

Lincoln Methodists

SEPTEMBER 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What's on
around the
Circuit 2

Superinten-
dent's letter 3-4

Rev David
Lawton 5-6

News from
the churches 7-10

Harvest
Festival
Dates 11-12

Congratula-
tions to Rev
Margaret
Doughty 13-16

Stepping out, focused on Christ



The land has yielded its harvest: God, our God has blessed us.

Psalm 67:6

What's on around the Circuit

Date	Time	Location	Event
21 September	6:30pm-8:30pm	San Damiano, Metheringham	Candlelight on the Labyrinth
22 September	10:00am-3:00pm	Central	Day of Reflection
6 October	7:15pm	Reepham	All Talents Concert & Buffet Supper
13 October	7:00pm	Bailgate	An Evening with Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley
16 October	11:00am-2:30pm	Cliff College	Annual Samuel Chadwick Lecture 2018
19 October	7:15pm	Swallowbeck	Lost Voices Choir Concert

For more events please check out the individual church website or the Circuit Website or alternatively you can contact the Circuit Office who will be able to help point you in the right direction.

A letter from Rev Alan Swann, Superintendent

September 2018

The **Methodist** Church 

'Happy New Year.' September sees the beginning of another Methodist Year. For us as circuit it marks the first anniversary of the former two Lincoln Circuits coming together to form the Lincoln Methodist Circuit. This last year has been quite a journey with its highs and lows but slowly and surely things are coming together. Please continue to pray for our circuit staff.

Of course, in the midst of all this we look to continue our Mission, Ministry and Discipleship. Our mission statement calls us to Step Out; Focused on Christ. We aim to achieve this in our Worship, Service, Learning and caring and Evangelism.

I must at this point pay tribute to the many people who contribute to the life of our Circuit. There are people in each of our churches who give endless time and energy to make sure our churches are welcoming, friendly and safe environments for people to gather. Thank you, without you nothing would happen.

This September we also have Revd David Lawton joining our team. We are looking forward to getting to know him and to working as a team. Please pray for David and his wife Sue that they would soon settle into their new home and for guidance in this new phase of David's ministry.

So, as we look forward, we pray that God will continue to speak into our situation and that we would grow deeper in our relationship with God.

On most Methodist publications you will find the Orb and Cross. It has been carefully chosen to express the Methodist Church's deepest beliefs. (Like the one at the top of this page)

The Orb represents the world. The colour red, the traditional colour of Pentecost, may be taken to symbolise the Methodist conviction that through the power of the Holy Spirit, all humanity may be saved. The Orb is charged with a radiant Cross, which, like the field it is set on, is white, celebrating the glory of the risen Saviour. There is no boundary to the arms of the cross, just as there are no limits to the grace of God.

We have a faith that addresses the deepest longings of the heart, but it is always turned outwards to the world and its needs.

The whole logo in symbolic form summarises the mission and message of Methodism first set out by John Wesley: "I look upon the whole world as



my parish; thus far I mean that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear the Glad Tidings of Salvation. By Grace are ye saved through Faith." (St Mary's, Oxford, 11 June 1738)

God Bless



Dear Friends,

Sue and I have already been very warmly welcomed by staff and members from the Circuit as we moved into the Manse at 28 Farrington Crescent on 7th August. We are very grateful for all the work that has been done in preparation for our move to Lincoln. On arriving, Denise (from the Circuit Office) asked if I would write a biography by way of an introduction....so here goes!



Sue and I originally hail from Manchester where we met up at the Methodist Church Youth Club in Heald Green. In our teenage years, Sue and I found ourselves at the same Methodist Church as it had a large youth club and we often socialised together and went on trips to Blackpool's illuminations, Circuit Youth Services, and days out to the Lake District.

As our romance blossomed my keen interest in motorbikes gave way to buying my first car (a worn out Vauxhall Victor) in which Sue, I and others drove to Wales on Church family holidays. Great times. From a supposed chance conversation with a close local preacher friend we then joined a church outreach team from Heald Green to a neighbouring community where most of our spare time was spent establishing a Methodist community church, working with all ages and leading worship. Not long after, Sue and I married, Sue working in a bank and me in the Civil Service working with the unemployed and ex-offenders.

In 1988 Ruth - our first daughter - was born and later that year we moved to Sheffield as part of my career. At that time, we lived in Crosspool and worshipped at the Stephen Hill Methodist Church with an all age church family - Sue working part-time, balancing work with the girls' school holidays.

During our time at Stephen Hill we were introduced to aspects of Celtic Christian worship and I found this chimed with my love of nature. With the Peak District on our doorstep, weekends almost always included a country walk. Then in 1990, we were thrilled to have Megan - a second daughter - and at Stephen Hill we found a great sense of community and mission where we regularly contributed to morning worship and to stewarding.

Life in Sheffield was a time of real growth and opportunity as I took on studies for my MBA and as I became an internal consultant - auditing government related organisations to see if they were achieving their strategic objectives. It was also a time of increased travel around the UK working with a London based team.

In 1998 I was invited to work as part of a Cabinet Office development team in Sunningdale and became the programme lead for the Diploma in Consultancy Practice. This swiftly led to my first overseas work with senior government officers in the Government of Uganda. Shortly after, our overseas commitments flourished. During the following 11 years I led projects in many countries with senior people who were keen to improve the availability and quality of public services - in emerging democracies and post conflict nations. This led to a move south to Wokingham in Berkshire, where I then studied for an MSc in Organisation Development. Sue and I found our life in Wokingham Methodist Church was a real blessing in juggling and acknowledging all that God was doing in our lives at that time.

Whilst at Wokingham MC I was asked to lead a 'Day of Discovery' as the church sought to rediscover where Christ was leading us in mission and ministry within the burgeoning community. It was a large church with an emerging heart for mission and we were keen to rediscover where God was leading us. With much prayer and waiting on God, priorities were identified and progressed as the church was enabled to strengthen its links in and with the wider community in various new ways.

Later, following my mum's death in 2006, I too spent some time waiting on God as I felt a real call to pause amidst a busy career. At that time, I came across a book entitled *If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat* by John Ortberg. I found the book deeply formational as I read and re-read it. At that time, I was prompted by a Christian friend and encouraged by God to explore local preaching. As a result, I reduced to working four days a week to make time for local preacher studying and pastoral visiting. As I progressed in preaching I felt God was calling me towards ordained ministry – and so following LP accreditation in 2010 I candidated for ordained ministry. That same year my father passed away... and later that year Ruth (now a qualified midwife) and Alec married – it was quite a year!

In 2011, Megan graduated from Uni; Ruth gave birth to our grandson Zach – and Sue and I were sent by the Methodist Church to study in Durham where I undertook pre-ordination training with the Wesley Study Centre and Cranmer Hall, St John's College. It was a real time of challenge, blessing, opportunity and reflection. It was a real gift.

Following the Methodist stationing process in 2013, Sue and I then moved to the Leicester West Circuit, where we were made very much at home during these past 5 years in mission and ministry. And now we're following a call to the Lincoln Methodist Circuit – it's good to arrive!

Looking back over the years on our walk with God I minded that God has often called us to step outside our comfort zones in all sorts of ways. Whilst this has at times felt risky and vulnerable we've also found that whatever God calls us to do in his name he also equips us in his Spirit.

I also recall Francis Dewar in his book *Called or Collared?* saying that we are all called to mission and ministry whatever our age or Christian experience. I'm looking forward to discovering what this means for all of us here in the Lincoln Methodist Circuit as we join in God's mission and ministry here.

Meanwhile, Sue and I are looking forward to meeting you over the coming months and to discerning God's leadership as the Circuit and Churches go forward together.

Every Blessing,

Rev David Lawton

News from the churches

In each edition of the Circuit Newsletter we will be exploring the different churches which make up the diverse nature of our Circuit. In this edition we will be finding out a bit more about what is happening in the following churches: Central, Monks Road and Bailgate.

Central

The only Methodist presence on the High Street serving the local community and neighbourhood.

Central welcomes worshippers from the immediate neighbourhood and those travelling from the neighbouring villages making it a gathered church.

Our pastoral care and concern for our members, friends and all who need our help is paramount as we seek to enlarge our vision of Christ and His care for each one of us. We ask that our worship may be enriched and our faith in Christ increased.

Our Sunday morning services are

normally of a traditional nature supported by our loyal choir under the guidance of



Betty Morley, leading us into worship with an introit followed later in the service by an anthem.

Our varied weekday activities under the leadership of Rev Margaret attract many folk.

Circle dancing especially interests many friends from other churches and beyond.

Our monthly craft and chat sessions create much pleasure as we display our knitting, crocheting and sewing skills. The group are currently crocheting and knitting poppies in commemoration of the ending of the



1914/1918 world war. The poppies will form a cascade and be displayed in the church window.

Much comfort has been given to many of our needy friends as they have been given a prayer shawl made mostly by Rev Margaret, and others too, in the craft group. Prayer shawl ministries are held to bless these beautiful shawls as thoughts and prayers are said for whom they are being given.



Congratulations to Rev Margaret on being awarded first place in the Methodist Women in Britain writing completion "**At the heart ...**" Margaret's entry was based on the prayer shawl. This is Margaret's second successive first place award. **Very well done, Margaret.**

Regular bible study fellowship and "Days of Reflection" sessions provide spiritual guidance as we hear your word being read, speak to us in our prayers and listen to you in our silence.

Lunch club meet on the second Monday of each month providing a 3-course lunch, followed by tea and/or coffee, prepared by Margaret Houtby and Carole Sharpe and

their helpers.

The Food Bank continues to help those in need and is open each Thursday morning from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Coffee at the same time attracts friends from around the neighbourhood.

As part of the curriculum, children of St Peter at Gowt's school are learning about different religions. Teachers and children have been welcomed to Central by Rev Margaret, who has given them a tour of the building and explained the traditions of the Methodist Church.

Yellow sunshine bags, prepared and organised by Margaret Hardy, are raising money for church funds by placing a coin (s) in the bag when the sun shines. There must be some really heavy bags by the continuous glorious sunshine we are having!

On 2nd June, in celebration of the Queen's coronation, Moira Taylor arranged an afternoon of music and dance with a splendid tea and a handmade crown competition. It was a "sparkling" occasion with many adorned crowns. Thank you Moira.

We wish you all rest and refreshment as the beauty of summer continues and trust that God will lead us into the future with courage and enthusiasm.



Monks Road News

September 2018

We are in the 5th year of our 5-year Mission Plan to make our church relevant for today – please pray for the next stage of our discernment process, and new plans.

We celebrate the work of Young Spirits each Sunday morning with those new to the faith, which began last August, and pray that it will continue to grow, and that our links with our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will grow and deepen. We also pray for our regular Messy Church mornings, that they will reach more families, as will our monthly café church mornings.

Our next project is a mid-week homework club, to link with local families in our community, which we plan to begin in September.

Rev Dr Terry Nowell



Bailgate News

October 2018

We are thrilled to welcome Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley to our church to tell us how faith in God has changed their lives.

Please join us for this uplifting and evangelising event:

7pm Saturday 13th October 2018

at

bailgate**methodist**church LINCOLN LN1 3AR

Tickets: 01522 532828 or bailgatechurch@outlook.com

HEAR HOW FAITH IN GOD HAS CHANGED THEIR LIVES

UPLIFTING, ENJOYABLE AND INSPIRING - BOTH IN WORD AND SONG



AN EVENING WITH

PAUL JONES & FIONA HENDLEY

THE MANFREDS, BLUES BAND

ACCLAIMED WEST END/TV ACTRESS

7pm Saturday 13th October 2018

at

bailgate**methodist**church LINCOLN LN1 3AR

Tickets: 01522 532828 or bailgatechurch@outlook.com

www.paulandfiona.co.uk

www.lighthouseagency.co.uk



16th September

10:30am St Giles

23rd September

10:00am Nettleham
10:30am Bailgate
10:30am Moorland Park
4:15pm Thorpe on the Hill

30th September

10:00am Bracebridge Heath
10:00am Navenby
10:00am Reepham
10:30am Central
10:30am Skellingthorpe
10:30am Swallowbeck
10:30am Welton & Dunholme



7th October

10:30am Burton Road
10:30am Monks Road
10:30am Scothern
10:45am North Hykeham
11:00am St Columba's

21st October

10:30am Saxilby



Matthew 9:37-38

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Many congratulations to...

Rev Margaret Doughty

Congratulations to Rev Margaret Doughty, who has again won the prestigious Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) writing competition. This year's theme was "At the heart ..." and this is Margaret's winning entry:

At the Heart ...

A prayer pilgrimage ... with a difference

Bowing my head over the needles and yarn,
I offered a prayer for the one who would receive it -
my first prayer shawl.
Slowly and carefully
I began the casting on, 1,2,3,4,
the needles dipping rhythmically,
in, out, in, out until, 62, 63, 64, 65!
A quick check – yes, 65.

So began the task that I had set myself.
It was to be a journey not measured in miles,
but in inches.
Nevertheless, I was embarking upon a true pilgrimage.
There would be pauses on the way and breaks for refreshment.
I had no idea how long it would take, as,
some days there would be great progress
whilst others there would be virtually none.
However, I *did* know that, at the heart, and
woven into every stitch,
would be prayer.

Now and again I stopped and held the work
and prayed.

I asked that the one who would hold it,
cuddle it, wear it, even cling to it,
might experience a special peace and calm,
and know that, at the heart,
was not only a labour of love,
but a desire that they would feel
enfolded in the love of God.

Growth was slow.
64 inches a long way off.
When would I ever finish it.
Needle-in-yarn-round-and-off
Needle-in-yarn-round-and-off.

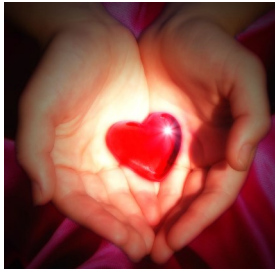
Each time I took it up
more prayer was added.
As it grew I often paused
and silently blessed it.

The soothing actions kept me going.
I felt steeped in prayer and
experienced a wonderful peace.
I had a deep sense of God's presence
as I continued building up the fabric.

Needle-in-yarn-round-and-off became my silent mantra.
Hundreds of times over and over, rhythmically repetitive,
until the day came when the rhythm changed.
Needle-in-yarn-round-and-off-and-off-and-off!
65 times!

As I held it up I felt like rejoicing, and I did.
I prayed with it held close to my cheek.
I let it run through my hands
as I prayed,

**Bless the one who will receive it, Lord.
Envelop them with peace and tranquillity.
May they know that this
humble gift is prayerfully offered,
and that,
At the heart ...**



Is love.

© Margaret Doughty, 2018



The origins of the MWIB Writing Competition

This annual writing competition is inspired by the life, writing and work of Revd Julie Holme. Each year submissions of meditative or reflective writing are invited, of no more than 500 words, in prose or poetry, on a given theme. Each must be an original piece of work, not previously published either in print or electronically. The competition is open to British residents, male and female, aged 16 or over, other than the organisers, judges and relatives of theirs. The 2019 competition will be launched in December 2018.

Julie was a Methodist minister and a prolific writer. She was the last President of Women's Network in 2010-11, becoming the first Vice-President of MWiB in 2011-12. Julie's approach to prayer was always enquiring and explorative, asking basic questions such as "What works for me in prayer?" and "What doesn't?" and most important of all, "Why?" and "Why not?"

She explored forms of spirituality developing outside the Church, especially as these related to the building of confidence; how 'everyday' faith empowers us; how such 'everyday' faith can revitalise Christian spirituality. Her main method of research was to pay close attention to her own responses, explore the ideas in relation to the Bible and express what she was discovering in writing and in art.

She died of cancer in early 2014 in her mid-50s, leaving behind a rich legacy in the form of her writings on the theme of Abundance. This material was made available on the website www.imaginingabundance.co.uk some months after her death.

Source: <http://mwib.org.uk/index.php/category/root/home/news-events/mwib-annual-writing-competition/>