

# CIRCUIT NEWS

LINCOLN METHODIST 17/02

WINTER 2020

## Winter Prayer

Let us huddle together this morning,  
our community a place of warmth in our lives  
as we share the flame of hope and connection.  
Let us allow the frost of isolation and bitter-  
ness to melt away  
as we open ourselves to a sense of peace and  
spirit.

We extend our thoughts to all those who are  
cold this morning,  
lacking shelter or love to keep them warm.  
Let us wrap our prayers around them and each  
other like scarves,  
and wish each other safe journeys through the  
storm.

May we be insulated from fear as the earth is  
insulated by the snow,  
And, like bulbs, may we continue to grow and  
open inside, despite the cold,  
Ready for the spring, to stretch and grow to-  
wards justice.

Amen

© Rev. Kate Wilkinson ♦ Prayers ♦ Winter Prayer

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Candle of Hope

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 **March 2021** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Friday, 12 February 2021. Any material received after this date will not be included in the March edition.

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## Winter 2020



Dear friends

We are approaching one of the significant seasons in the Christian Calendar. A time when in the church we would follow Advent, maybe with a course or by lighting weekly candles. Finally arriving at Christmas celebrating the coming of Jesus to earth.

As I write this, we are in our second lockdown due to the coronavirus and we are not sure yet what we will be able to do during this season. The one thing I do know is that among the themes that we use to describe this season are still the same. 'Hope and light.'

I am really pleased Lincolnshire Methodist District has chosen the theme of light for a district wide initiative leading up to Christmas. Every church in our district is being asked to display the posters on their church noticeboards. It certainly is a message that needs to be heard especially at this time.

I have also heard people talking about hope too. There are hopes that we will be able to have some of our annual Christmas services, hopes that they will be able to meet with family and friends, hopes of sharing the Good News of the God story.

That first Christmas was full of complications too, having to travel for the census, no room in the inn and threats of death to name a few. but amid all this adversity, Jesus was born. It might serve as a reminder for us that no matter what we face we can still have hope and we can have light.

In Chapter 1 of St. John's Gospel we hear words spoken by John the Baptist:

*<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.*

The light he speaks of is Jesus. Through Jesus' life and ministry many lives were changed as he revealed the God who he called Father. His remit to his disciples to go into the world bring Good News to the people of the world.

It is in Jesus, 'The Light of the World' where real hope is found. We like John are not the light, but we may reflect some of its brightness into the lives of others as we seek to serve. They may also discover the light for themselves and rediscover the hope that Jesus brings into our world.

I really do pray that you can celebrate this wonderful event and that you will experience the light of Christ.

There is a lovely hymn in Singing the Faith number 174 called 'Light a candle in a darkened place. In verse two it says this:

In the darkness, see the coming light,  
Word of God speaks through the darkest night,  
keep a watch, the time is near,  
time for hope and not for fear,  
so let it burn.

May the light of Christ shine on you and your loved ones this Christmas and into the New Year.

Alan



# News from our Churches

## Central Church



Some of you may remember our September Circuit News, available 'on line', featured Navigation. We asked the Lord to help us ride out the storms of life during these changing and difficult times. Yes, He has kept us afloat, and despite our fears and anxieties we have been able to share our news with each other by the wonders of technology. Have you conquered Zoom yet?

We have adhered to the many restrictions placed upon us.

The theme for the December issue is "A NEW HOPE".

We have been blessed by that Hope at Central as our own Carole Sharpe conducted Central's Church Anniversary Service on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Carole related the opening of Portland Place Church in 1906 before becoming Central Methodist Church in 1962. Memories of so many folk who by their Hope for the future and their trust in the Lord enriched our lives and enabled us to serve the Lord by their example into today's world.

Today we are facing many challenges of a different kind. We have a new hope that the pandemic will be beaten and we can continue to serve God in ways that He deserves and brings ourselves new hope.

For those attending our church services with no singing, face covering and sitting apart but being together as our Church Family and ac-

knowledging each other with a smile or a wave enabled them to feel comfortable as all worshipped God together.

For others, New Hope keeps us going, encourages and supports us. It helps us to find new ways of serving and sharing God's love with others. It is always there for us to grasp.

Rev Margaret's message in our Newsletter gives us all New Hope, inviting us to adapt to the situation in which we find ourselves, encouraging and hopeful.

Food Bank each Thursday 10:30am to 1:00pm continues to serve those in need with the great help of Carolyne and Val.

Shoe Boxes As an area receiver 162 shoe boxes and 14 large boxes of knitted and miscellaneous goods have been sent to the "Link to Hope" appeal for which Rev Margaret and Val have coordinated the process and thank other churches and groups for their contribution.

We were able to hold our Church Council Meeting before the present Lockdown. David, our Church Treasurer, as with other churches, told us of the deficit we are facing owing to the many closures of events which help to support us.

We have A New Hope that Christmas Services will be held in perhaps a different form as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Carol singing on the church steps depending on the regulations.

Remember Pollyanna, who every day found something to be glad about.

Live hopefully. 🌟

We pray Lord that you will always give us a New Hope for our needs because you are the Hope and Light of the World.

## North Hykeham



North Hykeham Methodist Church send greetings to our circuit friends. We would like to say thank you to all involved in the streaming Services. They have been appreciated and kept us together. Of course, we were delighted to be back at worship in church, even for a short time. So different - missing the social side, but good to smile and keep in touch and see members. We will all be grateful when normality resumes. A member sent this.

**Helping Hands.** An elderly member of our church visited his home town to attend a funeral. He travelled by rail and whilst changing trains at one busy city station fell down the stairway onto the platform Those who came to his aid were Asians. A gentleman made sure no bones were broken, then an Indian lady and her daughter helped him to his train and found him a seat. If only this spirit existed throughout the world!



Keep safe and God Bless. Barbara

## Skellingthorpe



To coin a phrase....it's been a funny year!

As I write this we have just entered our second period of lock down but hopefully this will be easier than the last one as we have Christmas to focus on. The trick is to try and stay positive about the future and we have certainly been trying to do that at Skellingthorpe!

After much soul searching, a lot of prayer and an extra Church Council meeting it was agreed that we should go ahead with the planned refurbishment of the kitchen, toilet and lobby whilst the church was closed. We must thank the Circuit for their generosity in granting us funding towards the cost. This, together with other grants and donations from members and friends has been sufficient to cover the final bill and we shall have no need of the additional loan which was also

offered. Whilst it was hard work clearing out the (long forgotten!) detritus it was much more fun filling up the new cupboards with crockery washed in the new dishwasher. However, doing all this whilst wearing a mask was a challenge at times! I hope the photo can be printed so that you can see the transformation, we are really looking forward to being able to show off the new facilities. Rev David will certainly have a surprise on his return from sabbatical.



Whilst we haven't been able to meet at Chapel the Skellingthorpe Church family and friends have kept in touch and most have been able to watch the weekly Circuit services on line. Those who haven't been able to do this have been very appreciative of the printed services which Anne at the office has been sending out for delivery to them. We have learned that there are other meaningful ways to worship God and some of us might never have experienced them had we not been 'locked down'.

That said, we managed to hold our first service since on 1 November, just in time for the second lockdown. The congregation comprised of nine members, Rev Margaret Doughty led us, and she safely administered holy communion which she had prepared in the new kitchen. It was so good to be able to worship together again.

The Craft 4 Charity group, whilst not being able to meet, have been busily knitting and their efforts were passed on during the summer to a local Care Home and to the Baby's Basket charity, where they were gratefully received. The meeting we had planned during November can't happen now but we live in hope that we can get together in the New Year and that it will be possible to invite other groups into the building should the restrictions be relaxed sufficiently.

As we all start to think about a very different Christmas this year we are conscious of the hardship which will be experienced by many.

We're planning to support other churches in the area in their efforts to make it a more festive time than it might otherwise be by providing Christmas treats and supporting the Foodbank.

We look forward to celebrating the anniversary of Christ's birth in whatever way might be possible and meanwhile wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year full of hope.



Pat Robinson

## St Giles

We have continued to meet via Zoom, thanks to John Lawson, every morning to share concerns and pray for each other and for others in our church, community and the wider world.



We were doing so well with worship at church on Sunday mornings and fellowship groups of up to 6 people but the latest lockdown has brought that to a halt. Normal service will, hopefully, resume in December.

October saw the second anniversary of the Eden Project. What a success it has been, completely transforming the church into a vibrant hub in the local community. This was celebrated with a live service at St. Giles streamed out to the Circuit and beyond. This included interviews with members of the Eden team. It is still on Youtube if you missed it.

We are planning to hold our annual Christmas Tree Delights between December 9 and 12. This year it will be in the form of a treasure hunt where local schools, shops and churches will display decorated trees. Letters displayed at each location will form a Christmas related phrase with prizes for correct entries.

We welcomed Pearl Vout as a member of our church. Already a member of the Eden team she is a valuable and popular asset.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## Swallowbeck

After much preparation by our dedicated Property Stewards, Swallowbeck held services on alternate Sunday mornings from the beginning of September until the end of October and like all other Churches are now in 'lockdown' and waiting to see what happens at the beginning of December – despite the constant questioning on our TVs we all know that Christmas WILL happen.



Several of our members have been busy over the previous months - 15 shoeboxes along with knitted hats, scarves, gloves and over £110 in donations towards transport were delivered to Central.

Arlene Johnson has compiled a collection of "Sweet & Savoury Delights" recipes available for a suggested donation of £2 with the proceeds to go to St Barnabas Hospice.



# PRAYING TOGETHER

DECEMBER 2020 TO FEBRUARY 2021

<p>1 Pray that the Lord will open our eyes to see the gifts that He has given us in our life. Thank Him for loving us enough to come to earth and die so we can live together in harmony.</p>	<p>9 Pray that the Lord guides our Ministers as they strive to serve our Circuit in a Christ-like way.</p>	<p>17 Pray that as Jesus prayed and fasted, as His disciple, teach us about spiritual discipline in our relationship with our Lord; and enable to look with compassion at the needs of the world.</p>	<p>25 Pray that Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of His servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to Your truth.</p>
<p>2 O Lord Jesus Christ, as a child you were presented in the Temple and received with joy by Simeon and Anna as Redeemer of Israel: mercifully grant that we like them, may be guided by the Holy Spirit to acknowledge and love you until the end of our lives. Amen <i>(Church of South India)</i></p>	<p>10 Dear Lord. Your love protects. Help us to protect those we love by loving them. Your way is always best, Father. We pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.</p>	<p>18 Thank God for having created and loved us. We thank Him for His presence in us and in creation. May we learn to look upon the world as He looks upon it, with love. In the hope of this vision, may we be able to work for a world where justice and peace flourish, for the glory of His name.</p>	<p>26 Pray for the farmers in the area as they face challenging conditions and pressures within their work environment</p>
<p>3 Pray for all who are suffering and bereaved. At this time of sorrow, incomprehension and tragedy, we stand together. In this crisis, we pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them.</p>	<p>11 Pray that the Lord will help us not to compare ourselves to others around us, but instead keep our eye on Him and live a life that proclaims His excellence.</p>	<p>19 Pray for the leaders of our world; especially our own country. There is so much wrong; please help to bring peace and stability to all.</p>	<p>27 Pray that we may <b>Be the light in the darkness.</b> Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.</p>
<p>4 Pray that we can focus wholly on our Father in heaven, instead of worrying about the mess our world is in. Let us remember that He is our hope and solid rock on which to build the future.</p>	<p>12 Pray that the Lord will help us not to lean on our own understanding but in everything acknowledge Him so that He can direct our words, thoughts and actions.</p>	<p>20 Pray for the Circuit Administrators that they will be able to work to support the circuit so others are released into mission</p>	<p>28 Pray for children, that they may be kept safe from harm. Give them strength, to keep their faith in You, and keep alive their joy, In Your creation.</p>
<p>5 Let us give prayerful thanks for the Bible that equips and empowers us to live each day. God is our only Hope. Help us to remember that He really is in control.</p>	<p>13 Pray for all the unsung heroes who keep our country, and therefore our lives, running smoothly; especially refuse collectors, postmen, shopworkers, cleaners and myriad others who usually do not get a mention.</p>	<p>21 Pray for the homeless and charities that support them so that homelessness will be eradicated in Lincoln</p>	<p>29 Pray that we will recognise the signs and wonders of God around us</p>
<p>6 Pray for those who are involved in creative activities that they may show God's love through their work</p>	<p>14 Pray that our Radiant God fills us with light and courage to carry good news into all the corners of the world and to bring back the joy of His presence.</p>	<p>22 Pray for all members that cannot get to church these days because of age and/or poor health. Give them strength, courage and hope</p>	<p>30 Pray that God will break through the chains that hold us back from spreading the gospel message</p>
<p>7 Let us thank God for looking beyond our faults and for loving us unconditionally. In Jesus' Name, forgive us when we fail to love others in the same way.</p>	<p>15 Pray for Circuit Stewards that they will lead and manage the affairs of the circuit with wisdom and integrity.</p>	<p>23 Pray for our Emergency Services and all care workers who work tirelessly for our welfare</p>	<p>31 Pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.</p>
<p>8 Pray that the Lord gives us eyes to see the needs of the difficult people in our lives, and shows us how to meet those needs in a way that pleases Him.</p>	<p>16 Pray that our Lord help us to enjoy and give thanks for the bounty He provides for us, and remind us to share His gifts with others.</p>	<p>24 Pray for those who work to bring hope and restoration to the lives of the most vulnerable people in the community.</p>	

# Introducing—Rev Gyula Fiak

Hello Everyone in Lincoln Methodist Circuit!

This is your new minister Gyula [pronounce it like the month July but ending it with an “a” rather than that “y”] Fiak.

I am a Hungarian chap living in the UK for the last 10 years.

I do not have any family – I enjoy riding my bike and working out at my local gym when I can.



Counties of Hungary



Snowdon

When I have the chance I like big walks out in nature and visiting/ climbing areas like Snowdon or Scafell Pike. I love the SEA – I would travel hours in order to see it and smell its saltiness in the air – it has a therapeutic nature.

I do not drive so it has its disadvantage but it is on my bucket list to learn.

We have not had many encounters with each other yet though you will hear from me from time to time because



when I do the online circuit service then I will ask for your contributions as I love working in teams.



In the last couple of days, we had some good news concerning the pandemic: news about vaccines that are way above 90% effective and safe so there is hope at the end of the tunnel! 😊

You remember what Her Majesty said in her televised speech during the pandemic:

"We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."

Right now we do not know how things will go - what we do know is that we will hold each other in our prayer arms and support each other the way we can.

May I close this small introduction with the following quote:

"Best of all is God is with us, God will hold and never fail."

May God bless you all! Gyula ☺



Moggs Eye Beach, Lincolnshire

## Psalm 31:24

24 Be strong and take heart,  
all you who hope in the Lord.



# Christmas Activities

December 9th—12th	St Giles: Christmas Tree DeLights Treasure Hunt
December 13th	10:30am Monks Road Gift Service
December 20th	5:30pm Carols on the Doorstep
December 25th	<b>Christmas Day Services:</b> 10:00am St Columba's 10:30am St Giles



I Am the Light of the World  
John 8:12



## CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP



On Sunday 20th December at 5.30pm, Premier Christian Radio will pray 3 carols for communities to sing along to. There will be a carol sheet to download, and the idea is church folk can pop the carol sheet and an invitation through their neighbours doors in advance, suggesting they join them by coming out on their doorsteps at 5.30pm for some community carol singing. Hopefully this will be happening all over the country at the same time. It can happen whatever the lockdown situation or tier level. Something to bring a bit of fun and joy to our communities. People just need to tune into Premier radio on their radio, tv or other devices.

Please look out for more information on this over the next few weeks. We hope to have resources available from the Circuit Office (☎ 01522 525494, ✉ info@lincolnmethodist.org.uk) as well as sending out links to print off carol sheets and invites at home.





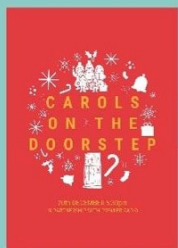
# \* CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP \*

\* SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER  
5:30 PM

Join us for a National carol sing on your doorstep with your neighbours.

It's so easy to join in....

- \*Download and print the Carol Sheet and invitation from [www.premierchristianradio.com](http://www.premierchristianradio.com). or [www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org](http://www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org)
- \*Pop them through your neighbours' doors inviting them to join you
- \*5:30pm on 20th December tune your radio to Premier Radio or Freeview 725 or download the Premier Radio app on your phone, then sing along to the Carols played. Why not wear your festive jumpers too and even bring out something to shake or rattle?



<https://www.facebook.com/CarolsOnTheDoorstep>



## Lighting up Welton Together



**Join our Living Advent Calendar** The idea is that volunteers from 24 houses in Welton will decorate and light up a window with festive decorations in December. One window is "opened" each day from 1st to 24th December. The aim is to have as much fun as possible and create a nice way to bring the community together. It isn't a competition, and we hope that people of all generations will want to get involved.



**Get creative!** To volunteer your window, please email Jane Foster-Smith at [jane@ideosync.com](mailto:jane@ideosync.com) or Ann Evans at [ajmevans@gmail.com](mailto:ajmevans@gmail.com) by 13th November or comment below. If we get lots of offers then we can have more than one house featured each day; the more the merrier!



**Enjoy the display** Once we have received volunteers, we will create a map of which houses will reveal their windows on which days, and share the map with the local community so that everyone in Welton can enjoy walking round the village spotting the houses taking part.

We all know that this Christmas is going to be unlike any other, so let's make it **memorable** in a positive way that brings **joy** to our **community**. Lighting up Welton Together

A Welton Churches Together community art project

The **first candle of the Advent Wreath** is the Candle of Hope. Hope is a light that can brighten a dark place. The first thing that Jesus is bringing is a hope to the world. Christ is bringing a hope of redemption from our sins.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

As we enter into this season of Christmas, please prepare our hearts and mind to receive the gift of your Son. Help us to take time to remember the reasons for our celebrations and to keep Christ in the centre.

Keep us from being so focused on the busyness of the season that we miss out on the story of hope that You have given us. Through the gift of Your Son, Jesus, we have a hope of eternal life. Help us, Lord to stay focused on that hope as we celebrate.

In things things we ask and pray,

Amen

<https://redemptionstouch.com/advent-candle-hope/>



Four candles slowly burned. The ambience was so soft one could almost hear them talking. The first candle said, "I am Peace. The world is so full of anger and fighting that nobody can keep me alight." Then the candle of peace went out completely.

The second candle said, "I am Faith. I am no longer indispensable. It does not make any sense that I stay awake one moment longer." Then a breeze softly blew out Faith's flame.

Sadly, the third candle began to speak, "I am Love. People don't understand my importance so they put me aside. They even forget to love nearest to them. I don't have the strength to stay alight." And waiting no longer the candle of Love went out.

A child entered the room where the candles were and saw that three of the candles were unlit. "Why are you not burning?" said the child. "You are supposed to stay alight until the very end." And the child was frightened and began to cry.

The fourth candle said, "Don't be afraid. **I am Hope**, and while I am burning we can re-light the other candles."

With shining eyes, the child took the **candle of Hope** and lit the other candles.

The greatest of these is Love. But the **flame of Hope** should never go out from your life. **With hope**, each of us can have a life with Peace, Faith and Love.

<https://www.poeticexpressions.co.uk/candle-of-hope/>

