



# Circuit News



## Lincoln Methodist 17/02

### Inside this issue:

Superintendent's Letter	2
News from our churches	3
Faith in Action	7
Calendar Dates	8
Praying Together	9
Contact Details	1

A sleeping world emerges to new possibilities,  
 weakening winter's icy grip,  
 and birdsong and bleating lamb  
 announce to all the promise  
 that in due season  
 creation bursts into life.  
 And whilst leaves that fell in winter  
 lie upon the ground,  
 soon to feed the earth,  
 in nature's wondrous cycle  
 of death and rebirth,  
 within the tree is a stirring of  
 new growth.



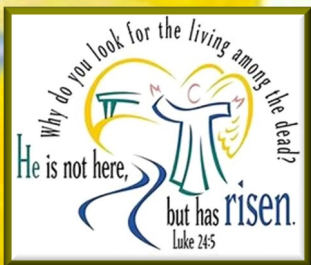
## He is risen!

Material for the **Summer 2022** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Wednesday, **18 May 2022**. Any material received after this date will not be included in the June 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)



### World Day of Prayer – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Based on Jeremiah 29:11



“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Vigils for the Earth from 2pm–4pm every Saturday during Lent (March 5<sup>th</sup> - April 9<sup>th</sup>) at Speaker's Corner (near the plane tree) on the High Street.

## Spring 2022



Dear Friends,

We live in difficult days. As I write this letter inflation is at a high, interest rates are rising, the cost of living seems to be increasing day by day, especially the huge increase in Gas and electricity prices. There are problems within government and Covid although on the decrease is still causing problems for us. (Thank goodness for the vaccine).

We could get very depressed about this and indeed many are and are worried and anxious about the future. We are seeing an increasing number of people suffering with mental illness and I believe we will see more soon.

I see many people within church and beyond suffering in one way or another. I believe that we need to learn that it is ok not to be ok, but it is important that one seeks to find help when things get tough.

Of course, we in the Lincoln Circuit have played our part alongside other churches, and continue to do so, in meeting the needs of those who are struggling. The local foodbanks, community grocery, community Larder, Night Light Cafes and CAP are part of meeting those needs, and I want to say Thank You to all those who volunteer week by week to make sure they can Happen. But I am reminded that there is hope for the future. As we emerge from Winter into Spring, from dark and dismal days there are signs of new life. A reminder of a God who is creator and who desires the best for us.

Lent begins on March 2<sup>nd</sup> this year and it is a valuable time to 'take stock' of our lives. I am reminded of Jesus' own experience in the wilderness recorded in the Gospels. Matthew records this in chapter 4:1-11 which tells us that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted. It is interesting to note that after 40 days fasting the tempter comes.

In a sense during Covid we have experienced some aspects of Jesus' separation from society. Having spent much of the last two years separated from those we love and the things we like to do. I thank God that we are moving to a place when many of these are getting easier to do.

For Jesus there comes a time of testing at the end of the 40 days when Jesus is at his lowest. He stands firm and comes through the ordeal. We too must remain firm trusting in God.

Of course, as we travel through Lent, we eventually celebrate Easter. That wonderful time when we celebrate Jesus' victory over death and his mighty resurrection. Sin and death no longer overshadow us, we have forgiveness and life everlasting. As the hymn in Christ alone puts it:

*Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine –  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*



# News from our Churches

This is Christian hope, and it is what binds us to one another. To quote another song, 'We have a hope that is steadfast and certain.' Unlike many this in this life that come and go we have a Saviour in Jesus that is a constant in a turbulent world. The final verse of 'In Christ alone', speaks of real and certain hope.

*No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*



May you hold on to that hope and experience God's deep love for you in Christ this Easter.

Many Blessings. Alan



It is with sadness that we learn of the deaths of the following members of our Circuit:

**Alan Greenwell**, Local Preacher —passed away at the end of January 2022.

**Rev Don Urwin**, Supernumerary Minister —passed away peacefully on 16th February 2022.

**Ken Chester**, Local Preacher—passed away on 22nd February 2022 at 11.10pm in John Coupland Hospital, Gainsborough.

## North Hykeham



North Hykeham had a wonderful carol service with visitors making up numbers. One of our members has given me the following:

The Christmas before this last one I returned from shopping to find a bag hanging on my front door full of Christmas cheer but addressed to Linda, at number 21 (my number). Not knowing anyone named Linda I traipsed all over the estate trying to find a Linda. Suddenly it occurred to me that it must be the number that was wrong, so I then took it to number 12 and sure enough this was right. This Christmas precisely the opposite happened, my grandson sent me a huge Christmas card but addressed it to number 12. Linda then brought it to me! What wonderful ways God has of introducing us to new friends.

I would like to wish everyone A peaceful healthy 2022 from North Hykeham.

Barbara

## Swallowbeck

We send New Year greetings to our friends around the Circuit and are looking forward to more normal times and warmer



weather to come. As mentioned in the last newsletter we followed Rev Gordon Webster's green advent liturgy with weekly themes of: Let There Be Cooling; Let There Be Greening; Let There Be Sharing; Let There Be Kinship and Let There Be (fitting) Celebration on Christmas Day. These were accompanied by meaningful displays encouraging us all to think week by week of the melting of polar icecaps, deforestation, desertification, and losses of animal species. The Pop-up Nativity on Fen Lane Park, where we turned the gazebo into an inn selling refreshments, and a stable, with straw bale seating, kindly provided by one of Rev Alan Robson's farming contacts, enabled us to give out nearly 200 invitations to Christmas services in Hykeham and Swallowbeck. We were able to engage with the public who were more than willing to put costumes over their outdoor clothes, and take selfies, as they became characters in the Nativity. North Hykeham Town Council had asked us to be involved in their Christmas Fair and we were glad to bring a Christian presence to the event.



Our zoom Advent bible study group looked at 'The Jewish Roots of Christianity' and we are currently working through a six-week series from Max Lucado's book and DVD, entitled "Jesus - The God who knows my name". Lunch Club is successfully continuing on a monthly basis, and we are welcoming a few new members.

### Future events

The World Day of Prayer, prepared this year by women from the United Kingdom, will have our church as one of the venues at 2pm on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

Christian Aid Week, featuring their work in Zimbabwe, will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May. Fundraising and further details to follow. See website <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

Cliff College Festival, from June 1<sup>st</sup> to Pentecost Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> has the theme \*Jubilee – rule and reign". See website for details <https://cliffcollege.ac.uk/cliff-festival/cliff-festival-2022-jubilee>



### St Giles

Sunday services are now back in full swing, and we have re-established links with the Anglican Church on Lamb Gardens. Whenever there is a month with 5 Sundays, the fifth Sunday is a joint service between the two churches.



The most recent was in January when Rev Margaret Ford and Michelle Webb, assistant curate at the Anglican Church, together brought us a wonderful service to celebrate Candlemas.

The church, in conjunction with the Eden project led by John Lawson, is very active. The Night Light Café continues on Tuesday evenings providing support for those with mental issues and on Wednesdays we have Bible study followed by coffee morning which is now very popular. So much so that a second coffee morning on Friday's, with free bacon baps, has been set up and on Thursdays the Youth Club continues with several young people who attend also join us on Sunday mornings.



Boys Brigade on Wednesdays and Scouts on Fridays continue, and such is their popularity they have overflowed from the hall into the back of the sanctuary.



The Community Larder and Free-4-All continue to provide free food and household goods to families in need on Wednesday and Friday mornings.



Our contacts with local supermarkets whereby we take their surplus stock for further distribution to the schools opposite and to people on the estate continue to fulfil a need which, sadly, has not gone away.

Our minister Rev Gyula Fiak will be going on sabbatical on May 1<sup>st</sup>. His last service at St.Giles will be on April 24. We will be sorry to see him go.

Meanwhile, we are pleased that Rev Juliet Wriglesworth will be joining us in September. I know that she is pleased to be joining us as well having accepted the invitation from the stationing team.



## STONES PLACE

At the time of writing, Stones Place is waiting for guidance on the easing of restrictions in care homes.

The beneficial effect of being able to be with loved ones on the health and wellbeing of residents is well recognised, and Sunday afternoon services have also been missed during lockdown. The in-house Christmas Eve service involved residents taking part by doing readings and playing the hymns. Even Kevin, the therapy dog, got in on the video. He fell asleep while Silent Night was being sung.. There were over 150 views of the service on YouTube. The staff did everything they could to make Christmas special, with food and presents, and Burns Night and the Chinese New Year saw the home decorated appropriately and the kitchen staff rising to the occasion. Chaplain Geoff Gilbert's Facebook page has a video tour of the home and photos of the residents. This helps families and friends to stay connected and, despite everything, all the residents are

smiling for the camera. Facebook is also the digital platform used for recruiting care staff. Looking back over the past year, restrictions have been endured and all at Stones Place are looking for brighter days.

Rae Perkins



## Welton and Dunholme Methodist Church



We were very pleased to have our minister, Rev. Alan Swann, back with us for Christmas services and our Covenant service in January.

As reported in the last issue, coffee mornings have resumed on both Wednesday and Saturday each week; the art group and table tennis are back, as is Welton Counselling Practice which uses our premises, and a pilates group has begun on Thursdays. The very popular Film Club: a film followed by afternoon tea on the first Thursday of the month, has also resumed. Ladies Fellowship enjoyed meetings discussing both Christmas and New Year customs around the world during December and January and we are now looking forward to a programme of speakers until the summer. Men's Breakfast, with a speaker, has successfully started again at The Bottle and Glass in Normanby on the third Saturday of the month. This popular event is open to any man, churchgoer or not, and all are made welcome. If you are interested, please contact David Wilson on 01673 861461 or juniper34@btinternet.com.

'Christmas Jumper' coffee morning, with cake stall, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December raised £148 and suggestions for this year's charitable donations will be discussed at the next Church Leadership meeting and then Church Council, both of which are at the end of February.

New housing in Welton has brought an influx of residents and we have been pleased to welcome several new members of the congregation.

Finally, we hope that all our friends across the circuit are keeping well, and we pray that you will have a healthy 2022.

Elaine Johnson

Welcome

We have recently become part of the Welcome Directory, which offers a welcome to those leaving prison and seeking somewhere to worship. This is in no small part helped by Revd Terry's long experience as a prison chaplain in Lincoln and Nottingham.

We look forward to another year of worship and witness in our community.

Terry Nowell



### Monks Road

We had a very successful Folk Carols Concert just before Christmas, with a full capacity attendance, and raised over £200 for the Methodist Charity the Fund for Human Need

- thank you to Jonathan and his band. Also, our Christmas coffee morning was well attended and £500 was added to our church funds.

We joined with friends from the local Anglican and Roman Catholic churches to hold an open-air carols service in the Arboretum with the Salvation Army band, which was attended by at least 150 people.

Just into the new year we supported NOMAD trust with £130 from a coffee morning.

Our Family Fun events continue - over 40 Christmas fun bags were given out, and a Valentine afternoon took place mid-February.

We have been encouraged to see new faces at our worship week by week - at the end of January 9 extra folk joined us for our cafe church, and they have been back during February. We continue to have a cafe style arrangement in church of tables and chairs, which encourages conversations and helps us have a variety of worship styles week by week.

Wondering what to do with those used ink cartridges?

Please continue to send them to Richard Wilson at Navenby Methodist Church.

He will use them to generate much needed funds for JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION.



£4646.76 raised since the beginning of January 2022

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)

# Faith in Action



You might wonder why an attractive affluent village like Nettleham needs a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt centre, but this is just what Nettleham Methodist Church committed to in 2014 following a strong sense of God saying that they needed to get out into the community and that He would provide the necessary resources. The now CAP Manager, Marcus Harborne, sensed this call, which was then confirmed by Superintendent Minister, Rev Alan Swann. Marcus and Alan attended a CAP partnership meeting in London to discover more and within months, and after some training, Marcus became the first debt coach in Nettleham. He has since been joined by two others. The church committed to raising the funds to provide the monthly donation to CAP which provides the head office professional support of around 200 staff with specialist skills. Grants were received from the Lincolnshire Methodist District Advance Fund, Tearfund's Cinnamon Network, and the JR Halke Trust.

This all happened over seven years ago and since then they have worked with 2163 clients and client families seeing 43 clients completely debt free (as at 02/02/22). They know that the vast majority of others have been helped on their way. There are currently 33 clients on the books and the Nettleham centre has the capacity to take on five new clients per month spread between three debt coaches. They have covered the geographic areas of Lincoln, surrounding villages and further afield when the centres in Boston and Grimsby have been temporarily closed in recent months. Funding has continued to be received from the Lincoln Methodist Circuit (Thank you!) as well as from individual members.

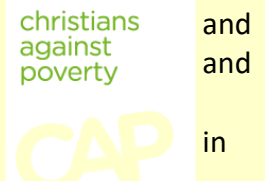
Millions of people across the UK are burdened with problem debt and this can even be the case in Nettleham, although it is a relatively hidden prob-

lem here. In addition to the debt, clients are often isolated, lonely, and confused and statistics show that up to a third of those in debt have contemplated taking their life. On one visit the client said, "This is the first time I've smiled in years". Each client is shown that there is hope, is assured that God loves them and wants the very best for them. The service is free for the client.

The debt coach communicates information between the client and the head office staff who are the ones to create a budget and the repayment plan and advice on how to deal with the debts. Each client is also offered the support of a befriender, of which there are 12 at present, who provides encouragement for the client on their journey towards becoming debt free as well as providing social support. This may include phone calls, meeting for a coffee, sending a birthday card or encouragement to link with the church community.

Covid meant that face to face visits ceased for a while but face to face meetings are now arranged with particularly vulnerable clients for whom a telephone interview wouldn't be so suitable.

One of the joys for Marcus is that the debt coaches and befrienders come from a variety of different churches and denominations. Another joy is that some people have come to faith in Jesus as a result of this very real love and action.



If you need help with debt and want to contact CAP, then call 0800 328 0006

If you would like to find out more about the Nettleham Centre, then you can contact Marcus by sending an email to [marcusharborne@capuk.org](mailto:marcusharborne@capuk.org)



## Calendar Dates - March to May 22

Tuesday	Mar 01, 2022	St. David's Day / Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday	Mar 02, 2022	Ash Wednesday
Friday	Mar 04, 2022	World Day of Prayer (Jeremiah 29:11)
Monday	Mar 14, 2022	Commonwealth Day
Thursday	Mar 17, 2022	St Patrick's Day
Sunday	Mar 27, 2022	Mothering Sunday
Friday	Apr 15, 2022	Good Friday
Sunday	Apr 17, 2022	Easter Day
Thursday	Apr 21, 2022	Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II
Saturday	Apr 23, 2022	St George's Day
Sunday	May 08, 2022	World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day
Thursday	May 26, 2022	Ascension Day, Holy Thursday
Thursday - Sunday	May 26 - June 05 2022	Thy Kingdom Come
Thursday - Sunday	Jun 02-05, 2022	Elizabeth II's 70th Anniversary Celebra- tions
Sunday	Jun 05, 2022	Whit Sunday, Pentecost



## Many Happy Returns of the Day



Sylvia Challinor and Judith Moore



### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022—Swallowbeck Church

We had coffee and cake after our service (brilliantly led by Sandy Osgodby) to celebrate two 80th birthdays this month.

The photo shows the new octogenarians cutting their respective cakes: Judith Moore and Sylvia Challinor.

Did someone mention cake?

Don't forget, each Tuesday afternoon 2pm—4pm, Tea and Cake (or coffee, if you prefer) at St Columba's Church. Only £1.50



A chance to meet and catch up with friends, old and new.



Also, books and puzzles available to borrow.






## PRAYING TOGETHER

1. Pray for children, young people and teachers looking ahead to their futures.	9. Pray for all the new housing being built in the area, that we will be able to connect with the people who live there.
2. Rev Alan Swann – Pray that as he leads the circuit forward he will be inspired with fresh vision from God	10. Pray that we will all know the presence of the Holy Spirit and see the effects of his work amongst us.
3. Pray for the Local Preachers as they open up God’s word; we ask that they see the truth and reveal it to us	11. Bracebridge – Pray for Rev Matt Rigden, pioneer minister, as he continues to make ecumenical links with other churches in the area.
4. Navenby—Pray for us as we seek God for future guidance.	12. Welton – that outreach work would be successful and bring people into Church
5. Rev David Lawton—Pray that he continues to lead his churches forward to a greater understanding of the task (s) before them.	13. Burton Road—Pray that wisdom is given regarding it’s future, that they may continue to proclaim the good news.
6. North Hykeham – Pray for us to reach out into the community and join other Churches in the area for prayer	14. Scothern – Pray that we will be encouraged and empowered to seek and pursue outreach and church growth
7. Pray for the Joy Foundation, that they may continue to give the good news of Jesus to primary school children in the area.	15. Rev Margaret Doughty – Pray for wisdom as she supports people at Central and in her work with prayer ministry
8. Stones Place – Pray for the old people who are part of this community and the staff working to support and care for them	16. Pray for St Barnabas Hospice that they may continue to support people across Lincolnshire with life-limiting or terminal illness.

## PRAYING TOGETHER

17. Pray for the homeless and the charities that support them so that homelessness will be eradicated in Lincoln.	25. Rev Alan Robson – Pray for strength in body and spirit as he supports churches and the farming community
18. Rev Jennifer Matthews – Pray for peace within her ministry and courage to keep spreading God’s love	26. Pray for circuit stewards that they will lead and manage the affairs of the circuit with wisdom and integrity
19. Pray that we will recognise the signs and wonders of God around us	27. Rev Terry Nowell – Pray for fresh energy, vision and hope within his ministry
20. Pray for the farmers in the area as they face challenging conditions and pressures within their work environment	28. Nettleham—Pray that the improvements will soon finished and members can enjoy the new facilities.
21. Pray for the Nomad Trust that they may continue to provide emergency access accommodation.	29. Pray that the risen Christ will open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.
22. Pray for all members that cannot get to church these days because of age and health	30. Pray that God will break through the chains that hold us back from spreading the gospel message
23. Rev Gyula Fiak – Pray for a fruitful sabbatical and future in God’s service.	31. Pray for the administrators that they will be able to work to support the circuit so others are released into mission
24. Pray that God will help us to face up to our responsibilities to build back a better community.	

## A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those who have power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

**Archbishop Justin Welby**

**Archbishop Stephen Cottrell**

<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/> - accessed 24/02/2022



Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,  
the spiritual blindness that prevents us  
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,  
the endless cycle of nature,  
of life and death and rebirth.  
Forgive us for taking without giving,  
reaping without sowing.  
Open our eyes to see,  
our lips to praise,  
our hands to share,  
and may our feet tread lightly  
on the road that, together, we travel.



## We used to pay for our Circuit News!!!

Having a general tidy up just before Christmas, Anne found a slip of paper with this interesting snippet:

### CENTRAL MATTERS (Circuit Magazine)

To Church representative of BRACEBRIDGE HEATH Methodist Church

Enclosed is your order of 20 copies.

Please ask your Church Treasurer to send FULL PAYMENT of £5.00 to Mr N P Sharpe, Circuit Treasurer, 84 Nettleham Road, Lincoln LN2 1RR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (Please make any cheque payable to LINCOLN CENTRAL METHODIST CIRCUIT).

Sell these magazines for 25p per copy, this money to be retained by your Church.

CAROLE SHARPE  
Editor

*£5 cash sent 31/7/94*

Hmmm, now there's a thought!