

The **Methodist** Church
Loughborough Circuit



Circuit Link

Summer/Autumn 2024



Pastoral Letter

I read this recently and it made me think and smile.

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-three students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt. Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Mums freely brushed away tears. (Many parents and students will identify with these feelings).

This class would not pray during the commencements - not by choice but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it. The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. The speeches were nice, but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation. A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then he delivered his speech.

An astounding ---SNEEZE!

The rest of the students rose immediately to their feet, and in unison they said, "GOD BLESS YOU."

The audience exploded into applause. The graduating class found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval.

And I say God Bless him and Amen!

In God We Trust, United We Stand.

May we in the days ahead stand together and bless God who blesses each one of us daily out of the abundance of his grace and love. At this point I want to say Thank You. You have made me welcome since I moved to the circuit last August. It's good to be here.

I'm still getting used to being a Supernumerary Minister and look forward to getting to know you better in the days ahead.

With my thoughts and prayers

Rev Pat Olivent-Hayes



Circuit Chaplaincy

Dear friends,

I am really excited to tell you about a new initiative that we are launching in September. We are commissioning Karen Ette to be our first Circuit Chaplain.

What is Chaplaincy: 'Chaplaincy is about being available to others in the places they gather: in workplaces, and leisure spaces; in centres of learning and communities of healing; in the varied places people go about their lives outside of church. You will often find chaplains at the heart of communities, but often on the edges too. Chaplaincy is rooted in real life: being present with others in good times and bad – bringing love, hope, understanding and peace. Chaplaincy is about getting on people's level and walking alongside them, for a short while or over many years. Not only that, but chaplaincy looks different in different places; that is the beauty of this responsive ministry, it reacts to people and places' (taken from Chaplaincy Everywhere: Session 1).

As you can see every chaplain is different. Karen will be providing pastoral care to people's homes at the request of their Minister or Local Lay Pastor, for the whole circuit. In other words, she represents them. As an experienced university chaplain, we feel Karen has the experience to listen and care for those she visits.

In the coming year we intend to run the Chaplaincy Everywhere Course, and commission more Circuit Chaplains, to lots of different contexts. If you are interested, please take a sneaky peek at the course using the link below:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/chaplaincy/chaplaincy-everywhere/>

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Every blessing,

Rev Karen

Superintendent Minister - Loughborough Circuit

Exploring the Peak District differently

We have just returned from a wonderful walk in the Peak District, where we were able to stay overnight at various Methodist chapels. We first heard about the 'Peak Wesley Way' last year when we picked up a leaflet in the refreshment tent at Chatsworth Country Fair. The 'Peak Wesley Way' is Church, but moving with the times, offering a welcome and being inclusive. Heather and Sheila had the inspiration. Many might call it a 'Vision.'

It's taken several years of hard grind to come to fruition but there's a web site and bookings are now being taken for summer 2024 and beyond. We can thoroughly recommend. Choose any day you like to start. Walk as a couple or in a small group of up to six. You will have sole use of the accommodation whilst you are there.

You will receive a guide book that not only explains the route but which gives a thought for the day and so on. All is linked to the countryside and the villages that you walk between. There is a link with the past and hope for the future.

Described as a Pilgrimage it is open to people of all faiths and none. Those looking for escape, those looking for peace, those looking for faith and those looking for adventure.

The walk starts from Matlock railway station. We left Loughborough on the 7.53 train. After a change at Derby, we were walking by 9.20am. Physically the first day is the hardest with a steady climb, via Bonsall to Yowlgrave. We also stayed at chapels in Great Longstone, Baslow, Hathersage and Castleton. A couple of these are still open for services.

All chapels that provide accommodation have camp beds, a toilet and shower, microwave, and toaster, teabags, biscuits and fruit. We let ourselves in via a keypad, but often had a welcome by a local resident as well. A list is given of the opening times of local shops and pubs.

Our final place of reflection was sitting in the sunshine outside Barber Booth

chapel in Edale.

The walk is about 50 miles. We carried our own bags but a bag carrying service may be available in the future.

At Edale we learnt how Barber Booth chapel was first opened in 1811 to welcome drovers coming over the hills. After all these years, what a fantastic outreach to welcome people who journey today.

If you would like to know more,
please get in touch by email at
annep.speight@outlook.com or view
the website at

www.peakwesleyway.com

Anne and Martyn Speight



SUMMARY OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING

20 June 2024 at Wymeswold.

Rev. Karen Beecham in the chair. 32 members present, 11 apologies.

The meeting opened with devotions and prayer.

1. The membership list was updated.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

a) Quorn. Mike Bird reported that the changes to the diocese were still in discussion. It is possible that the proposed group would be enlarged.

3. CIRCUIT/DISTRICT.

a) Merger talks, some delay but still on going.

b) Property Officer – Agreed to continue with the job description and district approval.

c) LWLP – Kat Jenkins was approved to become a fully accredited Local Preacher.

Accreditation service at Mountsorrel on 24 November at 4.00pm.

d) Quinquennials – in hand.

e) Stewards – Trevor Ranson completes his term on 31 August. Karen Ette will become Senior Steward. The meeting agreed to the appointment of David Bristow as a Circuit Steward.

f) The composition of the Invitation Committee was agreed. A rep from each church plus the leadership team.

g) The meeting agreed the Annual Appointment of Circuit Officer holders.

h) Rev. Pat Olivent-Hayes will assist with pastoral work at Trinity.

4. LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CIRCUIT.

a) Six-week Chaplaincy Everywhere course to be run next year for those interested in doing chaplaincy work in specific areas of Circuit life. Karen Ette is the lead person.

b) The Fees for Weddings and Funerals for the coming Connexional year were agreed.

c) Woodhouse Eaves play and Praise. The meeting agreed to continue the grant of £600 for another year.

d) Trinity. Proposed redevelopment of the former Teamprint room was explained by Nigel Cox.

The room will be named the “Richardson” room.

5. SAFEGUARDING & CARE.

a) Eleri Bristow reported that new Safeguarding officers were now in place in the District.

Courses are in hand.

b) Hiring Policy. Eleri has drawn up a policy which has been sent to local churches for church councils to agree.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Rachel Thorpe presented up to date accounts. Manse Repairs fund increased to £10,000.

b) The Assessments were agreed.

c) The Budget for 2024/2025 was agreed.

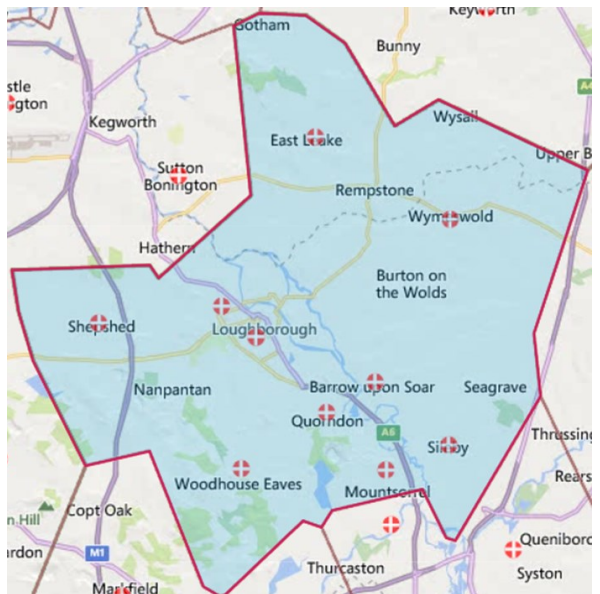
d) The Trustees Annual Report was agreed.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS:

September 5; December 5;
20 March 2025; 3 July 2025.

Bobby Peach,
Meeting Secretary

A map of the Loughborough Circuit



Loughborough Circuit Website

The Circuit has a website at www.loughboroughmethodist.co.uk

Each church has a page, and you can access the latest preaching plan.

If you spot anything that is out of date, please do let the webmasters know by contacting Peter Thorpe (peterthorpe52@gmail.com) or John Pipet (digital@loughboroughmethodist.co.uk).

Any churches that would like to be able to edit their own page can contact us to activate their account.

Introducing Northampton Methodist District Justice, Dignity & Solidarity Group

As Christians we are told by Jesus to love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34). Jesus showed God's love by his openness to all people, including reaching out to the marginalised ones; in Him, strangers became friends (Acts 2:42-47). If we are to be a sign of God's kingdom and a reflection of God's unconditional love, then we must be living examples of Jesus' new commandment for us to love one another. This means we are called to celebrate God who made each person in God's own image, treat each person with dignity and rejoice in the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to all people.

Northampton Methodist District Justice, Dignity & Solidarity Group (**JDS Group**) leads on implementing the Strategy of Justice, Dignity and Solidarity within the District. The Group arose in response to the JDS Strategy of the Conference of 2021 and builds on the legacy of the previous District Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (**EDI**) Committee.

Each Circuit is supported by a member of the JDS Group who will be the Circuit link. Members of the JDS Group are appointed by the District to serve for a term of three years to serve as the point of reference for the following within their area of responsibility in the District:

- discerning EDI practice, issues (e.g. instances of discrimination), training needs, access needs and level of awareness of the circuit leadership of their own EDI responsibilities
- setting the District's EDI priorities and action plan and contributing to their successful implementation.

The JDS Group members meet regularly (and mainly virtually) to discuss issues and share prayers and activities on key dates highlighting JDS issues (e.g. World Refugee Day on 20 Jun; World Humanitarian Day on 19 Aug; International Day of Sign Languages on 23 Sep; Black History Month in Oct).

Let us put our heart for Jesus and passion for equality and justice into action and support the work of the JDS Group in realising our aim to be an equal, diverse and inclusive church which strives for justice, dignity and solidarity for all.

Your link member in the JDS Group,

Vanessa Li (Community Engagement Worker at Knightthorpe Methodist Church; email: kt-community.engagement@loughboroughmethodist.co.uk)

Barrow upon Soar

BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH LADIES CIRCLE celebrate their Diamond Anniversary this year – 60 years of fellowship and fun!

When Ladies Circle first convened in 1964 members met in each other's home and speakers were invited to talk on a range of both religious and secular topics. When numbers got too big we transferred our fortnightly meetings to the Church Coffee Lounge and we now meet in the newly refurbished Welcome Coffee Lounge or the Worship area.

We still have one founding member in Coral who at 91 years old still attends every meeting.

There was a time when all the ladies' groups in the circuit met for a "get together" every year with entertainment laid on – If I remember correctly it was always Barrow and Mountsorrel who provided the "comedy" items with sketches or songs and the many mistakes we made caused the most laughter.

Then, as now, an annual charity was chosen and fundraising took place during the year. Over the years thousands of pounds has been raised for both local and national charities by stalls at church fetes, village markets, fashion shows and much more. In 2023 the son in law of one of our members underwent a double lung transplant and afterwards the family decided to show their gratitude by organising a Spring Ball in 2024 for the Hospital Charity. Our members agreed to support this and added £700 to the event total. Other charities that have benefitted are MacMillan, Samaritans, Rainbows, The Baldwin Trust, Mind, The Wolds First Responders, Compass Braille, County Air Ambulance and many more.

Our chosen charity for 2024/5 will be Loughborough Street Pastors.

Meetings still follow the same format with talks on various topics, our Minister shares Christmas and Easter thoughts with us and, of course, a couple of social evenings with food are also added to the mix.

Should anyone care to join us you would be very welcome – email barrowmeths@gmail.com. for more information.

Janet Thompson



Christchurch, Shepshed

Greetings from Christchurch, Shepshed.

On a warm Saturday evening in May, Christchurch hosted the village Connected Worship service. The service was led jointly by members of St.

Boltoph's, Shepshed Baptists

and Christchurch, and is a time

for praise, worship, prayer and reflection accompanied by live music. The next Connected Worship will be hosted by St Botolph's on a Saturday evening in September (date to be confirmed). Come and join us, all welcome.

July will see the return of our annual Over 80's Tea. Planned for 21st July this year, Christchurch host afternoon tea for our congregation members who have celebrated their 80th year and beyond. Joined by the Rev. Martin Swan, we share sandwiches, scones and of course tea and cake, before our evening service takes place.

Each month we are continuing to host our "Something Different" gathering, a time for informal praise and worship. We try to consider what we can learn from the daily Bible reading in a different way. We meet in the coffee bar area at the back of the sanctuary at 10.45am on the third Sunday of every month. Please do join us – everyone is welcome.

Never without an excuse to share at the table, Christchurch continue to host both a coffee morning for charity, taking place the first Friday of the month in addition to our weekly Wednesday community Chat & Chomp which is run by staff, students and volunteers of Stevenson College. Why not take the opportunity to come and share with us?

Victoria Merrill



East Leake

East Leake Methodist Church sends its greetings to the other churches and members and friends in the circuit.

We are one of the smaller churches in the Circuit, we are located in the centre of the village, close to the shops and adjacent to the Village Hall.



East Leake is the only circuit church not located in the Borough of Charnwood, we are in fact in the Borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire.

So what's been happening in East Leake Methodist Church since we last wrote in this circuit magazine?

We continue to use our building in as many diverse ways as possible and recently let the church for a meditation group with some members of the church attending who found it very useful and this may have sparked ideas of arranging our own Christian meditation group.

We have recently let the building for a "sit-down" exercise group on a Friday afternoon and also continue to run our Saturday coffee morning badged warm space. This is in line with our ethos of supporting the needs in our local community.

We have been actively working towards a circuit Lay Worker in East Leake and have had a constructive conversation with representatives from our own church leadership team and members of the Circuit and Matt Forsyth from the district mission team.

The Reflection feedback from Matt Forsyth is that East Leake Methodist Church is: a welcoming Church; a spiritually mature church; a church that is inclusive and witnesses to those who are disabled or neurodiverse; a church whose building is well used by the community; a church of committed volunteers that have little capacity; a church of friendship.

It was brought to our attention that an area identified in conversation was the wrong starting position. Often we start with the "what question". What can we do... Importantly it is vital that as East Leake continues to grow and use its new missional tool (the building).

So if you're in the village on a Saturday morning between 10 and 12 please pop in and have a coffee and biscuits with us.

Bryan Harrison

<https://eastleakemethodists.org.uk>

Knighthorpe, Loughborough

Knighthorpe Methodist Church Continues to Sow the Seeds of Community Engagement

We continue to walk on our path to engage with the community via activities for everyone which seek to fulfil the local community's needs and appetite and also to enhance the involvement of members and friends of the Church and the Circuit as volunteers and participants. It is encouraging to see the growing engagement, not only externally with the local community, but also internally amongst members and friends of the Church and the Circuit.



Here are some of the highlights of our community engagement activities in the past half of the year:

Our **Gardening Club** continues to gather bi-weekly (on designated Wednesdays) to help take care of the Church gardens and community garden. Our community garden, being established in collaboration with Incredible Edible Loughborough (IEL), is making good progress thanks to the tremendous support of IEL and our Gardening Club participants and volunteers. Potatoes, garlic, beetroot, courgette etc. have started to grow whilst broad beans, peas, lettuce, soft fruits and herbs are getting ready to be harvested. Vegetable labels painted by the local community are put up around our community garden. We are planning on a Summer Party, which will include, amongst other things, a workshop on potato harvesting by IEL. We are excited to see what harvests our **community garden** may bring about in the coming Summer/ Autumn for sharing with the local community.

Planting workshops: Workshops on potato and cabbage planting were given by IEL as our Gardening Club special sessions in April. Volunteers from IEL kindly contributed their time to share their knowledge in planting and growing vegetable seeds and seedlings.

Spring Party: We held our first open-door party on 20 April which was joined by residents from the neighbourhood (including a few visiting the Church for the first time) and friends and members of the Church. Activities included

scavenger/egg hunt, balloon twisting, community garden label drawing and sunflower planting, followed by scones and tea/coffee.

Floral necklace workshop: Following the success of our Christmas wreath workshop held in December, we kickstarted our craft workshop series with a floral necklace workshop run by a local crafter on 11 May. At this sold-out event, participants learned the basic skills to make their own necklace with pressed flowers and UV resin. This is part of our new initiative to engage with the local community, who have expressed strong interest in craftwork in our community engagement survey, via craft workshops.

For this Summer/Autumn season, we will continue to run our Gardening Club and to work on our community garden alongside planting workshops in collaboration with IEL. Various craft workshops, including calligraphy (27 Jul) and art journaling (25 Sep), will be held (further workshops are being lined up with crafters who have responded to our recent open call for volunteer instructors). We will host a Summer Party (7 Sep) to connect with the neighbourhood.

We are grateful to all who have helped us to sow the seeds of community engagement and most importantly, to God for blessing our journey. May all the seeds sown continue to grow, take root and come to life at God's will and timing.

For news and updates of our community engagement activities, please follow our [Facebook Page](#) or get in touch with our Community Engagement Worker, Vanessa Li, at kt-community.engagement@loughboroughmethodist.co.uk



Loughborough Chinese Methodist Church (LCMC)

The Chinese Church's special events from January – June 2024:



21 January 2024 – we celebrated our 12th anniversary.



27 January 2024 Combined Senior Adults Fellowship with Derby Chinese Church



Baptisms on Easter and Pentecost Sunday



The newly set up Choir sang the anthem



11 May 2024 the second Combined Senior Adults Fellowship at Leicester



22 June 2024 Evangelical Tour from Hong Kong

January to June 2024 Y-Fire – Youth Programme every Saturday.
We have recruited around 30 young people from Years 6 to 13 to join the programme.
We plan to run this youth programme on Sundays from September 2024.

Mountsorrel

The church is located in Church Hill Road; car parking is available at both the front and rear of the premises.

The nearby bus stops are on Rothley Road and are served by ARRIVA BUS Nos. 126/127 on the Leicester to Loughborough route.

We profess as being “A Happy Band of Christian Pilgrims, as onward we will tread, with Jesus as our fellow to Jesus as our head”.

(Similar words were written in the hymn "O Happy Band of Pilgrims" which is an 1862 translation by John Mason Neale of a hymn written in 850 by the Sicilian monk St Joseph the Hymnographer.)

We meet for worship on most Sundays at 10.30am except on the 4th Sunday in the month when we meet at 4pm. After the afternoon service we share both food and fellowship around the common table. It is always good to consult the Circuit Plan because occasionally the times and venues of our services are changed.

Our premises are used extensively during the week by outside bookings and we are pleased that both our Boys’ Brigade and Ladies’ Night continue to meet on a regular basis.

The Wesley History Society meets in the chapel on two occasions per year – the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday October 5th 2024 with an open invitation to all.

Geoff & Sue Wainwright will be serving “Afternoon Strawberry Teas” at their home on June 22nd at 3pm. Tickets available @ £7. each. PLEASE BOOK EARLY!!

For our Church Anniversary we have arranged an Organ Recital to be given by Dr. Simon Ainge. This will be on Saturday August 31st commencing at 7pm.

For further details email: mountsorrel2310@btinternet.com
or tel. 0116 237 6979

Geoff Wainwright



Twelfth Church

[www.facebook.com/
TwelfthChurch](https://www.facebook.com/TwelfthChurch)

It's now getting on for 4½ years since the Loughborough Circuit started providing a way on the internet for people to worship together as part of this circuit

even if unable to attend a church service in person. You may well remember the times of lock-down that we experienced at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. A time when many families, businesses, friends and assorted organisations started to learn how to harness the tools available to interact over the internet. We acknowledge that not all people were, or are, able to access the internet. Initially (in March 2020) Andrew Lomax started providing a time of worship on the Trinity Facebook page, live on a Sunday. This developed into different preachers leading services, meditations and reflections. The services also included a catch-up time, where members shared news and photographs.

We noticed that people from across the circuit, and beyond, attended these services, so a circuit on-line identity of "12th Church" was created – eventually getting its own Facebook Page.

12th Church has developed since then, with a mix of pre-recorded and livestream service, led by a wide range of preachers. We pray that this on-line church community continues to develop, helping members in their discipleship journeys, enabling those unable to attend a physical church (through illness, work or other commitments) to be able to worship in a virtual community. We find that there are more people engaging with the livestream services, so are hoping to increase the frequency of these, streaming from as wide a range of chapels in the circuit as possible – but also including services from peoples homes, gardens and other locations as the occasions arise. We will continue to have series of meditations for special times of the year, and make use of national Methodist resources. If you have ideas or suggestions on what you would like to see from the 12th Church, please e-mail them to: digital@loughboroughmethodist.co.uk

Thankyou,

John Pipet



Loughborough Methodist Circuit

12th Church



Our online
community church
meets every
Sunday at 10.45
on the 12th
Church Facebook
page

CLL Licence No: 139200

Streaming Licence 99345

Trinity, Loughborough

We recently held our church anniversary where Rev David Owen (previous Loughborough Grammar school chaplain) preached at a full church that included our Chinese friends and other friends from around the circuit. We followed this with a wonderful meal where we play to our strengths as the Chinese members provided the first course and Trinity members provided the puddings.



We have continued our practice of holding a number of open gardens on a Saturday morning that are well attended and often raise funds for a charity close to the heart of the family hosting the event. The latest one was themed as Christmas in June to allow celebration in the height of summer rather than the cold and dark days of December. The only trouble was it was a very warm day and so too hot to wear Christmas jumpers.

At Easter and Pentecost, we held a number of events alongside our Baptist and URC friends. In particular our Good Friday service of readings and related hymns was very moving. At the Pentecost service I, alongside Colin and Liz Lamb and others from the Baptist church, were able to use our dramatic skills in a sketch where balloons were coming down from the balcony to symbolise the holy spirit coming to the first disciples.

In Christian Aid week Trinity entered 2 teams to a quiz organised by Thorpe Acre Anglican Church. As it happens, we represented Methodists very well as our two teams came first and second out of around 10 teams. However, part way through the event they announced their rules are that the winning team has to set next years quiz. So, we might have a few less people to enter next year.



The winning team

A FEAST group has been running for a few months for our young adults where they have been studying the book of Acts. This is the first time in

several years that we have managed to engage better with students from the University and make them feel more at home. When the group starts again after the Summer, hopefully it will give a way in for any new students who come to Trinity. After all, who would not want to come to Bible Study with pizza to follow.

On the property we had a productive but fun day where we hired a scaffold tower and managed to fill a big hole running all the way up our stained-glass window. It gave a different view of Trinity. This should help to reduce our heating cost now that the draft has been cut out. We are also working towards reorganising our building to allow playgroup to use just the halls off the entrance way which will allow the rest of the church to be available for use at the same time as playgroup is meeting. A significant part of this is redesigning the room Teamprint used to use, and a meeting space that will be part of this will become known as the 'Richardson Room' in memory of Rev Sydney Richardson who was the founder and long term leader of Teamprint. Prior to work starting we will need to strip out some cupboards and work surfaces and if anyone could make use of any of this maybe in a garage or shed, please let me know andythorpe01509@gmail.com. Far better if these are reused than skipped.



Trinity from on high



See example of items going spare

Looking forward we have Trinity's Harvest Festival on the last weekend of September. On the Saturday we will be having a Harvest supper followed by a Beetle Drive that anyone can come to join us. I also know Jazz Vespers is a service that is appreciated by others around the circuit so feel free to join us at 5:45 on 4th August and listen to some very good music alongside a thought provoking talk.

Andy Thorpe

Woodhouse Eaves

Play and Praise - Our Parent Toddler Group continues to meet at 9.15am every Thursday morning in term time. It is a thriving group for preschool children and parents or carers and brilliantly run by Victoria and her helpers. We're very encouraged that new families continue to come along. Christmas Nativity was fun with Rev. Karen participating with a story. We enjoyed meeting extended family of some of the members and the children all appreciated the chocolate coins and satsumas we gave out. If you'd like more information email v_corcoran@outlook.com or find us on Facebook - [Play and Praise Woodhouse Eaves](#).



Messy Church takes place on 2nd Sunday of the month at 4pm and is our largest congregation. We offer a varied programme of crafts and stories from the Bible. The food always goes down well too! We are encouraged to see how committed and appreciative the families are and hope to develop this further with the support of the Lay worker who will hopefully be appointed by the end of this year. We are finishing this academic year with a picnic in the park on 7th July before term finishes. We have a break in August before starting again on 8th September. For more information contact Gill gt300@btinternet.com



We are pleased that the church building continues to be extensively used by the community. For room bookings contact Mark markh temple@gmail.com

Taketime Meditation @WEMC

Taketime is simply what it says, an opportunity to take time out of a busy schedule and to listen to what God is saying to you through Jesus. It is written by a minister and based on Bible passages. The meditations enable you to enter into stories imaginatively – and give you an opportunity to relax, to speak to – and to listen to Jesus. This is a simple and effective way of praying, attributed to St Ignatius.

The session follows the same pattern each week and you are guided gently

through the relaxation and meditation. There is an opportunity to share what you experienced but it is also ok to be quiet. People who have joined us have found it encouraging spending time with Jesus. There is no assumption of previous Bible knowledge so it's a safe place to bring a friend.

Our group meet twice a month. We meet on the first and third Fridays of the month at 10:30am. The first Friday of the month is at church (with refreshments and time for reflection) and the third Friday is via Zoom (a condensed version).

We would love to welcome others to the group. Why not join us one Friday to see if this is for you?

If you'd like to join our email group please let Anne know via my email. (anne.temp6@gmail.com)

Breakfast and prayer@WEMC

Acts 2 says: ⁴² *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...* ⁴⁶ *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,* ⁴⁷ *praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.*

We thought that food, fellowship and prayer was a good model to follow so last month we trialled our first 'breakfast and prayer' session! We shared in a simple breakfast together and then moved on to praying for our world, church and community. Prayer stations were set up around church and people could move around and offer their prayers. We closed with a worship song and the Grace. It was a lovely experience which we plan to repeat in the future. We also hope to open to the community.

Gill Thompson

Circuit Link deadlines

I am intending to continue producing two magazines a year, so the next edition will be out in January 2025. Josephine (Circuit Administrator) emails round the circuit contacts, but if anyone else wishes to contribute a piece of interest to a circuit audience, you can email me at trinitylink1@gmail.com by mid December.

Peter Thorpe

Wymeswold

I have now been in post as Local Lay Pastor at Wymeswold for around 4 months and have been invited to share some of my experiences with you to illustrate the life of the Methodists in this rural part of the circuit.



The Warm Welcome event held on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30pm to 3pm has become a permanent fixture in my diary. There are always interesting cakes or other baked goods on offer, with a hot or cold drink. A jigsaw is usually on the go, there are games such as dominos to play, and people are encouraged to bring their crafts with them – they were very interested when I took some table runners to tack in preparation for Hannah’s recent wedding! But the main thing is the chatter and fellowship with the lovely dozen or more people who attend, ranging in age from 1 to 91 years or so.

The monthly coffee morning held on the first Saturday of the month from 10.30am to 11.30am is also well attended by a slightly different group and provides another great opportunity to chat and network with those who attend from several of the local villages.

Worship is mostly held in partnership with the local Anglicans, either at St Mary’s or in the Chapel. I was privileged to be asked to facilitate the first part of the joint Palm Sunday service which started at the Chapel and included a procession to the Church and am looking forward to leading worship at the Chapel on 23 June and 14 July.

A Bible study group meets in the Chapel fortnightly on Monday evenings and I’m very much looking forward to joining in when my diary will allow.

The congregation are proud to do what they can to support the village in whatever way they can, especially the local primary school. Members help out with ‘Open the Book’, sharing Bible stories in an imaginative way with



The Calendar

pupils at the school. But they also offer the opportunity for the pupils to visit the Chapel to attend 'Experience' Events. Most recently at the beginning of June all of Key Stage 2 (that's school years 3 to 6 for children aged 7 to 11) came for an afternoon to learn more about the Liturgical cycle of the Christian Year. Entitled 'Experience After Easter Stories' it offered an opportunity for the children to each make a circular calendar showing all the church seasons through the year, and then take part in six specific 10 minute sessions exploring: After Easter; Ascension; Pentecost the Story; Pentecost the Impact; Trinity Sunday; and Ordinary Time; each of which included some sort of craft activity. We concluded by singing 'Colours of Day' all together. After two afternoons of introducing the concept of Trinity Sunday to 12 small groups of children and teaching them how to plait or finger knit three strands of wool I was exhausted, but exhilarated by the lovely conversations that showed how important it is to share God's love and care in whatever ways we can.

'Wymeswold Methodist Church' now has a presence on Facebook so do have look and 'like' the page to follow what's going on. Or you can contact me via Email:

eleri@loughboroughmethodist.co.uk or by text/WhatsApp/voice message on my work mobile: 07305 366423

Eleri Bristow



The Day 2 Team gathering for prayer before the children arrived



Pentecost the Story Display with playdough for making models



Trinity Sunday

Discrimination and Abuse Response Service

Are you experiencing any harm,
discrimination or abuse?

Contact us now for support.

020 7467 5131

dars@methodistchurch.org.uk

We will respond in confidence
within **3 working days**.

By reporting any discrimination, abuse
or harm you experience in church, you will help us
to make the **Methodist Church** a safer place.



*This is **NOT** an emergency helpline, so if there is
any **immediate danger** to yourself or others
please contact the emergency services.*

The **Methodist Church** 