



# Circuit News



Lincoln Methodist 17/02

Harvest



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## To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruit-fulness,  
 Close bosom-friend of the matur-ing sun;  
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
 and bless  
 With fruit the vines that round the  
 thatch-eves run;  
 To bend with apples the moss'd  
 cottage-trees,  
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to  
 the core;  
 To swell the gourd, and plump the  
 hazel shells  
 With a sweet kernel; to set bud-ding more,  
 And still more, later flowers for  
 the bees,  
 Until they think warm days will  
 never cease,  
 For summer has o'er-brimm'd  
 their clammy cells. ....

*John Keats (1795-1821)*

HARVEST THANKSGIVING



Compiling each Circuit News is a big but exciting job. It is really important that we celebrate all the good that is happening in the Circuit and would like feedback on our newsletter. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us; we welcome your thoughts. Please address to [info@lincolnmethodist.org.uk](mailto:info@lincolnmethodist.org.uk)

Material for the **Winter 2022** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Wednesday, **9 November 2022**. Any material received after this date will not be included in the Winter edition.

Email: [info@lincolnmethodist.org.uk](mailto:info@lincolnmethodist.org.uk)

Address: Lincoln Methodist Circuit Office  
 Burton Road Methodist Church  
 175 Burton Road  
 Lincoln LN1 3LW

Website: [www.lincolnmethodist.org.uk](http://www.lincolnmethodist.org.uk)

## Autumn 2022



Dear Friends,

At the beginning of Autumn and as we start a new Methodist year, it may stir in you many different emotions. This will depend on what your experience has been in the last 12 months. Reflecting and giving thanks to God is a natural human need and indeed it is what we do in wor-

ship. It may have been that at the time of some of these events you felt God was far away. But in looking back you can see that God carried you through. The Footprints poem might help has you do that reflecting.

*One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.*

*When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.*

*"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."*

There is of course not just looking back but looking forward to in faith and hope for the New Year. Some churches hold their annual Covenant Service in September and use it to commit to following the way

of Christ. There is also the great thanksgiving of Harvest. Always a joy to share in worship giving thanks for God's provision. Of course, we have many to thank for the harvest especially those who work on the land.

As for the work of the church we long and look for Harvest of lost souls. Seeking to help people to discover the wonder of Faith in Christ. It is always a delight to see lives changed and to welcome new believers into church. I guess for me the challenge of the New Year and its new opportunities reminds me of the great commission as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20, ***Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."***

As we enter New Year let us step out in faith looking to live authentic Christian lives, seeking the lost and helping to bring them home. May God continue to bless you and all that you do for him and may I add my thanks too for your commitment to God lived out in the life of the Church.

One night I dreamed a dream.

As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.

Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,

One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

May God Bless you

Alan



# News from our Churches

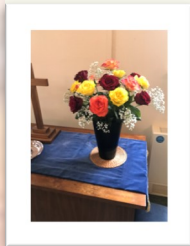


## North Hykeham

We send greetings to our friends in the circuit. We are pleased that we are averaging 24 attendance most Sundays. Denis led a wonderful OA last week with a retiring collection for Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy.

We are still missing the Dawn Chorus programme on Sunday mornings on Radio Lincs: miss Brian from Middle Rasen and Mary from Fiskerton choosing hymns. I think the favourite was *“What a friend we have in Jesus”*. Now even the 8am service has been axed!

A member writes, we have celebrated 70 years of Queen Elizabeth’s reign and rightly so - but is this breaking news? Our Heavenly Father has reigned for 70 x 70 years, and more years, since the Dawn of creation. So let us celebrate our Lord is King, crown Him ‘King of Kings’. ‘Thine be the Glory’ sing his praise in your hearts, for He shall reign for ever and ever.



Each week members donate the flowers and Denis and Elvie buy and arrange them. After the service they are given to sick members or friends who cannot get to church etc

Hope all well with you Barbara

## Central



Hello Everyone,

Most of you will remember our dear friend Barbara Kemp would write the column with church news from Central. Sadly, Barbara passed away just over a year ago and now I have picked up the baton on behalf of our church. To say it is a tough act to follow is an understatement, and as I sit here wondering what to write, I feel about as comfortable as a lame turkey sitting on pile of Paxo, listening to Christmas carols! But from somewhere I have managed to put this together and I hope you enjoy the read.

Our church continues to be an essential part of the community in the centre of town. The community larder continues to bring a healthy number of people through our doors from the Sincil bank area. Residents grateful for affordable life essentials and valuable service provided.

Our church plays an integral part in supporting people/families struggling in these ever more challenging economic times. The Foodbank continues to be a lifeline and sadly there is a growing number of people dependant on this support. Val, Carolyne, Carole, Cathy and Heather continue to work collectively to process orders, welcome, support and reassure visitors in need of vital help, they do an amazing job, and we are truly grateful for the great work they do. Our church combines Foodbank Thursday with a coffee morning from 10:30-12:30. Anyone can come along for a brew and social chat, a chance to meet friends and make new ones. Along side the coffee morning is our “New to you shop” run by Heather. There is a wide range of clothing, footwear, books, toys/games and bric a brac.

There is also a new range of hand made cards and gift tags. Heather has done a fantastic job processing the stock, passing it on at affordable prices, raising valuable funds for church projects.

The Summertime has seen us resume some of our group activities and we organised a Jubilee party to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee. We welcomed around 50 people to a lovely afternoon tea, with fun and games. He had a quiz which Carolyne organised. There was a jubilee bonnet competition, where people decorated a bonnet, there were around a dozen entries and Margaret Hardy was awarded best in show. (See below, Margaret H receiving her major prize from Rev Margaret Doughty.)



After the refreshments we recreated Play your cards right, with yours truly playing the part of Brucie. Audience participation was fantastic, plenty of encouragement, "HIGHER", "LOWER!", and "you don't get anything for a pair....." "NOT IN THIS GAME!" We got some prizes for the participants which would have blown the Blankety blank budget out of the water. Everyone had a great time, and we closed with the national anthem. The following day we had a service of celebra-

tion with some rousing hymns and music played so beautifully by Betty on the organ. Everyone was in full voice and there was some last night of the proms style flag waving.

We have a lot to look forward to, and since the easing of the Covid restrictions, like a hibernating hedgehog we have been gradually waking up as a church and bringing back some of the community activities we used to enjoy together in what seemed far more certain times. The circle dancing group met for the first time in two years back in July and their next session has been confirmed for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm in the church hall.

The church craft group continues and has joined forces with a project we used to run called pick n mix. This was a project we used to run with the Sincil bank community where you could come along for a coffee, a chat and games, a bit of a social gathering for anyone who just needed a bit of company and someone to chat to. We have called it "Getting to know you". The craft group will continue with their activities, and people can come along join in, or have cuppa or a chat, or play board games or do puzzles. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August and then Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 2pm. All comers are welcome to come along and get stuck into the activities. Speaking of the craft group, many of church members have been firing up their sewing machines making shopping bags for the shoe box appeal which our Val is coordinating again this year. Wardrobes and cupboards have been raided for spare material and I hear production is cracking on at a fine pace.

So as summer turns to Autumn we look forward to our Harvest festival on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

And of course we are looking forward to welcoming you to our church for the circuit service on the afternoon of Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October, hope you can come along, there will be a very warm welcome extended to you all.

Bye for now, stay safe and well,

Best wishes

Gary

## Monks Road

We are planning to begin a major overhaul of our heating system, parts of it over 100 years old, in September to give a warm and welcoming mission base.



A new feature at our monthly coffee mornings to support a variety of causes will be our local City Councillor holding her surgery during the morning. We have recently renewed our membership of the Abbey Ward Community Forum, and the surgery is part of that group. We also provide a regular home for training courses for the Abbey Access Centre to equip folk already in work or returning to work.



## Bailgate

Bailgate Church are still having the lunch time organ recitals on the first Thursday of each month, but there are only 2 left for this year:

Jeffrey Makinson from Lincoln Cathedral on September 1st  
Hillary Punnett from Chelmsford Cathedral on October 6th

These recitals are from 12 noon to 1 pm, and are well supported, but many of those coming are not from the circuit. You really are missing out on an hour of excellent live music, and the recitals are free with a retiring collection.



## Swallowbeck

Many of our congregation have been taking advantage of the hot sunny summer and have been away on holidays. We had a very successful and well-attended Afternoon Tea with musical entertainment from Pro Musica at the beginning of June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Our monthly Lunch Club took a break in August for holidays but returns in September when we look forward to a few new members joining us. We used the worship resources provided by MHA at our Own Arrangement service on 14<sup>th</sup> August along with the distribution of gift envelopes for their work.

The Agricultural Chaplain, our Minister, Rev Alan Robson will be leading our Harvest Festival service which will be followed by a Bring & Share Lunch. We have started collecting groceries for the Community Larder on an ongoing basis and this is where our harvest grocery gifts will also go. We will welcome the Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders for their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September and the baptism of grandchildren of one of our members on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Several of us are currently busy filling shoeboxes for the annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal which means it will also soon be time to start planning our Advent services which will again be themed and led by the local preachers and worship leaders whom we are blessed to have amongst our congregation.



## Stones Place

Volunteers are now returning in a limited way, though we are sorry to record the death of Barbara Denman who gave valuable service as a steward at the Sunday services, along with husband Bryan who is now settled into his new home at White Gables.

Additional volunteering roles are available and anyone who could commit to donating some time should complete the online form at [www.mha.org.uk](http://www.mha.org.uk) to make an initial enquiry. Befriending, activity support and pet therapy are just some of voluntary roles that have new helpers now.

Chaplain Geoff keeps everyone up to date with photos on Stones Place Facebook page showing some of the social activities inside and outside the home. The garden is a popular place if the weather is not too hot and the Summer Fair from 2-5pm on August 20<sup>th</sup> provided other volunteering opportunities and visitors, who the residents always look forward to seeing.

Thanks to Gainsborough Methodist Church, it has been possible to replace the worn-out copies of Hymns and Psalms with second hand copies in new condition for use in the chapel lounge.

The MHA Sunday theme “Growing together” has been explored at services at Burton Road, Nettleham, Central, Moorland Park, North Hykeham and Swallowbeck so far.

Resident Mary Jacobs recently held a sale of her artwork and raised an amazing £500 for Action for Children. Congratulations.

Rae Perkins



## PRAYING TOGETHER

<p>1) Great is your kingdom, O Lord, your power and your glory; great are your works, your wonders and your praises; great also is your wisdom, your goodness, your justice and your mercy, and for all these we bless you and magnify your holy name, for ever and ever. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>George Wither (1588-1667)</i></p>	<p>7) Guide and direct your Church, O Lord, that in essentials we may preserve our unity, in nonessentials we may live in liberty and diversity and in all things we may exist in love and charity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Rupertus Meldenius (1582-1651)</i></p>
<p>2) Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to seek for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)</i></p>	<p>8) O Lord our God, you rule over all things and you accomplish things. You never remove your hands from your works, nor ever shall. Guide us, we pray, with the power and the wisdom with which, from the beginning, you have loved and made all things; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Julian of Norwich (c1343-c1416)</i></p>
<p>3) Eternal Light, shine in our hearts. Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil. Eternal Power, be our support. Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal Pity, have mercy on us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Alcuin (c.735-804)</i></p>	<p>9) Let the door of our heart be always open to you, O Lord, that we may mark your entrance, embrace your presence, hear your voice, seek your strength and hold fast to you for ever. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Paul (Henry) Heath (1599-1643)</i></p>
<p>4) God uncreated, bless us who are made in your image. God untouchable, come to us in the Word made flesh. God unfathomable, reveal yourself in the wisdom of the Cross. God immortal, keep us in eternal life; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Angela of Foligno (1248-1309)</i></p>	<p>10) Be to us, O Christ, peace to the troubled mind and home to the wanderer. Be as living water for our cleansing, as the song that soothes our sadness, and as the inward voice that directs all our days. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Divine Service, William E Orchard, 1919</i></p>
<p>5) Grant us, O God, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your path may not stumble; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>William Reed Huntington (1838-1909)</i></p>	<p>11) We commend to you, O Lord, our souls and our bodies; our prayers and our hopes; our health and our work; our life and our death; our families and our friends; our neighbours and our fellow men and women, this day and always. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)</i></p>
<p>6) O Lord, you are the beginning of all our goodness, the well-spring of all our loving and the source of all our freedom. Let your grace continually work within us, that your will may be done through us and that we may always rejoice in your presence; now and for ever. Amen..</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mary Ward (1585-1645)</i></p>	<p>12) May we never feel forsaken, O Lord, whether in the quietness of our resting, in the storms of the day, in the cares of the world or in the journey of life. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)</i></p>




## PRAYING TOGETHER

<p>13) Grant us grace, O God, to be interpreters of your beauty, narrators of your glory, confessors of your purpose, preachers of your mind and teachers of your works; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Odes of Soloman (1st century)</i></p>	<p>19) Give to us, Lord, the peace of those who have learnt to serve you, the joy of those who are glad to obey you and the delight of those who rejoice in your praise; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Aidan of Linisfarne (d651)</i></p>
<p>14) O eternal and glorious Trinity, deeper than the deepest sea, and abyss of love for whom we thirst and long; let us forever desire your light, forever seek your face and forever wrap ourselves in the robe of your glory; world without end. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)</i></p>	<p>20) Let us worship the Christ who draws near to each of us. Let us praise the Christ who loves the worst among us. Let us bless the Christ who shares with the least among us. Let us glorify the Christ who intercedes for all among us. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ann Griffiths (1776-1805)</i></p>
<p>15) Grant us, O Holy Spirit, wisdom and understanding that we may receive your light; prudence and strength that we may persevere in faith; knowledge and awe that we may rest in you alone, fear and delight that we may rejoice in your love. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bonaventura (c1217-1274)</i></p>	<p>21) Let us run the race which is set before us in the royal road of love. Let us keep an even pace rooted in the faith of the saints. Let us be grounded in true catholic love, until we are consumed by the fire of your grace for ever. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>John Wesley (1703-1791)</i></p>
<p>16) From the throne of your glory, O Lord, send forth your wisdom to live in our hearts, to be at work in our lives and to speak in our conscience; that our thoughts, words and actions may be according to your will and reveal your glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Aelred of Rievaulx (c1109-1167)</i></p>	<p>22) Though we cannot love you as we ought, O Lord, let us love you as we are able, that guided by your light and kept by your power, we come at the last, into your glorious presence. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Thomas Ken (1637-1711)</i></p>
<p>17) Loving your light, O Lord, may our hearts rejoice in your goodness. Living in your light may our lives reveal your grace. Walking in your light may our works reflect your glory. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Margaret Fell (1614-1702)</i></p>	<p>23) Praise to you, O Lord, for the jewel of sight, the treasure of hearing and the glory of speech. Open our eyes to your glory, our ears to your word and our mouths to proclaim your goodness; now and for ever. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Thomas Traherne (1636-1674)</i></p>
<p>18) Still within us now, O Lord, any voice but yours, lest we hear but do not receive, lest we listen but do not act, lest we know but do not love, and let your Holy Spirit turn our hearts and lives to your truth. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Liturgy of the French Reformed Church</i></p>	<p>24) God beyond all speech, above all thought and surpassing all imagination; when you speak, may we listen; when you draw near, may we rejoice in your presence; when you reveal yourself, may we bow in adoration. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Gregory of Nazianzus (c329-390)</i></p>



## PRAYING TOGETHER

<p>25) Guide and govern your Church, O Lord, that we may walk warily in times of quiet and boldly in times of danger; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Franciscan Breviary (13th Century)</i></p>	<p>29) Be a bright flame before us, O God, a guiding star above us, a smooth path below us and a loving shepherd behind us, each day and each night, now and for ever. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Columba of Iona (521-597)</i></p>
<p>26) Defend us, O Lord, with your heavenly grace, that we may continue yours for ever and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until we come to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Book of Common Prayer (1552)</i></p>	<p>30) Grant us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain, that reaching the day's end victorious over all temptation, we may again praise you, the eternal God, blessed over all things now and for ever. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mozarabic Sacramentary (10th Century)</i></p>
<p>27) God of grace, we bless you for the gift of each day; for the glory of creation, the joy of salvation and the fire of your love in our hearts. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Handley Moule (1841-1920)</i></p>	<p>31) We turn to you, O Crucified Redeemer; converted through your cross, conquering in its sign, transformed by its grace and dying beneath its shadow. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>William of Saint-Thierry (c1085-1148)</i></p>
<p>28) God of glory, present in all places and filling all things, treasury of blessings and source of life: come and dwell with us, cleanse us from all sin and grant us your salvation. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Liturgy of St John Chrysostom (5th Century)</i></p>	



## Calendar Dates - Sept to Nov 2022

Monday	Aug 29, 2022	Summer Bank Holiday
Thursday	Sep 01, 2022	Creation Time begins
Sunday	Sep 11, 2022	Education Sunday
Sunday	Sep 18, 2022	Peace Sunday
Thursday	Sep 29, 2022	Michaelmas Day
Friday	Sep 30, 2022	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Thursday	Oct 06, 2022	National Poetry Day
Monday	Oct 10, 2022	World Mental Health Day
Sunday	Oct 16, 2022	Healthcare Sunday
Friday	Oct 21, 2022	Trafalgar Day
Sunday	Oct 23, 2022	Bible Sunday
Monday	Oct 31, 2022	Hallowe'en
Saturday	Nov 5, 2022	Guy Fawkes
Sunday	Nov 13, 2022	Remembrance Sunday
Monday	Nov 14, 2022	Birthday of the H.R.H. Prince of Wales
Friday	Nov 18, 2022	Children in Need
Sunday	Nov 27, 2022	1st Sunday in Advent
Wednesday	Nov 30, 2022	St. Andrew (Scotland)
Saturday	Dec 10, 2022	Human Rights Day

### St Columba's

Please join us on Tuesday afternoons, 2pm-4pm, at our Tea & Cake Café. £1.50 for a cup of tea/coffee and a cake (and as many refills as you like).

Our next Community Lunch will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 12:30pm. Please contact Nicole Bond to book your place.

[a.c.bond@btinternet.com](mailto:a.c.bond@btinternet.com), phone 01522 536034

### St Giles



Sunday services continue with numbers increasing to about 40. A number of new families are coming to the church regularly so more children are attending Sunday School as well.

The new Audio-Visual system has been installed and is in regular use on Sunday mornings. Now available for hire for those who wish to use our church for meetings and presentations.

Looking forward to welcoming Rev Juliet Wriglesworth at her service on August 28. I have no doubt that she will be a great asset to St Giles and the circuit. Many thanks to Rev Alan Swann who took over after Rev Gyula Fiak left. A couple of us will be going to Croydon for Gyula's induction service in his new circuit.

John Lawson has stood down as Eden Team Leader to take up a more senior position within the Message Trust – we wish him well. The work that he started continues with Coffee Morning, Free-4-All, Community Larder etc – ably described by Cay Sherlock when she was interviewed by Sean Dunderdale from BBC Radio Lincolnshire as part of the Make A Difference initiative as St Giles have been nominated for an award in the Community category.

Night Light Café continues on Tuesday evenings; providing welcome respite for both mental health patients and their carers in the relaxed atmosphere of the Living room, or they can play table tennis, pool and table football in the sanctuary.







## Welton and Dunholme Methodist Church

July 10<sup>th</sup> saw a moving memorial service conducted by Rev. Alan Swann at our monthly Holy Communion.

Based on the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm, it was very meaningful for everyone there who lit a small candle in remembrance of loved ones who have died both recently and several years ago. Despite no mention of specific names, it felt very personal for all who participated. Very many thanks to Alan for such a memorable service.

On a lighter note, we held our first café church for over two years on 7<sup>th</sup> August. Led by our worship leaders, it was based on the material for the annual Action for Children service, which was ideal for informal, interactive worship. We hope that café church will once again become a regular event.

Elaine Johnson

## Reepham

It is now nine months since we have been back in our refurbished church and we are very pleased with the work that has been done. Members of our own congregation and visitors have commented on the positive feel to the modernised building.



We are now worshipping again regularly but with some changes. On the second Sunday in each month we are having a 4.00 p.m. service and are experimenting with different styles of worship – Iona, Taize, readings and music, Songs of Praise, Café Church. We would be pleased to welcome people from across the Circuit if you would like to join us. With the shortage of preachers across the Circuit we have taken the opportunity sometimes to join with Cherry Willingham or our Anglican friends. On a fifth Sunday we are having a joint service with Cherry Willingham and Washingborough.

Unfortunately with deaths and increased frailty amongst our older members our numbers have not gone back to pre-Covid levels but we are still an active church reaching out particularly to the older members of our community.

We had not had a Holiday at Home since Christmas 2019 so we decided to pull out all the stops for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Twenty older people from the three

villages (Reepham, Fiskerton and Cherry Willingham) shared coronation memories, and enjoyed a royal quiz, a video, table games and a cooked lunch which included the Platinum Pudding and concluded with tea and a Union Jack decorated cake.



Fun Friday has also recommenced. With reduced numbers attending and fewer helpers this is now meeting every third week, but those who come enjoy table games and a light lunch. Tri-ominoes is becoming very popular.

We have also restarted Coffee and Chat on the third Saturday of the month from 10.00 to 11.30. This is something to which we would welcome members from across the circuit.

The Methodist Women in Britain group meet once a month at the home of one of our elderly members, usually with a speaker, and Discoverers (Bible study group) has moved to meeting twice a month on a Wednesday afternoon.

The Leadership Team have with our minister, Jennifer, spent some time over the last few months developing our Mission Plan. One initiative we are exploring is reaching out to the families of the Pre-school and the Primary School.

We look forward to another new Methodist year with faith and hope.

## Washingborough

The resumed links with our local Anglican friends following Covid resulted in us having a joint Songs of Praise service at St Johns in July and we will be having a joint Harvest Festival service at WMC on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.



We also share in our joint Tuesday Coffee Shop at WMC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in the month from 10 am to 12 noon. Our own coffee mornings continue on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays in the month also 10-12. Do join us to share refreshment and have a chat.

Our Sunday morning services in recent months have included ones led by our own Worship Leaders, one led by Matt Rigden the Pioneer Minister from the Heath Christian Partnership in Bracebridge Heath, and a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month sharing with our friends from Cherry Willingham & Reepham.

Occasional weekday afternoon garden groups have taken place over the summer, looking at the reflections on 1 Peter.

In this next Quarter we are trialling “Worship for all ages” services on the second Sunday of each month, led by Sandy & Ralph Osgerby,

After many years’ service as a Steward, Clare Laflin stepped down at the end of August and we thank her for her contribution in that way. This then leads us yet again to appeal for volunteers to fill key roles becoming vacant as people step down, an issue facing many Churches today.

On the third Sunday afternoon of the month at 3pm, Jenny Robinson from Cherry Willingham & her associates hold a service on our premises for people with additional needs, their families, friends and support workers. It used to be called “Prospects”, now called “Count Everyone In”.

After a Summer lull, various activities have started up again eg Bible Study, Fellowship Group, Prayer Group, Gospel Singing etc.

Keith Swann

## Moorland Park

This is a poem written by Tony Wager, a member at Moorland Park. Tony shared the poem in a service a little while ago, following a suggestion by Rev David Lawton encouraging us to write our own Psalms.



Tony is gifted in his ability to write poems and has previously shared some of his work at Moorland.

The world is portrayed full of hurt, war, and hate  
On the flickering palantir screen  
Rhetoric precludes any reasoned debate  
And anger pollutes every scene

Famines and wars lists of innocent dead  
Flow too quickly from media to mind  
The Psyche digests all the horrors it's fed  
And our sanity starts to unwind

Infected by outrage compassion gives way  
To desire for revenge and redress  
Heat boils off sanity, mob rule holds sway  
And our love for creation grows less

The antidote comes from our God's Holy Son  
In His message to all humankind  
Forgive all the sins that the others have done  
"And redemption is what you will find"

So Look at the world through the wisdom He gave  
Love your enemies just as your friends  
Mercy is key to the peace that we crave  
View people through Jesus's lens.

Our brothers and sisters in lands far and near  
The outlaws, the tramps and the Kings  
From family to foreigner, our God holds them dear  
As does He, we must pardon their sins

With this new perspective the vista expands  
And the scales are removed from our sight  
Revealed are the legions our saviour commands  
As our vision is cleared by Christ's light

*Tony Wager*



Central Methodist Church are, again, acting as a collection point for the **Link to Hope's Shoebox Appeal**. The places covered are Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, and Bulgaria. Please contact Rev Margaret Doughty , 01522 697177, for further information.

If you can, please do a whole box, but if not, items that are especially required are as follows, ***Gloves or scarf or hat (new or knitted), soap and flannel, toothbrush and toothpaste, candles with holders, small games (eg cards, dominoes), sweets or chocolates (best before June 2023 EU Origin) .***

To complete the box please add 5 or more items from either of the following two lists:

**For a Family Box**

- Colouring Pads (A5)
- Crayons/Pencils  
*(with rubber and sharpener)*
- Small Toys *(yo-yo, skipping rope, toy cars)*
- Soft toy/teddy *(with CE label)*
- Tape Measure/DIY Tool
- Headscarf *(lightweight)*
- Shampoo *(max 300ml)*
- Solar-Powered Calculator
- Safety Razors
- Hairbrush/Comb
- Other gifts .....

**For an Elderly (Unisex) Box**

- Reading Glasses/Magnifier
- Mug/Wooden Spoon/Cutlery
- Sensory Item *(eg Lavender Bag)*
- Hot Water Bottle
- Work Gloves
- Pen/Paper
- Socks/Tights (NEW)
- Wind-Up Radio/Torch
- Shampoo *(max 300ml)*
- Scissors/Nail Clippers
- Safety Razors
- Other gifts .....

Tape the lid to the box to keep it secure and then wrap the entire box in colourful paper (not glittery paper as it is not easily recycled). Attach your contents list to the wrapped box.

Please bring your gifts to Central Methodist Church between 1:00pm-3:00pm; Tuesday-Thursday, 1st-3rd November.

Gary Sutton is willing to be the contact. His email is [garysutton@aol.com](mailto:garysutton@aol.com) .

The cost remains the same at £3 per box.



**The Lord's prayer:**

(Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Maori theologians)

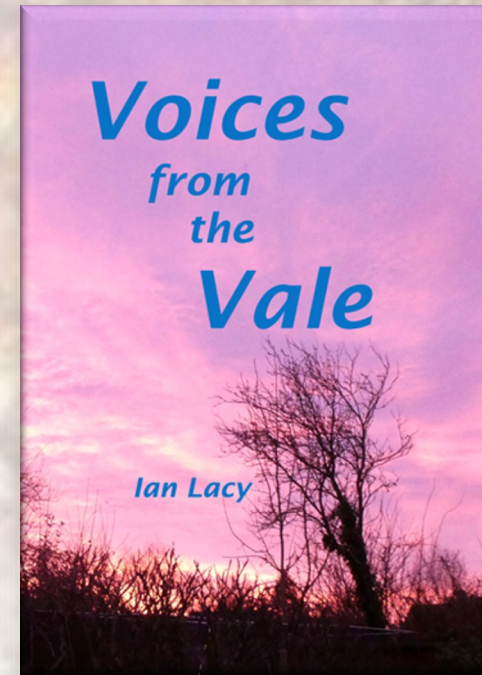
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
 Source of all that is and that shall be,  
 Father and Mother of us all,  
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
 The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!  
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
 Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
 now and forever. **Amen.**



**Final 2 stanzas of Keat's  
poem "To Autumn"**

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spare the next swath and all its twined flowers:  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too, –  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river sallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft  
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.



Ian Lacy's new poems of the seasons, love and hope  
is available from Ian (ian3105 @yahoo.co.uk or 01522 808076)

**£5.00**

All proceeds to help Ukraine

**Navenby**

Many thanks for all the used cartridges. Lots of good progress this year for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. An excellent use of spent ink cartridges. Please continue to send your used ink cartridges to Richard Wilson at Navenby Methodist Church

