

# Circuit News

Lincoln Methodist 17/02



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## Isaiah 40:3-8

*New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised*

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

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 **Spring 2023** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Wednesday, **8 February 2023**. Any material received after this date will not be included in the March edition.

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## Journeys



I have been following the news reports about migrants arriving on our shores. Almost 40,000 people have crossed the Channel in small boats so far in 2022. This is the highest number since these figures began to be collected in 2018. In 2021, the total was 28,526 people, while in 2020 it was 8,404. In recent weeks the government have been under pressure over how people reaching our shores are treated. The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (Article 14), states that everyone has the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution in other countries. We need to continue to pray for this situation and that it might be resolved.

We all make journeys in our lifetime. Some of those journeys are easy; others not so easy. I dare say that over the Christmas period many of you will make journeys to see family and friends or they might come to see you.

The story of Christmas includes a journey. The one that Mary and Joseph made under orders from the Government who declared everyone must travel to their place of birth. It is during this journey that Mary heavily pregnant and Joseph find themselves without accommodation and everywhere seems to be full to overflowing. After much searching they were offered a room, a stable to rest in. It was in this place that Jesus was born.

Once again in our churches we will tell the story of that first Christmas and be reminded of who Jesus is and why he needed to come. Humankind had become corrupt and distanced from God and God's kingdom values. Jesus was sent to teach us how to live lives of love for God and neighbour and ultimately reconcile

us to God. This would make it possible for us to make a new start. We have an opportunity to share the message once again, but the work will continue beyond Christmas. I love these words:

When the song of the angels is stilled  
When the star in the sky is gone  
When the Kings and princes are home  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost  
To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry  
To release the prisoner  
To rebuild the nations  
To bring peace among the people  
To make music in the heart.

(Howard Thurman)

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you, may you experience that love of God in your life and may you share that love with those you know and love and the stranger you encounter on the way.

*God Bless*

*Rev Alan*



**A very warm welcome to our new Minister,  
Rev Juliet Wriglesworth and her daughter,  
Rebecca.**

Dear Friends,

We are settling in to Lincoln and enjoying getting to know you all as we travel around the circuit. We want to say 'Thank You' for the warm welcome we are continuing to receive and for the wonderful home that has been prepared for us. If you were at our Welcome Service, you will know that my parents were born in Hull and we often travelled through Lincoln to visit our grandparents as I grew up in Canterbury, Kent. 3 of my grandparents were members of Derringham Methodist Church in Hull. I used to help my granddad give out the hymn books.

I was born in Altrincham, Cheshire and lived in Hazel Grove for the first 6 years of my life. Then we moved to a small village outside Canterbury. I have 2 brothers, Andrew and Nick and a sister, Helen. We were involved at St Peter's Methodist Church in Canterbury. From school, I went to North Riding Teacher Training College to begin a 4-year teaching degree. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year was spent at Leeds University. It was whilst I was there that I made the decision to transfer and I completed a degree in Theology and Religious Studies.

After a gap year, I went to work in a Children's Home in Peterborough. I started attending Dogsthorpe Methodist Church and it was within my church family there that my inherited faith grew to a living faith. After 2 years, I was supported to complete my Diploma in Social Work. I returned to the Children's Home and 18 months later, I was seconded for 6 months to work in the Looked After Children's Team. Towards the end of that time, I sensed that God was calling me to something else.

In 2000, I served as the leader of a 'Seed Team Mission' at Gravesend Methodist Church. It was part of the work of the Methodist Minister, Rev Rob Frost. I then applied for Foundation Training and was sent to study at the Wesley Study Centre in Durham. I discerned a call to presbyteral ministry, which was confirmed by the Methodist Church. I have served in the Runcorn Circuit, the Lancaster Circuit, and the Newcastle West Circuit. Five years ago, I was approved as an Adoptive parent and Rebecca and I became mum and daughter on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018. This photo was taken on our 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are definitely God's gift to each other.



# News from our Churches



## Bailgate Luncheon Club



Today Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Bailgate Church celebrated 40 years of serving lunch on Tuesday.

The original purpose was to serve dinners to elderly members of the church and community who would otherwise always eat alone.

On 17<sup>th</sup> November 1981 an initial meeting was held to discuss the possibility of holding a weekly Luncheon Club at Bailgate Methodist church.

They would need the kitchen to be fitted out. Cookers, freezer, fridge, trolley, pans, cutlery, china and serviettes, cooking equipment etc. The more it was discussed the more things they realised would be needed and other agencies involved, such as electricity and gas board, plumbers and electricians, insurance etc. They would need to contact as many people as possible for financial help and draw up a list of people who would benefit from the dinners. No cellphones or internet then, all houses in the area were 'letterboxed'.

- ◇ Lunches would cost 80 pence, soup an extra 10p and a taxi service 10p.
- ◇ No smoking would be allowed.
- ◇ Environmental Health would need to check.
- ◇ Need a waste bin and a good butcher.
- ◇ Need to avoid other club days.

Between them they arranged to write letters to benefactors, circuit prayer fellowships, Bible study groups, Newsletter and Messenger.

Throughout November of that year the hard work continued. Enquiries were made for various equipment and lists of people drawn up of those who would like to attend. Close co-operation was formed between Bailgate and Care of the Elderly. At the end of the month a plan was drawn up for the Kitchen.

As time went on more and more people were co-opted to help for advice and to source equipment. At that time several schools had stopped doing hot dinners for children and a company was traced at Nottingham that had cookers and kitchen equipment from schools in Lincoln. Much of the equipment was bought from them at a cost of £40, and most of it is still in use today. A member found a stall at Lincoln Market that sold cutlery and china. Donations came from various benefactors and fund-raising activities included coffee mornings and jumble sale.

On 8<sup>th</sup> February the Church Council voted unanimously to allow the Luncheon Club to go ahead but without financial help from the church; the Luncheon Club would pay for its own gas and heating.

Throughout the following month work continued to source equipment.

May 1982 the Church Council gave approval for units in the kitchen, but not wall units working with Michael Hildred and the property committee.

July 1982 the names of possible people going to attend and a list of volunteers willing to help was drawn up.

Finally on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1982 the first meal of the Bailgate Luncheon Club was served.



Brisket, Yorkshire puddings, mashed potato, carrots and cauliflower, followed by apple crumble and custard. There were 38 clients at that initial lunch and it has not stopped since!!



## Navenby

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





## Monks Road

Monks Road is opening from Friday, 4th November, between 9 and 11am as a Warm Space. We shall open each Friday after that until the end of February. We are thankful to have just had installed a new heating system which will be more economical and definitely warmer. The older part of the church was opened in 1914 so you can imagine how clogged up the pipework was! Thank you to the circuit for the grant that has helped us go ahead with this project.



A family Christmas Crafts morning will be held on Saturday, 10 December between 10.30am and noon when we hope to welcome families that have come to Messy Church and our other community events over the past few years.

Our annual Folk Carol service will be held on Sunday, 18 December, at 3pm to which everyone is invited. We wish you all a blessed and happy Christmas.

## North Hykeham

North Hykeham would like to thank Rev Alan Robson and the local preachers who have taken services this quarter. We are also so grateful to our own Worship leaders who have taken uplifting service at very short notice (due to illness). We have excellent congregations.



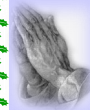
Our Harvest festival was a special service led by Rev Alan. We donated goods to the food bank and had a tearing collection for 'All We Can'.

The next few weeks we will continue with our food gifts and a retiring collection for the Agricultural Chaplaincy.



Our church Family notice board has been updated and Irene Shinn has kindly taken update photographs. The old ones and deceased are in a Book of Remembrance.

An elderly member lost his keys to his home. He locked up every night then hung the keys on the clothes rack in the hall. On this morning they were not there. He searched the house high and low – pockets, clothes etc. Nothing. He was locked in! What was to be done? In utter despair he asked God for help, and soon he found his keys. Sometimes in life we lose the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven - love, compassion graciousness. If this happens, we must ask God for help, and He will surely respond. All will be well. Barbara



## Welton and Dunholme

We welcomed Rev. Alan Robson to Welton at the end of September and much appreciated his very interesting and thought-provoking message as he led our harvest festival. After an auction of the fresh fruit and vegetables we enjoyed a hot lunch prepared by Linda McCree and helpers. Tins and packets went to the Welton larder.



A week later, several members of the congregation shared a Churches Together harvest celebration in the village hall. It included worship, a sketch, and a talk from Terry Rumble of Scampton who is taking aid to Ukraine. Several people are now filling Christ-

mas shoeboxes for children in an orphanage to which he will be taking goods at the end of November.

We are delighted to have welcomed two couples into membership by transfer. We plan to deliver leaflets with details of our Christmas services to all the new housing in the village and to as many other houses as possible.

Details of our Christmas services and events are in the plan and we would be very pleased to welcome friends from across the circuit to join us at any of these.

We wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



### Swallowbeck

By the time you are reading this we will have held a Country Mile Coffee Morning in support of Rev Alan Robson and future Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy.

Our bible study group has been following Peter Greig's 'Unanswered Prayer' course via zoom to be followed by a five week course 'Eat, Pray, Share' as our Advent course. Our Sunday services during Advent will have the theme 'There is Room'.

As usual, our December Lunch Club will be a traditional Christmas lunch followed by entertainment.

Lindum Ladies Choir will be presenting a Christmas Concert on Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm to which all are invited. They will be accompanied by Simon Clarke, one of our church organists.



## PRAYING TOGETHER

1) Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom and Word of God, dwell in our hearts, we pray, by your most Holy Spirit, that out of the abundance of our hearts, our mouths may speak your praise. Amen.

*Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

7) To you we come, O wisdom without end. In you we rest, O mercy without limit. Only in you are we fully alive. Only in your light can we truly see. Only in your strength are we safe to pursue our way. Amen.

*Mechtild of Magdeburg (1210-1280)*

2) Longing for you O Lord, we are crowned with love. Seeing you we are filled with joy. Resting in you we do not stumble. Persevering with you we enter your presence.

*Persian Christian Martyrs (c. 344)*

8) Keep us, O Lover of all, under the strength of your protection and enfold us within the eternity of your kingdom; for in you is our hope and to you we give all praise and glory; now and for ever. Amen.

*Macarius of Egypt (c.300-c.390)*

3) Help us, O Christ, to seek your truth and bear it; to learn your truth and love it, to tell your truth and live it, and to defend your truth and die in it. Amen.

*Based on words of Jan Huss (c.1369-1415)*

9) Be to us, O Christ, sharer of our sorrows and companion on our journey. Be light for our ignorance and remedy for our weakness. As you have been as we are, may we become as you are; for your mercy's sake. Amen.

*Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)*

4) Let us prefer your presence, O God, to all other company. Let us praise your name above all other names and let us love your will beyond all other desiring; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)*

10) We place ourselves in your hands, O God. We lay everything on your altar. We take nothing back and we yield all things to your glory; now and forever. Amen.

*Mary Slessor (1848-1918)*

5) Blessed be your cross, O Lord, the refuge of the lost, the hope of the believer and the resurrection of the dead. Blessed by your cross, O Lord, the strength of the weak, the physician of the sick and the freedom of the slave. Blessed be your cross, O Lord, now and forever. Amen.

*From a 10<sup>th</sup>-century African Hymn*

11) You alone do we seek, O God, and you alone do we desire. For you alone do we long and for you alone do we hunger and thirst. And where you are, is heaven.

*Sadhu Sundar Singh, Indian mystic and evangelist (written 1922)*

6) Open our eyes, O God, to behold your presence round about us. Let us be anxious for nothing, save the doing of your will and the assurance that all things are possible to us in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Richard Meux Benson (1824-1915)*

12) Grant us your help, O God, that whatever by the teaching of your Holy Spirit we know to be our duty, we may by your grace be enabled to accomplish; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*William Bright (1824-1901)*

## PRAYING TOGETHER

<p>13) Forgive us, Lord, when we listen, but do not hear; when we look, but do not see; and when we feel, but do not act. Draw us by your grace into the righteous deeds of your kingdom and your reign of justice and peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CMaria Hare (1798-1870)</i></p>	<p>18) All creation rejoices in your presence, O God. The sun sings your praise. The moon gives you glory. The stars proclaim your presence. The angels worship your God-head and all humanity offers you its blessing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Orthodox Blessing</i></p>
<p>14) Faithful God, source of all our aspirations and ground of all our believing; let us risk everything in the service of your kingdom and trust all things to the strength of your Holy Spirit; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Samuel Azariah of Dornakal (written 1920)</i></p>	<p>19) O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into our hearts and there transform us until we are fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed within us. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Elizabeth of Schonau (d. 1184)</i></p>
<p>15) Come, O Christ the Light, and lead us. Come, O Christ the Life, and revive us. Come, O Christ the Physician and heal us. Come, O Christ, the Fire Divine, and kindle in our hearts the flame of your love. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dimitri of Rostov (1651-1709)</i></p>	<p>20) Our hope is in you, O God, our help in every time of trouble; our strength in every moment of our temptation and our mercy in every hour of judgement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>A Nigerian prayer (traditional)</i></p>
<p>16) Through your love, O Lord, all your works have begun. By your love you sustain them and in your love our life is everlasting. So let the beginning and ending of all our loving be to see you, O God, for ever and ever. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Julian of Norwich (c.1343-c.1417)</i></p>	<p>21) Fill our hearts with your grace, O Lord, our souls with your love and our lives with your glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dwight L Moody (1837-99)</i></p>
<p>17) Accept the hearts that lie open before you, O God most glorious. Receive the prayers of those who come to you in penitence, O God most loving. Pardon the sins of those who come seeking your forgiveness, O God most holy. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Prayer of a Kenyan Christian (traditional)</i></p>	<p>22) Come, love of the Lord Jesus and demand everything from us. Come, presence of the Lord Jesus and transform everything around us. Come, breath of the Lord Jesus and heal everything within us. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Based on a woman's prayer of Australia's First People</i></p>

## PRAYING TOGETHER

<p>23) May the cross of the Son of God, mightier than all the powers of evil, bless our going out and our coming in, deliver us from all temptation and unruly passion, and the God of all grace bless us, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Traditional Indian liturgy</i></p>	<p>28) Love of the heart of Jesus, inflame us; strength of the heart of Jesus, uphold us; wisdom of the heart of Jesus, teach us; zeal of the heart of Jesus, consume us, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Saint John Eudes (1601-1680)</i></p>
<p>24) The heavens are telling your glory, O God, the Earth your power, the sea your might and all the hosts of heaven proclaim your greatness; to you belongs all honour, majesty and praise; both now and to the ages of ages. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Liturgy of Saint James (5<sup>th</sup> century)</i></p>	<p>29) Send forth the Spirit of your Son, O God, into our longing heart, that governed by your love alone, from you we never more may part. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Charles Wesley (1707-1788)</i></p>
<p>25) O high and lofty One, creator of the universe, infinite in perfection, wisdom, goodness and truth; in you alone is our truest pleasure, our greatest happiness and our final glory.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Susanna Wesley (1669-1742)</i></p>	<p>30) Day by day, O God, we praise you, feel you near and prove your faithfulness. Daily we long to live according to your word, daily to know you as all in all.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mary Bosanquet, Methodist Preacher (1739-1815)</i></p>
<p>26) Lord, to whom shall we go for you have the words of eternal life? You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. You know everything and you know that we love you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Based on Confessions of Peter the Apostle (1<sup>st</sup> century AD)</i></p>	<p>31) Let your good spirit watch over us, O Lord, your love ever rule in our heart and your mercy and forgiveness ever keep us in body, mind and soul. Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>John Wesley (1703-1791)</i></p>
<p>27) Let our souls rejoice in your power, O God, and our hearts in your love. As our mouths are filled with your praise, may our lives testify to your grace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Sarah Crosby, Methodist Preacher (1729-1804)</i></p>	

## Calendar Dates - Dec 22 to Feb 23

Wednesday	Dec 21, 2022	Shortest Day
Sunday	Dec 25, 2022	CHRISTMAS DAY
Monday	Dec 26, 2022	BOXING DAY
Tuesday	Dec 27, 2022	Bank Holiday
Sunday	Jan 1, 2023	New Year's Day
Monday	Jan 2, 2023	Bank Holiday
Thursday	Jan 5, 2023	Twelfth Night
Friday	Jan 6, 2023	Epiphany
Tuesday	Feb 14, 2023	Valentine's Day
Tuesday	Feb 21, 2023	Carnival / Shrove Tuesday /
Wednesday	Feb 22, 2023	Carnival / Ash Wednesday
Wednesday	Mar 1, 2023	St. David's Day
Friday	Mar 17, 2023	St Patrick's Day
Sunday	Mar 19, 2023	Mothering Sunday
Monday	Mar 20, 2023	March Equinox

**St Columba's** invite you to join them for Tea and Cakes (or coffee, if you prefer) on Tuesday afternoons, 2pm—4pm.

£2:00 for a cuppa and a piece of cake.

Enjoy a chat with new and old friends in friendly surroundings.

Our next Community Lunch will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 12:30pm. Cost £6  
Please contact Nicole Bond to book your place.  
[a.c.bond@btinternet.com](mailto:a.c.bond@btinternet.com),  
phone 01522 536034

## Stones Place



We have a new addition to Stones Place "Little Miss Daisey" the dog. Settling in quite well with lots of cuddles from the residents and staff. The children from "Caterpillar Music Newark Intergenerational" group are back visiting us on a Tuesday morning for a sing song and a hug. Lots of fun, smiles, and laughter.

We had our first trip out of the home since lockdown in September. A visit to Wolds Wildlife Park where we saw so many beautiful animals on wonderful sunny day. it was great to be out in the fresh air and eat our packed lunch together outside.

Our Harvest Festival came, and we decorated our home with autumn attire. We held our usual Harvest Service but this time we invited Mary Brown from Lincoln Food Bank to talk to us about the fantastic work that goes on there. We had been collecting food for the food bank and a sizable donation was given.

On a lighter note, we celebrated "Talk like a pirate day" Staff dressed up as pirates and Davey Jones fish pie was on the menu for lunch followed by chocolate treasure fudge cake and plenty of chocolate coins to share.

We had a surprise party for chaplain Geoff as he turned sixty! A lovely surprise with balloons, a cake and the lovely residents, staff, and volunteers in attendance. One of the residents commented that he had another forty-two years to go to catch her up.

If you want to see all the goings on at Stones Place you can follow us on our "Facebook" page and join in the fun.

Geoff Gilbert





## 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. In fact, this was used when the Army came to do a presentation and demonstration to the Scouts in October.

Rev Juliet Wriglesworth has now settled in and is taking part in many of the events at the church. On Wednesdays she takes part in Bible Study and then chats to lots of people at our Coffee Morning. She preached at our quarterly joint service with our friends at the Parish church using slides to compare Zacchaeus the tax collector with Gru from Despicable Me both characters that Jesus came to save.

We are having our Christmas Tree Delights on December 9 to 11 with lot of trees set up by local groups and organisations together with stalls and refreshments. We will be entertained by the Lindum Ladies Choir on the Saturday evening and the event culminates with a Carol Service on Sunday Morning.

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.



## Skellingthorpe



What a difference twelve months makes! Having just read last November's contribution I am reminded how challenging things still were following COVID. Whilst still being wary we now seem to be learning to live with the virus and many of us feel more confident having had our autumn vaccination booster.

We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a coffee morning in aid of one of her charities – the Queen's Green Canopy Appeal – and raised over £180 on the morning. We are in discussion with the Parish Council about planting a tree within the village for the enjoyment of residents. On a windy, but bright and sunny day at the end of June we replaced our Sunday service with a stand at the village gala where we provided children's games and gift bags and offered the adults a gift bag too upon the completion of a simple questionnaire on village and chapel facilities. The answers were encouraging, at least everyone knows where the chapel is and most people had been inside! It was a very successful afternoon.

We have not yet returned to weekly Sunday services but the pattern of alternate morning and afternoon services seems to work, providing the opportunity for some of our local preachers to come and worship themselves. We would like to provide the opportunity for weekly worship but human resources are for the moment well stretched. However, Rev David is using the monthly coffee mornings as an opportunity for outreach by having a short prayer slot and this has been much appreciated by those attending. In the new year we shall be inviting those organisations who hire the premises to arrange one of the coffee mornings for a charity of their choice.

As our response to the appeal to provide 'warm spaces' we have extended the hours of both the Craft and Craft 4 Charity (shortly to be re-named Chapel Craft & Chat) groups in the hope of making them more accessible. Both groups are to be more relaxed in future so more use can be made of our refurbished kitchen!

We recently welcomed one of our regular congregation into membership of the Methodist Church at an afternoon service led by Rev David who put said member completely at ease! It was a lovely occasion followed by much chat over a cuppa.

After three years of absence due to COVID our Christmas celebrations will start with the popular 'Coffee and Carols by Candlelight' evening hosted by the Craft Group. We hope to fill the schoolroom and have an enjoyable evening but will probably have to open the windows this year!

Hopefully you will read this before Christmas but by way of advertising.....there will be a coffee morning with a seasonal flavour on Saturday 3 December, Coffee and Carols by Candlelight is on Tuesday 6 December at 7.00pm and our annual more traditional Carol Service is on Sunday 18 December at 3.00pm.

We thank the Lord that we can still worship at Skellingthorpe Methodist Church and from there we wish you all a wonderful Christmas.

## Washingborough



Advent is upon us already and Christmas approaches – always a busy time for our Churches. This year Rev Jennifer is leading an Advent Course on six Wednesday evenings at 7pm starting 23<sup>rd</sup>

November and finishing on 4<sup>th</sup> January with the exception of 28<sup>th</sup> December. The course is based on the book “At Home in Advent”.

In the run up to Christmas we are undertaking a few Carol Singing sessions in our local community joined by some members of our local Anglican Community and ‘Blokes Who Sing’. In addition, ‘Blokes Who Sing’ will be holding a Charity Christmas concert in chapel at 10.45am on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December with proceeds going to the Nomad Trust. There will be an extra Coffee Morning that day from 10am.

Our monthly “Worship for All Services” led by Sandy & Ralph Osgerby are proving very popular – dates can be found in the new Circuit Plan.

We are hoping to join the “Warm Spaces” initiative by using our twice monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings as a starting point.

Recently Thursdays at 2pm has seen Rev Jennifer lead several sessions on the “Talk Jesus” course.

We entertained a number of classes from our local Primary School (Washingborough Academy) in September and October. The children always ask such interesting questions.

Our joint Harvest Festival service with St Johns proved very successful.

Recently our monthly Prayer Group re-instated the practice of using a Prayer Tree which we put in Church on a Sunday morning but display it in our entrance hall in the week.

Now Covid fears are receding we have had more enquiries from various groups and individuals about use of our premises, and where possible we have tried to accommodate their needs to allow wider use of our building by the community.

Like many Churches we continue to struggle to find volunteers to fill key roles. Our October Church Council meeting spent some time thinking about options for the way forward.

Finally, our Gospel Singing group continues to meet twice a month on a Monday morning at 10am. All welcome if you enjoy singing gospel music,

Keith Swann

## Testimony

Hi, I'm Wendy Thompson and I am senior steward at Burton Road Methodist church. I have been at Burton Road for quite some time now; 23 years and really feel that it is a family to me.



I started life as a Christian in the Baptist church where we went as a family for a long period of time and Mark and myself got married there in 1998.

My Grandad Mackinder (my mum's dad) and their family came to Burton Road when they moved to Lincoln and so this church has always been part of me. Grandad was a local preacher for over 76 years and mum and dad got married here back in the day. They have recently celebrated 52 years of wedded bliss.

When grandad died, I had a calling to start my local preacher training and spoke to Rev Ian Brown who was our minister at the time. I was then offered, at work, the chance to do my degree in health care studies with the Open University. Not being very academic, I just couldn't do both courses so I dropped out of the local preaching course to concentrate on my nursing degree.

Last year my dearly loved Aunty Janet passed away. Janet married my Grandad after Grandma had died and was a Methodist minister. We all loved Aunty Janet; she really looked after Grandad and gave him the life that he needed and someone to look after him in his later years until he passed away at the age of 96.

Aunty Janet and myself often spoke about preaching and I have been thinking about it a lot since. Just recently I have been talking to God about what I am going to do with my life as I have a back injury from work and haven't been there since last November. I felt that God was saying that this would be a good time to get on the band wagon and start my local preaching once again. I have plenty of time to study and rest and I know that I have support from my mentor Geoff Gilbert and family and close friends who know that I am doing this. I will eventually be able to understand most of what I read or hear about Methodist traditions or the history of it as I do get confused about some things ☺

Aunty Janet left me a silver cross and chain that she used to wear when leading services and you'll see me wearing it once I get out there preaching in all the fantastic churches that we have in our

circuit. What a symbol of the Lord she left me - an empty cross, because our Lord is alive and lives in you and in me.

If you see me around, please do come and say 'Hi'. I am a friendly person and love a chat and a cuppa if offered!!

God Bless Wendy X



### Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal Christmas 2022



This year there has been an amazing response to the Shoebox Appeal far exceeding previous years.

It is the third year that Central has acted as an Area Hub and collected in shoeboxes from a variety of churches and organisations - Community of St Francis, Metheringham; St Michaels, Waddingham; Swallowbeck Methodist; Nettleham Methodist; Nettleham Craft Group; Riverside Church Sleaford; LSST, Lincoln; Moorland Methodist; Christ Church, Grantham and Central Methodist.

The grand total is 305 shoeboxes and 16 boxes of various sizes containing masses of hand knitted articles and other donated items.

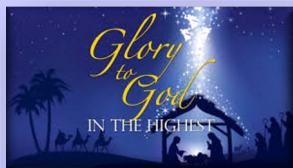
We send a big thankyou to everyone for your generosity at a time when finances are tight.

Val





Church	Time	Minister
Bailgate	10:30	Rev J Wriglesworth
Central	10:00	Rev M Doughty
Cherry Willingham	10:30	United Service at CofE
Monks Road	10:30	Rev T Nowell
Moorland Park	08:00	Rev D Lawton (HC)
Navenby	10:00	Rev D Lawton
Nettleham	10:30	Rev A Swann
Reepham	18:30	Rev J Matthews
St Giles	09:30	Rev J Wriglesworth
Swallowbeck	10:00	Rev Canon A Robson
Welton & Dunholme	09:30	Rev A Swann



## THE COVENANT SERVICE

- renewing our promises to follow Jesus

Church	Time	Minister
<b>1st January 2023</b>		
Central	10:30	Rev M Doughty
North Hykeham	10:45	Rev Canon A Robson
<b>8th January 2023</b>		
Bailgate	10:30	Rev J Wriglesworth
Nettleham	10:30	Rev A Swann
Reepham	16:00	Rev J Matthews
Swallowbeck	10:30	Rev Canon A Robson
Washingborough	10:30	Rev J Matthews
<b>15th January 2023</b>		
Cherry Willingham	10:30	Rev J Matthews
Moorland Park	10:30	Rev D Lawton
St Columba's	11:00	Rev M Roe
St Giles	10:30	Rev J Wriglesworth
Welton & Dunholme	10:30	Rev A Swann
<b>22nd January 2023</b>		
Burton Road	10:30	Rev J Wriglesworth
Navenby	10:00	Rev D Lawton
Skellingthorpe	15:00	Rev D Lawton
<b>5th February 2023</b>		
Scothern	10:30	Rev A Swann