pictures centre pages)

Uppingham Road Autumn Events

Saturday 17 August 10 a.m. to 12 noon – Sale of clothes, cakes and bric a brac followed by lunch served 12 – 1 p.m.

Saturday 14 Sept 4 p.m. – Games Afternoon

Friday/Saturday 29/30 November at Mayflower – Drama Group ‘The Cast Offs’ present *Cut and Dried*

Wesley Hall.

We attended the Ash Wednesday service at Sacred Heart Church where we were made most welcome.

Unfortunately, Lent Lunches between the two Churches did not take place this year.



Our Easter Services comprised of Communion on Maundy Thursday, which included the washing of feet. Early on Easter Sunday we met together at 8.00am for Communion followed by breakfast and then at 10.45am we welcomed Rev. Tony Pick to take our Communion service. Each week throughout Lent we placed elements of the Easter story at the foot of the Cross. During the Easter morning service, the Cross was brought alive with flowers (see pics). At the end of the service, the children took part in an Easter Egg Hunt which they enjoyed.

By the time you read this, we will have had another ‘Bring and Share Games Night’ which was a joint social event between the Methodist and Moravian congregations and the Community Centre. These evenings are proving very popular and great fun.

On Saturday 8th June we have a trip to the Moravian Settlement in Ockbrook to join them in their Garden Party.

Rothley

LITTLE BIG BAND CONCERTS

Wendy Litchfield from Rothley Church had written an article about the LBBC for our last edition but due to an oversight it wasn't included. So huge apologies to the folk at



Rothley and especially to Wendy.

On Saturday 9th March, Rothley Methodist Church hosted an evening of entertainment, which featured 'The Little Big Band'. The group and individual band member performances were enjoyed by all, with the audience being encouraged by the band to join in and sing along, which all added to the atmosphere of the evening.

During the intermission a supper was served and gave people attending chance to mingle and chat with each other and band members.

The evening was a great success for the Church with a donation being given to 'Action for Children', who the 'The Little Big Band' support.

In addition to this article I would like to tell you all about the LBB called that because sometimes we are a little band and sometimes big, all depending on who can be there on the night. Most of our concerts are held to support Action for Children but not all. We're performing at Syston in aid of Age Concern in a few months' time. The band, led by Eileen Molesdale from Birstall Church play a wide variety of songs-some religious and some not and the words of a lot of the items will be on a song sheet so that the audience can sing along- actually this is required. There are a number of soloists and duettists accompanying themselves or others on guitar or keyboard. Monologues and jokes come from Len and Keith. Our concerts usually start from 7pm and last for a couple of hours with an interval halfway through. Some venues offer a light supper or simple refreshments of tea, coffee and biscuits.

For further details and bookings please contact Eileen on eileenandpete@ntlworld.com or 0116 292 9670

Oadby.

On Sunday 14th July the church congregation were invited to a Bring & Share lunch in the Manse garden after the morning service. Many people came and it was a good way of 'getting to know' each other better through fellowship. Thank you Derek and Christine for inviting us. **(See picture in centre pages)**



Amos Trust Carol Service 9th December

Christmas Greetings!

We are hosting a Christmas Carol service for Amos Trust on Monday 9th December.

Please note this is in addition to our regular Christmas Concert which will take place as usual on Saturday 7th December.

Amos Trust hold a series of Carol Services each year in a variety of venues including St James' Piccadilly, in London as well as Bristol, Manchester, Birmingham and Canterbury. This will be the first time their tour has come to the East Midlands.

Their speaker this year will be Sami Awad from the Holy Land Trust, a Bethlehem based organisation dedicated to non-violence training and peace building programmes. Amos will be bringing stories from their new work supporting people in the Gaza strip today.

Zephros is off to Westminster in November 2019

As some of you will know we have been working in conjunction with Oadby and Wigston Dementia Awareness Forum and Oadby Town Centre Retailers Association on a project to create a dementia friendly shopping centre in Oadby.

In addition, I have been working with Lesley in creating as many dementia friends as we can in our area and this has now expanded into local schools and other organisations.

Some of the many people who Lesley has delivered a Dementia Friends Session to include our Local MP, Neil O'Brien and his senior Parliamentary Agent, Narinder Singh and the Oadby & Wigston Mayor, David Carter.

A few months ago we were asked by Neil if Zephros, our dementia friendly bear, would like to bring a party of 50 dementia friends to Westminster for a guided visit and tea in recognition of the outreach work that we, on behalf of Trinity and Zeph's, are doing in our community. Zephros of course accepted this kind invitation as long as he was able to take along Tyson our Campaign to End Loneliness bear.

In June this became a reality when we were informed by Narinder Singh that we were all off to Westminster on the 18th November. Lesley and I now have to organise this trip but we will keep you informed as things progress.

Jim Gannon

**Cosby Methodist Church
Park Road
LE9 1RN**

APPLE DAY 2019

Apple Tasting



Apple Identification

Apple cake and tea



Apple jams etc

Apple activities



Stalls

**Saturday October 19th
12 - 3.30 pm**

South Wigston



Charity tea for RSPCA & RSPB



The Big Lunch

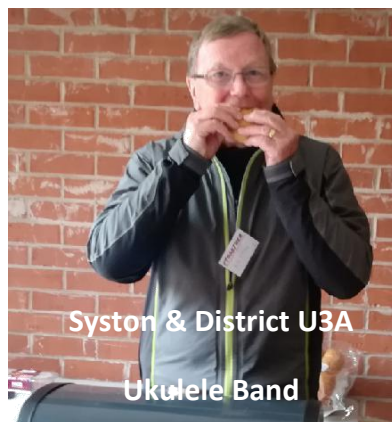
Syston



BBQ in Daniel Yovan's Garage!



Gift's to give away!



Syston & District U3A
Ukulele Band

Uppingham Road



Reflection Ladies
Group at Manse



Quiz &
Afternoon Tea



Reflection Group in
Evington Park

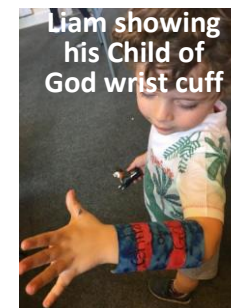


Karaoke evening



Fashion Show

Rothley



Liam showing
his Child of
God wrist cuff



Hands of a Child
of God

Oadby



Fellowship lunch

Birstall: Fund Raising Coffee Morning



Wigston Magna Flower Festival



Harrison Rd.



Fun-day

Countesthorpe



Tuesday Fellowship
Garden Party



Ready to serve the Spam Sandwiches!!



Tuesday Fellowship
Garden Party

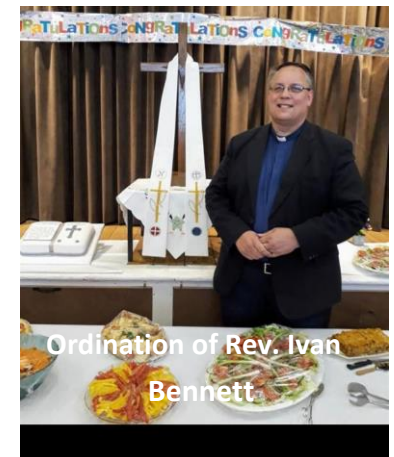


Lasagne Lunch

Nativity



Meeting the Bishops



Ordination of Rev. Ivan
Bennett