



# Circuit News

Lincoln Methodist 17/02  
Autumn 2021



## Sowing and Reaping

### Inside this issue:

Calendar Dates	2
Superintendent's Letter	3
News from our churches	5
Circuit Live Stream Services	13
Scam Alert	14
Praying Together	15
Obituaries	17
Harvest Thoughts	22
Environmental Concerns	27
Contact Details	28



## Calendar Dates - Sept to Nov 2021

Wednesday	Sep 01, 2021	St Giles' Day
Sunday	Sep 12, 2021	<a href="#">Education Sunday</a>
Tuesday	Sep 14, 2021	Holy Cross Day
Tuesday	Sep 21, 2021	Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist/ International Day of Peace
Wednesday	Sep 22, 2021	Autumnal Equinox
Wednesday	Sep 29, 2021	Michael and All Angels
Sunday	Oct 10, 2021	<a href="#">Homeless Sunday</a> / Prisons Sunday
Sunday - Saturday	Oct 10-16, 2021	<a href="#">Prisons Week</a>
Sunday - Sunday	Oct 17-24, 2021	<a href="#">One World Week</a>
Monday	Oct 18, 2021	Luke the Evangelist
Thursday	Oct 28, 2021	Simon and Jude, Apostles
Monday	Nov 01, 2021	All Saints Day
Sunday	Nov 14, 2021	<a href="#">Remembrance Sunday</a>
Wednesday	Nov 17, 2021	Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200
Sunday	Nov 21, 2021	<a href="#">Women against Violence Sunday</a>
Sunday	Nov 28, 2021	Advent Sunday (Year C begins)
Wednesday	Dec 01, 2021	<a href="#">World Aids Day</a>



## Autumn 2021



Dear Friends,

September marks the beginning of a new year in the Methodist Church. As in any new season it causes a time of reflection on what has passed and what new and exciting things God has in store for us. During this last year we have experienced one of the most challenging times in our lifetime. The

virus that we have had to deal with has caused much heartache and hurt to so many families. We may have heard people saying, 'Where is God in all this?' or 'Why does God let this happen?' and at times we may have even thought or said it ourselves.

Even amidst the struggles and difficulties of the past year there is still much to thank God for and to celebrate his love of us. The season of Autumn has much to teach us about life. In the weeks ahead we will see those who work in the fields around us busy bringing in the Harvest. We will be praying for them as they spend anxious times waiting for the right conditions to bring home the Harvest.

The 'sowing and reaping' reminds us once again that a seed is sown, and it must die to bring the new life that will eventually produce a harvest. As a young boy I remember planting countless cress seeds on moist tissue and watching them grow. When they were ready to use, they would be cut and find their way into a lovely egg and cress sandwich.

I always enjoy the season of harvest and the opportunity to bring our gifts to church. Giving thanks to God for the harvest with our familiar hymns and our prayers. I hold many memories of Harvest time in church. I remember preparing our baskets in Sunday School, decorating them with crape paper and taking them home ready to be filled to return on Harvest Sunday.

During our service there would be songs like, "Come ye thankful people come" and "We plough the fields and scatter", (although I have never ploughed a field in my life). I looked in my old school hymnbook to see what that had to offer and came across this hymn:

See the farmer so the seed,  
While the field is brown;  
See the furrows deep and straight,  
Up the field and down:



*Farmer, farmer so your seed  
Up the field and down;  
God will make the golden corn  
grow where all is brown.*

Wait awhile and look again  
where the field was bare;  
See how God I sent the corn  
Growing golden there:  
*(Fredrick Arthur Jackson, 1867-1942)*



Let us be reminded as we continue to look for the way forward, we may have to lose some of those familiar things and take up new ventures in this new season. Genesis 8:22 it says:

"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest,  
And cold and heat, And summer and winter,  
And day and night Shall not cease."



God Bless

Alan

# News from our Churches



## North Hykeham

Rev Janet Mackinder was a member and is sadly missed by every one We would like to pay tribute and will always remember her kindness, visits and many phone calls. Rest in peace, Janet.

*From a member.*

The Rev Swann's letter saying thank you reminded one of our members of a day visit to the hospital out patients department. She forgot to fit her hearing aids and as a result the young nurse had to keep repeating instructions. Afterwards the lady thanked the nurse and told her that she was a very patient and thoughtful young lady. The nurse was pleased and overwhelmed and thanked her What power in a simple thank you!

*General*



We continue with our knitting blankets and are grateful to receive strips from Stones Place as well as contributions from our many friends. We have now sent 80 blankets to Jacobs Well.

Our cats try to distract us from working.

Barbara



## Navenby



Many thanks for all the used cartridges. Lots of good progress this year; so far £4,283.96 for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. An excellent use of spent ink cartridges, please continue to send to Richard Wilson at Navenby Methodist Church.



## Monks Road

We became the "home" of the Beevor Band over the summer, and all their music - nine filing cabinets - instruments and uniforms are installed in our store room under the church, and rehearsals begin in September. Revd Terry happens to be the President, Chaplain and a Trustee of the Band, and we look forward to years of music making with them.



We're looking forward to our uniformed groups beginning again in September, and hearing and seeing them around the building.

A coffee morning was held for Macmillan in August; we hope to beat the £100 we raised last year.



## Nettleham



What exciting times we are heading into! Our church is about to undergo some renovation work and a new extension. It has seemed like a very long process to get to this point, but here we are, and oh, how joyous it feels.

Last Saturday proved to be a day full of fun and excitement as many of us met for coffee and cake and shared fellowship outside on the patio at the back of the church. It was lovely to see so many from the church and the village and we made £505 toward our Building Fund.

However, nothing happens without a lot of effort, and goodness me did we put in the effort. The week before many of us spent hours and hours clearing the area at the back of the church ready for the builders to move in. On several days we trudged down with all the garden tools including the large shredder around seven in the morning. Alan Swann had always been there at least an hour before and made marvellous inroads into clearing the overgrown area. He gets the Gold Medal for his Olympian tenacious work !!!!!!!

We were overwhelmed with the offers of help and support from the stallholders to the cake bakers, the tea makers and so many more. The day finished with the 'Magnificent Eight', lifting enormous heavy paving slabs from the huge area of patio. It took over three hours to lift and transport them and lots of coffee and cake.

Well done lads. Although it was sad to see a desolate space where only hours before there had been gaily coloured bunting, tables and chairs filled with everyone happy and much laughter and merriment.

As churches are slowly coming together again to worship, we on the other hand are moving out for a few months. To the village hall on a Sunday and community rooms for creative craft on a Wednesday. We are delighted to find ourselves in a very new situation and looking forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us over the next few months. It will be with anticipation we walk into the community where we have been welcomed.



## Swallowbeck

We have been pleased to welcome the Joy Foundation to a monthly hall booking slot, so that they can make short videos to complement the face-to-face collective worship in junior schools that has restarted recently. If you go to the Joy Foundation's website, you can see the hall in its new role as a film studio, and watch the videos being seen by local school children. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, along with our hirer providing children's cheer-leading classes are all hoping to return in September. For adults, Mini-First Aid (providing first aid training for parents and carers of pre-school children) and Lincoln Sequence Dancing have both had their first sessions under annual licence agreements now in force and we look forward to working in partnership with them in the provision of education and social interaction with the local community. Baby Sensory and Music Bugs, both offering classes for pre-school children, are extending their original booking slots.



"The monthly Church Luncheon Club is looking at ways of adapting as three of our long-term helpers have reluctantly decided that the time has come to hang up their aprons – we would welcome any offers of assistance so we can continue to offer a meal to those who would welcome the opportunity of eating in company. We held so-

cially distanced picnics on Saturdays in July, bringing our own food and drink, as a way of reducing isolation for people who had spent lockdown on their own and are also planning our Harvest Festival when again we will be inviting folk to bring their own picnic to eat together after our service.”



It would be good if we could recruit extra stewards, willing to offer 1 Sunday afternoon per month as a minimum, and I will be happy to talk to anyone who would like to know more about the role. Stones Place chaplain, Geoff Gilbert, is also available to give training and support to anyone who would like to help. My contact details are Rae Perkins Tel: 01522 705266 E-mail: [rae.perkins1@btinternet.com](mailto:rae.perkins1@btinternet.com) and Geoff's are Tel: 07599237674 E-mail [geoffrey.gilbert@hotmail.com](mailto:geoffrey.gilbert@hotmail.com) Please get in touch with us.



### STONES PLACE

The residents have welcomed the return of visiting preachers from the Circuit on Sunday afternoons at 3pm and the small number of volunteers who act as stewards for these services have been glad to see them all again.

Bryan and Barbara Denman and Jim and Viv Welson, who served as stewards over a long period of time, have needed to step down from the role and we thank them for all they have done to make a difference to the lives of older people in residential care at Stones Place.

One of the conditions of volunteering at present is that a Covid lateral flow test needs to be undertaken and the negative result shown on arrival at Stones Place, but this is a small inconvenience compared to the benefits of sharing worship with the residents and becoming part of a close-knit community. Stewards, preachers, staff and visitors need to wear face coverings while in the building until further notice.



If you can access the internet, please share your answered prayer by following the link below.

[www.eternalwall.org.uk](http://www.eternalwall.org.uk)

Otherwise, if you write it and give/send it to me, I will add it to the Wall for you. You do not need to identify yourself if your answered prayer is of a personal nature. 550-word limit, please.

**Rae Perkins 89 Astwick Road, Lincoln LN6 7LL**

One person's answered prayer can become another person's hope. Answered prayer is a springboard for faith, with each story reflecting a beautiful aspect of God's intention towards us. Your story will help make hope visible to our nation.

Nettle Hill, Brinklow Road, Ansty, Coventry CV7 9JL



## St Giles

After about 15 months with lockdown ending and our diaries beginning to fill the daily devotions via Zoom have come to an end. An invaluable way of keeping in touch and =, indeed, bringing us closer together.

We have welcomed Rev Gyula Fiak as our new minister who will officially start in September but has already made his presence felt in the church.

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

We have established contacts with local supermarkets whereby we take their surplus stock for further distribution to the schools opposite and to people on the estate who are in need.

The Night Light Café was started by the Eden team in February and meet on Tuesday evenings. People come into a relaxed atmosphere where they have coffee and chat in the Jubilee Room, now called the Living Room, decked out with sofas and easy chairs. Volunteers, carers and church members help out.

Bible study continues on Wednesday mornings at 9am following “100 Stand-Alone Bible Studies” by Penelope Wilcock. At 10am Board Game café follows on at 10am with lots of new faces being welcomed into the church.

Sunday worship continues with a regular congregation of about 15, disappointing compared with pre-Covid attendances.

# Pop Up Cafe

## Coffee and Cake



### ***Burton Road Methodist Church***

***Open 9.30 to 4pm  
1st Saturday of every month  
Contactless payments taken  
Sit in or takeaway***

***Fairtrade, Organic &  
Rainforest certified coffee.  
Locally sourced homemade  
cakes available in GLUTEN  
FREE and VEGAN***

## Circuit Live Stream Services

You can watch the circuit service on <https://live.lincolnmethodist.org.uk/>

If there is an issue watching on a mobile device, eg phone or tablet, then you can watch direct on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuX2h5FJRkrj01OshS94AzA>

When on YouTube, why not SUBSCRIBE to our channel and then you will get notifications when we are live! You can also catch up on all our other services.

There is a link on the page and the circuit website and the Facebook page and group.



## Scam Alert



In recent days one of our church members has been caught out by an text scam. The original text appeared to be from one of our ministers. There followed a conversation on text between the member and what appeared to be the minister but which was in fact the scammer.

The request was to buy some Google play cards, scratch off the panel on the back and text the numbers over. Unfortunately bank details were also passed on. The given situation was that some people in hospital with cancer needed the cards.

I (and others in the district) also received a similar email last week. The one I received said something along the lines of "I'm in a prayer meeting at the moment so can't respond right now but please could you buy some google gift cards"! The scammers seem to be throwing in a few Christian terms such as "God bless" or "prayer meeting" to try and trick people. They also seem to be using situations that spark an emotional response such as the cancer patients.

**Please be very careful. Never reply to such a text or email. Rather contact the person by a different means to check. Never respond to such a request to buy gift cards. Never send gift card numbers on email or text. Never pass your bank details on in such a way.**

If you think you have replied to such an email or text then please change your email password. You can let Howard Smedley ([safeguarding@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk)) or Alison Godfrey ([pa@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk](mailto:pa@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk)) know if you have been caught out. In the above situation the Police are being informed.

# PRAYING TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2021

1 Pray for our church, that we may be warm and welcoming to all comers and radiate	9 Pray that God will help you live as sister/brother to all who you meet.	17 Pray that our loving God is with you as you hold yourself and others in His embrace.	25 Pray that God will set such a table in our house that our whole family may speak kind-
2 Thank God for his faithfulness; ask that He may give you the grace to show faith in Him	10 Pray that our generous God pours his abundant life into your heart; may others see and receive his offer of life through you.	18 Pray to God for someone you know who has a long-term health condition; is there anything you can do today to help them?	26 Pray that God will save us from making His vision a daydream; that He will lead us by His Spirit to do His will.
3 Pray that God will open your eyes to where He wants you go. Ask Him to strengthen your resolve to follow.	11 Pray for our Circuit as together we strive as one being to spread God's message through our part of Lincolnshire.	20 Pray that God will help us to encourage one another to do that little bit of good where we are.	27 Pray that God will inspire us to dream big dreams, and help us to make the world a better place.
4 Pray that God will guide and enrich your prayers as you journey ever more closely to Him.	12 Pray that God will make you more like Jesus: that he will help you to pray for others, that they may know Christ for themselves.	21 Pray that God will guide you in all the decisions you will face today, large and small; that you will have time to think before acting.	28 Pray for all who exercise power over others, that they may use it wisely and for the good of all.
5 Pray that through our words God's Word be known, and our lives be signs of His grace.	13 Pray that God will make you new in the Spirit of Jesus so that you can truly become the person you are meant to be.	21 Pray for our District, that our message remains coherent as we reach out to a greater community	29 Pray that our overflowing God will breathe the spirit of Jesus into you and all those who long for peace.
6 Pray that when you are feeling lost or lonely or afraid, God will be your guide, a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.	14 Pray that God will set you free; free to be yourself; free to help others.	22 Pray that God's breath cleanse and empowers us; God's strength leads us in times of temptation;	30 Pray that God redirect your life and the life of the world; that all may live in peace with each other.
7 Pray that, with God's help, you will be a good companion to those you meet.	15 Pray that God will help you see that the love you feel for those you love is from Him.	23 Pray that God's guidance helps us seek for alternatives; God's sensitivity makes us tread lightly on creation.	31 Pray for the whole Methodist Church as we share the Presidential theme this year - God's Table: An Invitation for All, and God's invitation is for every single one of us.
8 Praise God for his infinite goodness and ask him to help you pass on this good news to others.	16 Pray that our bountiful God will help you help others find their place at His table.	24 Pray that God will make the roof of our house wide enough for all opinions and our door opens easily to friend and stranger.	Proverbs 3:3-6 



## Obituaries

It was with great sadness that we learned of the deaths during summer of Rev Janet MacKinder, Margaret Watkinson and Rev Gordon Morton. All much loved and respected in the Circuit.

### Rev Janet Aileen Mackinder

#### Eulogy

Tuesday 2nd June 2021 at 1.10pm Lincoln crematorium

Our hearts are full – full of gratitude for the life and Ministry of Rev Janet we gather our minds together near and far –with our friends on the webcast. There are layers upon layers of gratitude for her this day. Janet’s dedication and generous service to friends and to the Methodist Church, she loved, was truly exceptional. She built reciprocal relationships, how many coffees and concerts you’ve shared dear friends and known she’d always be at the end of that phone? You’ve known that when she said “I will pray for you” this was not a platitude but a promise kept...

Janet did these things because she ‘abided’ in Him deeply, sincerely and with discipline which gave her resilience and courage even at her lowest ebb.

Faith planted, rooted, and nurtured in childhood. She was an evacuee child from the London Blitz her and her brother Brian and sister Vivien, moved from Bromley Common to picturesque Otford to live with an Aunt, whilst her father was in the RAF. At the Otford Brethren Mission Hall, aged 8, she made a choice to discover more about Jesus - what a journey you will discover she had from that day. From the day she was born on a Sunday in September 1935 to the day she died on the last Sunday in May this year her soulful life was challenged, provoked, and programmed by that ever-present Spirit’s call upon her life. A leader in her adolescence, prefect, and head girl at Swanley Secondary School she grows and flourish-

es. Leaving school at 15years old, Janet ventures into London’s fashionable Stores of Gorrings on Buckingham Palace Road and Walpole’s on New Bond Street- a talented seamstress and dresser to the genteel women- Janet is encouraged to stretch herself into office and organisational work-she acknowledge her indebtedness to managers who transformed her from a shy girl to a woman with confidence. Thus, fulfilling a sort of prophesy from when she was four, she received a box of chocolates via mum (after a severe bout of tonsillitis) and this card “the little girl who couldn’t find her tongue”-she kept this all her life through the kindness of others and God she finds her tongue!

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1952, age 17 she formally commits to becoming a Methodist member and all its expectations upon her life-yes 69 year a member. Increasingly independent, aged 21, she moves to Brixton and attends Brixton Hill Methodist Church. Her values and vision for her life were tremendously influenced by the Guides and rangers ‘promises’ particularly for the possibilities of serving in the wider community, indeed world. She starts a guide pack at Brixton Hill her self-confidence, self-reliance and self-possession are the embers that are fanned into flame. Then by the Spirit she/he soundly prompted this “little girl who couldn’t find her tongue”, aged 25 Janet candidates for the Wesleyan Deaconess Order. She passionately embraces her training at Ilkely Deaconess College. The subsequent 19years are fruitful and expansive. Her probation year was spent at Kingsway Hall with the redoubtable “Dr Soapbox” Lord Soper. In the Barnstaple circuit, in those four years she started two guiding groups and a wives groups all still active-here, she formally completed her Guiding Leadership qualification. In 1967, aged 32, Janet was accepted by the Methodist Missionary Society, then after only terms at Kingsmead Janet sailed to Sierra Leone in June 1968; only one month later, on the day of her Father’s funeral, – she collected her post at Freetown to discover this tragic news.

Her work with literacy amongst the girls and women was seminal and once again she set up Guiding groups amongst Muslim as well as Christian communities, the 1<sup>st</sup> Wilberforce Company. On her second tour she became the first female ‘resident’ chaplain at the Methodist Girls’ High School whose motto was Honour before Honours –how Janet embodied that motto. Her passion for Choral Music took her eventually from Freetown Choral Society to North Hykeham and Lincoln Choral Societies and oh how she enjoyed so much her singing and friendships in

both. After 8 years of overseas service, she returned to the UK in June 1976

Horsham became her next posting, and she started the 1<sup>st</sup> Roffey Guides and Brownie unit still active. Within those three years she sensed a call to Presbyteral Ministry and in 1979 aged 49 she makes two wonderful transformational choices. Yes to be one of those early female pioneer Presbyteral Ministers- but Janet marries to an equally dedicated Methodist and Local Preacher Charles 'Charlie' Mackinder she marries him on Wesley Day May 24<sup>th</sup> 1980 –together they become wonderful help mates to one another-Janet never claimed to be a preacher and I am sure Charles would have guided her when needed –but as one who shared Holy Communion in her presence, her genuine, attentive, considered grace as she shared the elements was profound. She believed Jesus was her vine and herself a branch of that vine. Two subsequent circuits were calling Castleford (now Aire and Calder) yes, she was in the midst of the Miners' strike that year March 84 – March 85 many in her six churches were affected directly and indirectly. Then to Castle Donnington (now New Forest East.) Her and Charles HAD TWENTY HAPPY YEARS eventually RETIRING TO North Hykeham. When I prayed with her in hospital she asked me, in her confusion, to pray with her and Charles - as if Charles was there and for them to be together -I 'teared up' but it was one of those lovely, privileged moments.

This evacuee child who was part of that massive wartime Operation called ironically and oddly "Pied Piper" -this 'little girl who couldn't find her tongue' became an empathetic "Pied-Piper figure' to hundreds if not thousands of young people in Guides. Our Rev Janet had losses to bear - she definitely found her tongue if she disapproved of a behaviour or action! However, her intentions were always for betterment of an action or situation. On one or two occasions I shared morning prayers with her – we'd talked about a common joy gardening-her compost tubs were given to Green Synergy Garden project. I learnt about bird spotting; I'd pick up a prayer shawl she had knitted and prayed over. John Wesley said, "**God grant that I may never live to be useless**" My goodness Janet, you were mightily useful in prayer and service all your days we thank God he gave the 'little girl her tongue' to pray, speak and act. **Amen Thank you God For Rev Janet Mackinder Amen.**

Rev Canon Alan Robson

## Margaret Watkinson

Margaret Green was born in Durham into a Methodist family on November 7<sup>th</sup> 1930. She was an only child, her mother had a difficult delivery and Margaret was nursed by an aunt all night. The midwife was surprised that she was still alive the next day. Margaret's father was a miner and her mother a tailor and seamstress.

Margaret committed her life to Jesus Christ at a young age and trained as a local preacher whilst still in her teens. Her tutor was Rev Kingsley Barrett who later became New Testament professor at Durham University.

She trained as a teacher, art being her main subject and throughout her life she taught reception class. Margaret loved children and looked forward each year to the new intake of small children who weren't able to sit still.

In 1951 David Watkinson was sent to her circuit for a precollegiate year. By the end of the year they were engaged. David trained as a Methodist Minister at Hartley Victoria College. They were married on August 18<sup>th</sup> 1955 when he had completed his training.

In whichever circuit they were stationed Margaret fully supported David and the local churches. The manse was always an open house for meals, hospitality, bible studies and fellowship. Margaret was always involved in youth work, taking youth groups away on holiday and to events such as 'Easter People'.

Margaret was a gifted artist especially in water colours. There are lovely portraits to be treasured of her grandchildren when they were small and many landscapes. She was an excellent seamstress making her own clothes for many years and her knitting skills were amazing.

Before she died Margaret wrote her testimony which was read at her funeral service. She wrote it around the hymn 'In Christ alone'. Margaret bore witness to the transforming love of God revealed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the New Life she experienced when she committed her life to Him.

Rev Jennie Henshall

### **Rev Gordon Morton**

Rev Gordon Morton, who was well-known in Lincoln North Circuit, passed away on the morning of Friday 6th August.

He, and his wife (a deacon), were particularly involved with Burton Road and Bailgate Methodist Churches.

Rev Neil Vickers  
Grimsby & Cleethorpes Circuit

Harvest thoughts originally prepared for Westbury Upon Trym

### **“A Generations worth of change within a Decade!”**

UK and global Agriculture are facing a perfect storm of challenges:

- The Climate emergency applies to all peoples their cultures, faiths, resources and industries not least agriculture and food in the UK.
- Restructuring of global trade agreements which also impacts movements of labour to facilitate production from field to fork. Shortages of women and men are already having damaging effects in Lincolnshire and other crop producing areas. There are significant shortages of European labour to harvest flowers and vegetables. This week Bakkavor Newark who make and supply cakes to Waitrose etc advertising for labour across Lincoln City this has not happened before.
- Already trading and retailing are in fewer centres of power, control and distribution. Note attempts to buy-out Morrison's and the failed alliance of Sainsbury and Asda UK—this shrinking of the market place requires a different ethical and value driven food system to protect workforces in the supply chain!
- In the UK a shift away from direct payments for farming land to support payments for 'public benefits' ie increase environment projects, access etc also modest payments to leave farming and few incentives for those who want enter farming. Andersons (consultants) estimate that the number of full-time UK farm businesses will drop from about 54,000 in 2020 to just

42,300 by 2030 – a fall of 11,700 or about 20%. Some other estimates are far more gloomy I personally think in some sectors ie beef it could be 40% decline and I think overall nearer 35%+

The food system globally is fractured, hugely wasteful and abusive and depletes rather than replenishes not just soils and water but communities too. Wider facts are, globally 33% of soils are moderately or highly degraded, 20% of world's aquifers are over exploited . Of the 1.2 billion people who work in agriculture 80% or 500million are smallholder farms. Mainly women on these small holdings produce half of the world's food they account for 43% of the global agricultural workforce. 60% of all children engaged in labour work in agriculture.

At the same time, land and agriculture as a whole can and potentially will be a major source of mitigating the worst effects of climate brokenness. It will require further 'joined up' thinking by the UK government and global leaders to ensure a just, ethical and value driven solutions.

A rethink of some of our theological premises to address issues that need to be rooted in gratitude rather than consuming—reclaiming Paradise on earth 'kin-dom' and community wholeness. In this past year I read a wonderful book by Robin Wall Kimmerer "Braiding Sweetgrass –indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants" . Within it she tells of an indigenous recitation that the children shared daily between them—dwelling in love and gratitude!

I quote the end of " We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it is not our inten-

tion to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way. And now our minds are one!

Dear friends time flies –issues abound and challenges are never ending but Love remains! Our privilege is to share in God's work of justice, courage and compassion wherever we are and whatever god's calling is upon our lives God bless you this Harvest Season. Amen

Rev Canon Alan J Robson MSc FRAgS FRSA – Lincolnshire Agricultural Chaplain



## Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address Greetings to the Natural World

### The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people. Now our minds are one.

### The Earth Mother

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks. Now our minds are one.

### **The Waters**

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms- waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water. Now our minds are one.

### **The Fish**

We turn our minds to all the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that we can still find pure water. So, we turn now to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks. Now our minds are one.

### **The Plants**

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come. Now our minds are one.

### **The Food Plants**

With one mind, we turn to honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans and berries have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them too. We gather all the Plant Foods together as one and send them a greeting of thanks. Now our minds are one.

### **The Medicine Herbs**

Now we turn to all the Medicine herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are happy there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these plants for heal-

ing. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the Medicines and to the keepers of the Medicines. Now our minds are one.

### **The Animals**

We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so. Now our minds are one

### **The Trees**

We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty and other useful things. Many people of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the Tree life. Now our minds are one.

### **The Birds**

We put our minds together as one and thank all the Birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them beautiful songs. Each day they remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader. To all the Birds-from the smallest to the largest-we send our joyful greetings and thanks. Now our minds are one.

### **The Four Winds**

We are all thankful to the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds. Now our minds are one.

## Environmental Concerns

At the moment there is so much news about climate change; so many communities are suffering – losing homes and livelihoods, some with wild fires, some with flooding and many with drought. The earth's temperature is rising because of carbon emissions and other emissions. As we prepare for COP26 (Conference of the Parties) which is to take place between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November in Glasgow our prayers are vital. The number 26 relates to the years since a treaty was signed in 1994 by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, but because of Covid it was delayed from 2020. COP21 took place in Paris in 2015 when for the first time the governments involved promised to keep global warming below 2 degrees and hopefully below 1.5 degrees. This was an important conference as it was the first time governments acknowledged that action needed to be taken. They agreed that every five years they would meet to ensure they were living up to this promise. Unfortunately the commitments made in Paris have not come close to keeping to the 1.5 degree rise in global warming. Countries are realising that the commitments made in Paris need to be more ambitious and urgent. We can see from our news programmes that it is critical that action is taken so pray for those involved, and those countries that have not signed up to the agreement, that all will commit to work to keep our planet healthy and safe but also “me in my small corner”! - we can all play our part. The Christina Rossetti quote has been used many times but is more relevant than ever:

**“Tread softly! All the earth is holy ground.”**

*Lord God, you made the world and declared it was very good. Yet we have not treated the earth and our fellow humans with the care and respect they deserve. We are sorry and ask for your forgiveness. Give us the courage to continue raising our voices about the climate emergency which affects most of all those living in poverty. May your Spirit of peace be in the hearts of all people so that conflicts end in peace and relationships are restored. Amen*

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 2021** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Wednesday, 10 November 2021. Any material received after this date will not be included in the December 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)