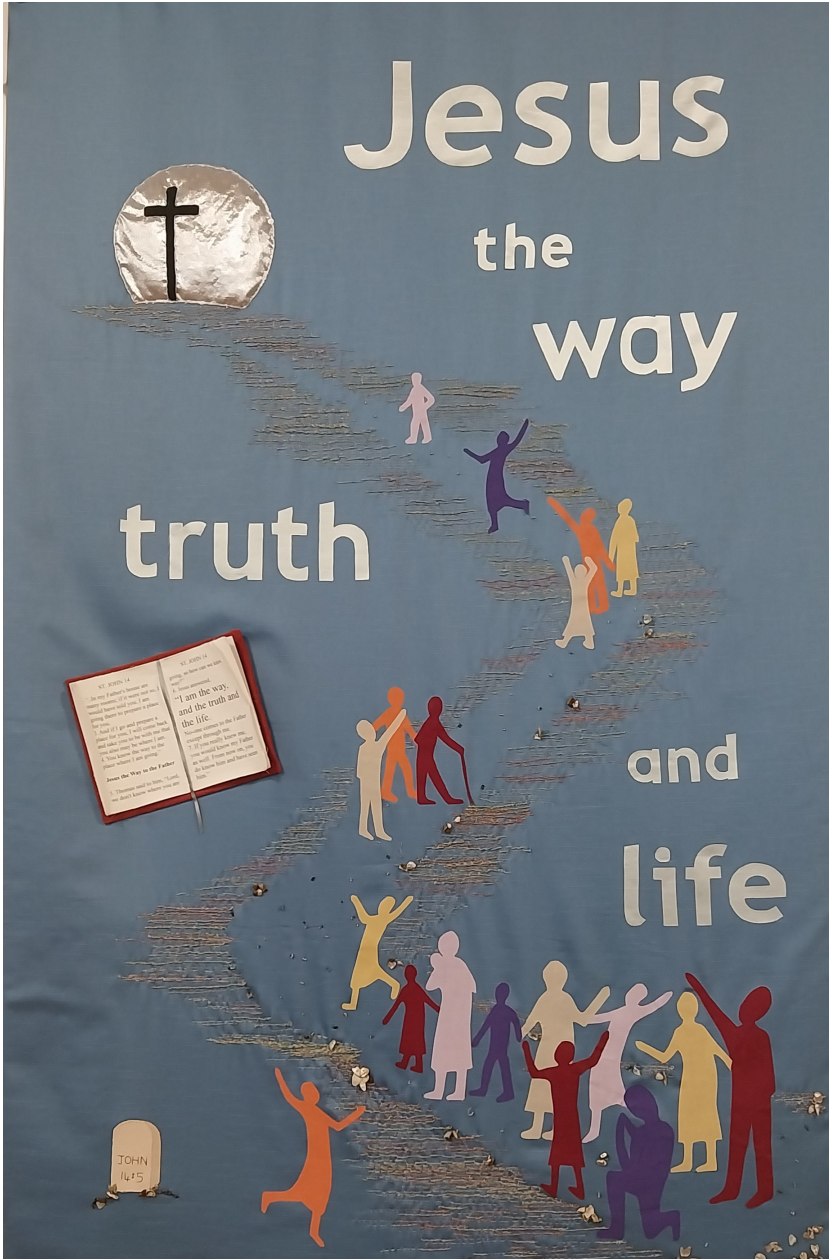


The **Methodist** Church 
Charnwood and Mowbray
Circuit

Circuit Link
Summer/Autumn 2025



Dear friends, welcome to the new Charnwood and Mowbray Circuit. We bring together 15 diverse churches and around 680 members. Three are in Loughborough, including a vibrant Chinese congregation supported by a half time Chinese Methodist presbyter, while one sits at the heart of Melton Mowbray. The rest are rooted in surrounding villages and a nearby town, several of which are expanding through new housing developments, opening exciting missional opportunities.

Our circuit is served by a dedicated team: three full-time (we currently have a vacancy) and one part-time presbyters, two active supernumeraries, five local lay pastors, one lay associate minister and two lay workers, alongside a part-time administrator who keeps the circuit office running smoothly.

I hope this magazine introduces you to all the diversity and uniqueness of our circuit. May it encourage you that this is a thriving circuit, with lots of energy and vision for the future. We are all missional minded to see people embrace God's love and come to know Him for themselves.

Happy reading,

Rev Karen Beecham, Superintendent Minister

Pastoral Letter

As we embark on the journey of the new Charnwood and Mowbray circuit, I am sure that there will be conversations about the structures and the implementation of policies and procedures, of finding our place and voice and the voices of our church communities in a larger grouping, as well as getting to know new people.

In this edition of the circuit magazine, Karen has written an introduction and I don't want to duplicate ideas, so I want to go with the deeply personal. And as I share a little about what makes me tick as a person of faith I want to invite you to reflect on what it is that encourages you or inspires you in your relationship with God; what is it that is essential for you? Maybe the answer includes gatherings at church for worship and fellowship or study and prayer. Or maybe it is about more personal space for reflection with God, or the application of your faith in everyday living. But what are the sources that encourage and inspire; that deepen or enable your relationship with God. When I think about what is essential, I am really thinking what it is that sustains me, leads me and challenges me and brings me closer to God. Some of you already know, and others will get to know, that a particular book *Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich is still both a treasure

and gift for me. And over the last few weeks, I have found myself being drawn back again (happens regularly!) to *Celtic Daily Prayer*, the worship book of the Northumbria Community, and particularly to the liturgy for evening prayer.

I am not a scholar of Celtic spirituality, but for me, in my experiencing, it invites me to hold an awareness of God who is constantly present around me, without me and within me; of the God who is present in those with whom I meet and the challenge and reminder that God may be present in my interactions and words to others.

For me, to be able to speak in that way requires a turning to God, but also somehow being tuned in to God. Are my actions and words (spoken or written in an email) those that will encourage and affirm the other within the love of God, or will they undermine or criticise the other or will they be more about self-defensiveness and trying to justify myself?

When I am looking more to God than myself, when I know that I am closer to God's grace than my own limited capabilities and when I am more deeply aware of God's love holding and sustaining me, I somehow have a greater capacity for patience, compassion, creating a space for the other and maybe be able to come closer to the words of the hymn: brother, sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you.

In the end, I believe that that is what we are called to be to one another within the community of the church, and as a community of Christ within the world. We may withdraw from some of the ways of the world which are not the ways of God, and we may withdraw from some of the things of the world, that are some kind of God or love substitute, but, we are not called to withdraw from God's world, but to be God's light and salt to transform it. In John's gospel (John 3:16 & 17) we find a reminder that God's love for the world was so great in Jesus there was not judgement but salvation and life.

My understanding of Celtic spirituality grounds me in the goodness and love of God that is all around me – gifts for me to see and receive, that I might live with gratitude and joy for and in the things of God; a sense of the constant presence of God (whether I feel it or not) the one who I can trust and whom I can turn to and with whom I can nurture the desire to be in constant communion with; and a groundedness in the one who is the source of all being and who calls me into a recognition of community as the expression of discipleship living.

Rev Nina Austin

Circuit Stewards Welcome

Dear friends in the Charnwood & Mowbray Circuit,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we begin this new chapter together as the Charnwood & Mowbray Circuit, we send you our warmest greetings in Christian love and fellowship.

We rejoice in the opportunities God sets before us and look forward to sharing worship and witness. We especially look forward to joining with many of you at our Circuit Services, as together we celebrate God's call and guidance for this new beginning.

A prayer for our new circuit:

God of love,

You are with us in every transition, every change in life,

You are with us in every breath we take, every step we make.

As we enter into this new era for our Circuit

with excitement and even some anxiety and uncertainty,

we recall your deep compassion, presence, and unbounding love.

We recall our Scriptures that remind us – with you all things are possible, that you keep your promises and that we are called simply to love you with all our hearts, with all our soul and all our mind.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment – some of which are joy-filled, some of which are painful.

But nevertheless, you have been alongside us, guiding and encouraging us to journey on.

We thank you for the work of others, which gives breadth and depth to our work,

for our heritage and the witness, we have been able to offer as a light – the light of Christ.

Be with us as we move forward.

Give us courage to embrace a future, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.

In Christ's love.

Karen Ette and David Bristow, Joint Senior Circuit Stewards

The prayer was written by the Methodist Deacon Sue Culver, for a previous circuit merger elsewhere in the connexion.

Circuit Chaplaincy – Answering God’s Call in Everyday Places

Chaplaincy Everywhere

- for your community
- sent by your Church
- something you can do

Local, congregation-led chaplaincy is one of the most effective ways to collaborate in God's mission in the world; local people responding to local needs over time can change the world!

This connexional year, the Loughborough circuit has had a chaplaincy, which is in its infancy with just one chaplain: Dr Karen Ette. However, after Easter, five others attended the seven-week *Chaplaincy Everywhere* course, which was held at Knightthorpe Methodist Church on Tuesday mornings.

Chaplaincy Everywhere is designed to be used in a small group of three to eight people, beginning with the mission of God and ending with the practical details of who is going to do what and where; this material mixes deep reflection, individual and group exercises as well as practical resources to lead you to respond to your local community.

Over seven sessions, the group journeyed together – from reflecting on God’s mission, to considering practical ways of serving their communities. With a mix of discussion, personal reflection, group exercises and practical tools, the course encouraged each person to ask: *Where might God be calling me?*

Looking ahead, our new chaplains will be commissioned early in the first quarter of the next connexional year. We are excited to welcome them and to support one another as we share in this important work together.

The course will run again next year. If you feel God might be prompting you to explore chaplaincy, why not consider joining us? To find out more, please get in touch with Dr Karen Ette at drkarenette@gmail.com

With every blessing.

Karen Ette

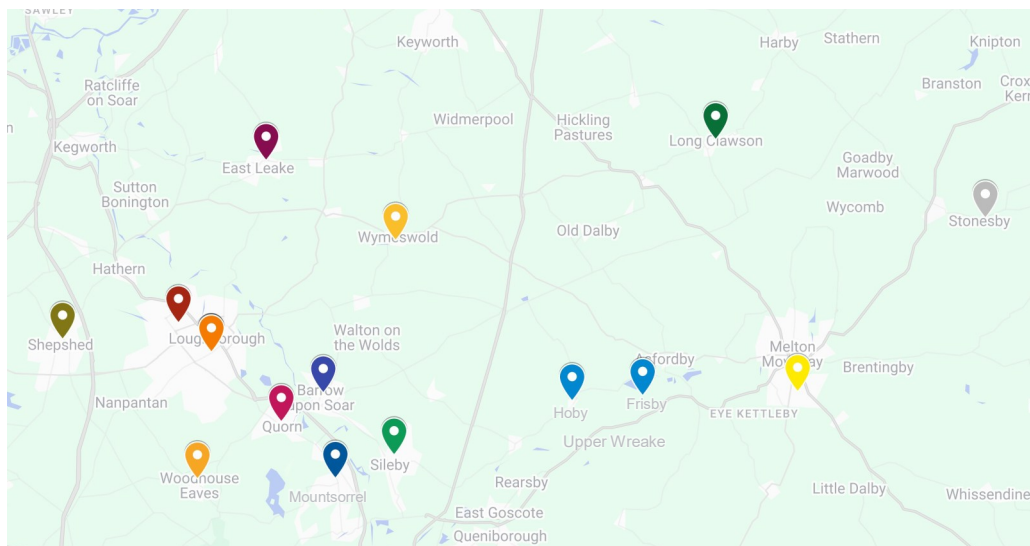
Circuit chaplain

2025/2026 CIRCUIT APPOINTMENTS

Confirmed at the 7th August 2025 Shadow Circuit Meeting

| NAME | ROLE |
|---|---|
| Co-Senior Circuit Stewards | Karen Ette, David Bristow |
| Circuit Stewards | Barbara Cresswell, Bryan Harrison, Sue Palmer, Richard Oliver, Mick Thompson |
| Circuit Treasurer | Rachel Thorpe |
| Circuit Meeting Secretary | Bobby Peach |
| Circuit Safeguarding Officers | Janet Norburn, Carol Scarborough |
| Local Preachers Secretary | Richard Oliver |
| Local Preachers Tutor | Rev Karen Beecham |
| Quinquennial Inspections | David Bristow |
| Synod Reps | David Bristow, Jenny Cheung, Les Longmire, Bryan Harrison, Melvin Hudson, Janet Norburn, Jenny Oliver, Peter Thorpe |
| Synod Rep Substitutes | Bobby Peach, Chris Watkins |
| GDPR Champions | Richard Oliver, Brett Jackson |
| Charity Commission Contact | Rachel Thorpe |
| HR Team | David Bristow, Rachel Thorpe, Natalie Thompson |
| Property Team (Loughborough Manses) | Les Longmire |
| Plan distributor (Loughborough area) | Geoff Wainwright |
| Mission Treasurer | Peter Yates |
| Action for Children | Bobby Peach |

A map of The Charnwood and Mowbray Circuit:



Charnwood and Mowbray Circuit Website

The Circuit has a website at www.charnwoodmowbraymethodist.org.uk

There are a team of people involved from both the old Loughborough and Melton circuits, namely myself, Natalie Thompson, Brett Jackson, Jenny Beaglehole and Richard Oliver.

This combined site is initially using the old Loughborough site as a base, to which the Melton churches information has been added, and we hope to develop it further over time, such as by adding a map, and a circuit meeting calendar.

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

If you spot anything that is out of date, or have any suggestions for improvements, please let me know by contacting me at peterthorpe52@gmail.com

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

Peter Thorpe

Barrow upon Soar

Our groups have been having a break from regular meetings over July and August but are now looking forward to getting back together!

New Horizons, our Bereavement Group, had a lovely cruise in July on the River Soar from Loughborough to Mountsorrel stopping at the

Waterside Inn for a mouth-watering lunch! As always the crew of the Peter Le Marchant Trust looked after our ladies very well and all enjoyed it.

Ladies Circle, Fun@Church, Men's Supper Group, Sharing Scripture, Bible Study, Crochet and Craft all commence again in September. Each year Ladies Circle, who celebrated their 60th Anniversary in October 2024, fund raise for a chosen charity and at their first meeting in September a cheque will be presented to a representative of Loughborough Street Pastors – our chosen charity for 2024/25.

We have had several Local arrangement services which have been ably organised by our Church Stewards and we look forward to welcoming new friends from the Melton Mowbray area to lead our worship. Please be aware when visiting our Church, our car park is situated to the left of the building up the drive between us and Pearl City, Chinese Takeaway. The car park to the right of the building belongs to the Conservative Club and you will receive a £100 fine if you park there!!

Use of our premises by community groups continues to grow and we recently welcomed Charnwood Saxs for regular practice sessions. These along with Barrow Playgroup, 1st Barrow upon Soar Guides, Cosmic theatre group, BATS (Barrow Arts and Theatre Society) and Karate enable us to maintain our premises to a high standard. The rear Coffee Lounge was recently recarpeted together with a “walk through” area of vinyl.

We continue to collaborate closely with our friends in Barrow upon Soar Churches Together and our next event is an open air pets service in the Anglican Church grounds – hopefully, the weather will be kind to us!

Our monthly Minimarket and Coffee Morning on the first Saturday of each month still proves popular with village friends beginning to queue from 9.15



am in order to get a bargain when we open at 10.00 am. Over coffee and biscuits friendships are made and we are privileged to share news and chat to our visitors. Barrow upon Soar is a fast growing village and we are looking forward to serving its residents for years to come.

If you would like to know anything about any of our groups both church or community please email barrowmeths@gmail.com or see our website.

Janet Thompson

Christchurch, Shepshed

Our weekly coffee mornings are enjoyable and we usually have new people coming, they are always very welcome.

The Charity Coffee Morning is always on the 1st Friday of the month and each Charity has 6 months. We have just finished fundraising for the Air Ambulance



Charity and the next coffee morning will be the first Friday in September which will be for the RNLI, which will finish on the first Friday in February. So far we have supported 6 different Charities which have been personal to some of our volunteers. This is who we've supported so far.

Alzheimer's: £575.27

British Heart Foundation: £593.86

Parkinson's UK: £649.79

Cancer Research: £691.09

MND: £618.25

Air Ambulance: £824.55

(This includes a generous donation from our Knit and Natter group.)

This totals £3,953.81.

We welcome any of our friends from the circuit and beyond on any Friday morning except Good Friday (our Walk of Witness) and the last Friday of the year.

We open at 9.30 until 12.00.

Rosemary Grimley, Coffee Morning Co-ordinator

East Leake

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

We are one of the smaller churches in the Circuit, and 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 Leicestershire, we are in fact in the Borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire however we are not far from the A6006 which gives a straight access into Melton Mowbray area.

So what's been happening in East Leake Methodist Church since we last wrote in this circuit magazine: A number of the congregation were able to attend Rev Sandra Marshall's farewell service at Mountsorrel, she will be sadly missed and we wish her all the best "up north."

As one door shuts another one opens and so we are all very much looking forward to working together with Rev Nina Austin.

We continue to use our building in as many diverse ways as possible and in line along with our Methodist Brownie group and a plethora of other groups we are pleased to facilitate a new "Rainbow Unit" which I understand is now fully subscribed.

We try to ensure use of our building is in line with part our mission statement in that: *"We aim to offer ourselves our church buildings and our facilities to provide a safe environment in which to support spiritual and social activities, so demonstrating our support and commitment to the local and wider community"*.

Also part of our updated mission statement at our last church council we agreed to sign up to being a bronze eco-church and are at present wading through all the questions to see what grade we can achieve, I think we have quite a way to go on this!

We supported East Leake churches together when they opened their customer "Tea Tent" on East Leake carnival day and we also opened our church to one of our art group to display their paintings, both were well supported by the community. As usual we also opened our garden and church during East Leake garden open day again this was well supported by the local

community.

August is a quiet month for us at East Leake however Tuesday fellowship (was Ladies) and our Foursquare meetings will hopefully start again in September.

We continue to engage with the National rehabilitation centre at Stamford and are encouraged by a regular number of visitors that are able to worship with us during our morning service.

We still support the memory café run by community care each Tuesday, which is very well supported by a growing number of people.

If you're in the area you are very welcome to join us for a Sunday service or during our warm space coffee morning, looking forward to seeing you all.

Bryan Harrison, Senior Steward

Knightthorpe, Loughborough

Knightthorpe is a small church, set back from the road, with an active but small membership. Sunday services are held at 10.30am and a well-attended coffee morning is held on the first Saturday morning of each month. This is a popular event with homemade cakes on sale together with preserves and gifts. There is also a great selection of books in the 'library'.



The church also hosts a number of groups and the church's coffee and craft group continue to meet together on Wednesday mornings at 10.00am. We also have Morris dancers, a community choir, a karate club and other groups using the premises during the week.

We are grateful and thankful to our volunteers who help both in the garden and at the various events we hold throughout the year. Special thanks to Vanessa Li for continuing her role with us in community engagement now as a volunteer. Thank you, Vanessa for organising the various events and we look forward once more to wreath making, a winter party and carols round the campfire.

Karen Ette

Knighthorpe, Loughborough: Community activities

Since the beginning of this year, we have continued to organise a variety of community engagement activities to strengthen our bonds with the local community and to build new friendships with new faces.

Community garden (in collaboration with *Incredible Edible Loughborough*):

The community garden has grown both in scale and variety. Fresh produce such as potatoes, courgettes, broad beans, sweetcorn, lettuce, kale, tomatoes, peppers, strawberries and more is regularly harvested by volunteers and made available for free collection by local residents. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, the back garden has been transformed into a cosy and relaxing space with sunflowers, plants and hand-made pallet furniture. Meanwhile, the car park is evolving into a green space filled with natural flowers and wonders. Our collaboration with *Incredible Edible Loughborough* continues and we welcome anyone interested in gardening to join our small team of volunteers, who care for and develop the garden — usually during our Gardening Club meetings, detailed below.

Gardening Club: This group meets regularly — every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm until December — to tend both the community garden and the church's back garden. Participants are welcome to attend all sessions or drop in as their schedule allows — and there's always tea and cake after each session. Future plans include a memorial and tranquillity garden opposite the vegetable garden where people will be able to take time to sit and reflect in a beautiful setting.



Patchwork workshop (14th June): We were grateful to welcome Chris Watkins back to lead another inspiring craft workshop. She generously shared her skills and insights into designing and creating patchwork. Participants enjoyed a cosy, creative Saturday morning together, each taking home a tailor-made patchwork coaster.

Summer Party and Summer Festival (5th July):

We hosted another open-door celebration, welcoming everyone to explore our community garden and church space, which had been beautifully decorated with floral arrangements by Monica Oliver. Activities included a repair café (led by a volunteer skilled in electrical and mechanical repairs), flower pot painting, a craft station, and live music. We were delighted to see friends and members of the church and circuit, as well as supporters from Incredible Edible Loughborough and the wider local community, come together and connect. A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers and visitors.



Summer Party

Flower pot decoupage workshop (26th July):

In another creative session led by Chris Watkins, participants learned to decoupage napkins onto clay flower pots. Friends from the church and local community took part, expressing their creativity through custom designs that turned ordinary pots into unique decorative pieces.

We are thankful to God and to all who have supported our community engagement initiatives. Your involvement has helped us grow the seeds of community engagement into a flourishing community where we can share friendship, love, peace and joy in God.



Craft Workshops

For news and updates of our community engagement activities, please follow our [Facebook Page](#) or get in touch with us at kt-community.engagement@charnwoodmowbraymethodist.org.uk.

Vanessa Li

Long Clawson

Greetings from Long Clawson Methodist Church.

We are a church in the Vale of Belvoir, 6 miles north of Melton Mowbray. There has been a chapel on this site since 1801, being replaced for a larger building in 1840. Then in January 1954, for reasons never discovered, this chapel burnt down. Our present building was opened in September 1956.



We have a regular attendance averaging 12 people at our Sunday morning worship. A weekly Baby & Toddler group is held on a Wednesday morning during term time, which has been running for over 30 years, with some of the original 'toddlers' now bringing their own children!

On the 2nd Saturday in the month we have a Coffee Morning, 10.30am to 12noon, for anyone to drop in for a cuppa and a chat, which is appreciated as other events held in the village happen during the weekdays.

In Long Clawson there are two other churches, Baptist and Church of England, and some time ago we formed a group called 'Long Clawson Christians Together'. We share an outdoor service for Remembrance Sunday and on Palm Sunday we take a service walking around the village with a donkey. Also on Good Friday, we do the same carrying the cross.

Margaret Dorn, Senior Steward

Circuit Link deadlines

To help us all keep up to date with what is going on around the circuit, I have compiled this twice yearly magazine for the Loughborough Circuit for the last couple of years.

I am intending to continue producing two magazines a year for the combined circuit, so the next edition will be out around March 2026. 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 February.

Peter Thorpe

Loughborough Chinese Methodist Church (LCMC)

Loughborough Chinese Methodist Church is the newest Church in the Circuit, having formed in 2012, it is a Cantonese language church and has met at Trinity Methodist Church in Loughborough since 2021, when it outgrew its previous venue.

Included in this edition of the magazine are some photos of the special events of the Chinese Church from September 2024 to August 2025, with words and pictures provided by Jenny Cheung.

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration



On 21st September 2024, the Joint Elderly Fellowship, organised together with Derby Chinese Church, hosted a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration.

Christmas Cantata

A Christmas Cantata took place on 14th December 2024 at TMC, featuring a performance by the Chinese congregation of Epsom Methodist Church.



Easter Retreat Camp at Hays Conference Centre

From 15th to 18th April 2025, 12 UK Methodist Chinese Churches held an Easter Retreat Camp. Approximately 300 participants from various Methodist Chinese Churches across the UK attended.



Evangelical Night

On 10th May 2025, the ACM Evangelical Team from Hong Kong presented "The Way Evangelical Night." Over a hundred people attended.



Discipleship Course Completion

On 19 July 2025, both the Derby and Loughborough congregations celebrated the completion of the 34-week Discipleship Course.



Combined Elderly Fellowship Day Trip

A Combined Elderly Fellowship, together with Derby Chinese Church, took place on 16 August 2025. This gathering included a day trip to Coventry for more than 60 people.



Melton Mowbray

Hello to all readers.

At Melton Methodist, we are eager to meet the members from what was the Loughborough circuit, as we join to make the new Charnwood and Mowbray Methodist Circuit. We

all want to get to know each other, so it is helpful to have a magazine to enable this.

Our building was until recently known as Sandy Lane Methodist Church. It was built in 1970 among new housing in the south of the town, instigated by the then two town centre churches. 18 months ago, Sage Cross Methodist Church, the remaining church in the centre of Melton, sadly had to close, as there were serious problems with the property. Most of the members came to Sandy Lane, and we became Melton Mowbray Methodist Church. This has been a successful move, as we were both struggling to find enough people to fill all the offices, and now we are stronger working together as one new church.

We are still in the early stages of change but are supported by dedicated people. Last year, our Presbyterian was on long term sick leave, so we were very dependent on our lay pastor, Jenny Oliver and our other Lay Pastor, Janet Norburn. They still do tremendous work. Also helping us in our circuit was Rev Karen Beecham, who took on the role of Superintendent Minister. In September, we welcomed Rev Nina Austin as our new part time Presbyterian, who had done some work with us in previous years. She has given us exceptional support in so many ways, such as getting to know people by visiting them, and welcoming them into the manse for social occasions, and discussion groups. She has led us in thoughtful and varied forms of worship.

We have always tried to make our church a welcoming place. Thinking of the



property, we have made a good start on making it look smarter. This is an ongoing project. We hire the premises out, and this helps with our upkeep. Unfortunately, we have recently lost our main hirer, as they have moved to larger premises, so we are publicising availability for additional users. The building already acts as a local asset hosting six community groups and is a popular venue for children's birthday parties.

In the life of the church, we have a Choir, a Fellowship Group, a group for adults with Learning Disabilities, a Bereavement group, a House Group, and a Toddler group. On a Sunday, we have an average of 45 adults, and a group for children. We use material from "Roots " based on the Lectionary, so that it fits in with the Service theme. The children show us what they have been doing in a Show and Tell spot at the end of the service. The service is recorded and is available online and on DVD, for those unable to attend.

An especially important aspect of the church is its caring nature. We have an active Pastoral Committee very much supported on an informal individual basis.

Our main purpose at church is mission. In June, we held our Knitted Bible weekend, to which a few of our Loughborough circuit friends came. We have a collection of 31 stories from the bible, comprising 3D knitted scenes and characters. It needs to be seen to be believed! It was visited by a local school, a care home and a residential home for people with Learning Disabilities.

The Knitted Bible collection is available in part or as a whole, for use at other churches. Individual stories are in frequent use with some of our groups.

We are still in the stage of exploring our potential as a church that has effectively grown in numbers, with further ideas of how we can share our love of God in our community and beyond.

We are aware that God has many plans for us to spread the Good News. We certainly have no room for complacency, but through prayer, we can achieve remarkable things.

Cathy Billsdon, Senior Steward

Mountsorrel

We look forward to sharing our church and community life with the new, extended, circuit as we become a larger family in God's Kingdom.



On Saturday September 6th we began our Church Anniversary Celebrations with an Organ Recital which was presented by Anne de Graeve of Wigston. It commenced at 7pm and was followed with a Buffet Supper.

Our celebration will continue on Sunday September 14th at 10.30am when our Anniversary Service will be led by Rev. Karen Beecham. This will also be our annual Covenant Service and we will be joined by members of "Churches Together in Mountsorrel".

We continue to hold our 4th Sunday in the month services which commence at 4pm and which are followed with a Bring & Share Tea.

Our Boys' Brigade goes from strength to strength. It has a good team of leaders and helpers. Many thanks to them all.

"Ladies' Night" meets on alternate Wednesday evenings at 7pm and "Meet & Greet" also meets twice a month.

Our premises continue to be used by various groups within the community. The Seventh-day Adventist Church holds its services each Saturday morning and this year we have been able to welcome the Ascension Life Kingdom Ministries Church which meets over Sunday lunchtime.

We were very pleased that the "Simply Singing" (Community Choir) held its annual Spring Concert in our chapel on June 11th (Oh dear – it was the hottest day of the year!) COLD DRINKS were served after the concert and appreciated by ALL!!

We look forward to welcoming the choir again for its Christmas Concert on Saturday December 13th 2025.

We are looking forward to the challenge which Methodism has placed before us for the coming year and pray that God's work will continue to be at the forefront of all our words and actions.

Geoff Wainwright, Steward

St Bartholomew's United Church, Quorn



For the benefit of our brothers and sisters in the former Melton Mowbray Circuit it would be as well to explain who we are. At Pentecost in 1975 Quorn Methodist Church came together in unity with the Parish Church of St Bartolomew. Though never a formal LEP the two congregations became one and, by agreement after a few years, chose to worship exclusively in the 800 year old parish church. Since then QUC has been fully part of both its Methodist Circuit and Anglican Diocese, paying Assessment to each and with a single Church Council.

For the last four years we have been without a Vicar but never without a Methodist Minister. Worship is led by a variety of ministers from both denominations and reflecting both traditions. Weekly attendance at services ranges between 50 and 60 and is increasing. It is a lively church with a strong relationship with the two church schools in the village, a team of bell ringers and a full choir at each service. As well as becoming part of the new larger Circuit we are also looking forward to being part of a larger grouping of parish churches to be known as the Soar Valley Minster Community. Life is getting more exciting as we figure out new ways of sharing our faith in the wider community.

For those who already know who we are, be assured we are still what it says on the tin.

Mike Bird, Steward

Sileby

Sileby hold a Coffee morning each Thursday Morning from 10am-12noon.

On the 4th Sunday of each Month, Sileby hosts "Café Live", a friendly open mic night with hot pasties, sausage rolls and teas, coffees and soft drinks available.



Stonesby

We are a small rural Church with just 17 members situated between Melton Mowbray and Grantham in a village with just over 60 houses.

We have weekly Sunday services and have a very good ecumenical relationship with St.

Peter's in the village. We hold various joint services throughout the year and alternate our Harvest Festival, this year being in St. Peter's.

In September 2000, after having major refurbishment we opened our new Worship area and Community room. This was funded by various grants, donations and fundraising by the congregation and village, moving our Worship area to the smaller Sunday School Room and making the old Worship area into a Community Room with new kitchen and toilets. This is a valuable asset to the village as we have no village hall. This is now used by various groups as well as a meeting place for the Parish Council and Polling Station when we have an Election.

From March to November we have a monthly Tea and Cake afternoon on the 3rd Thursday of the month. This continues to be well supported.

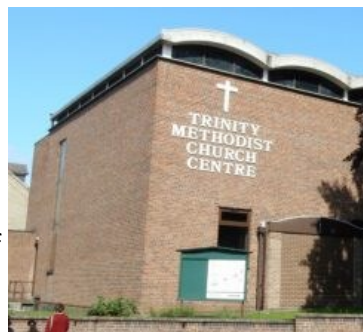
We are looking forward to the joining of our Circuits and to what God has planned for us next.

Jacky Speck, Steward



Trinity, Loughborough

As I write this piece the building project at Trinity called "Open the Doors" is just over a week old but by the time you read this it should be more than halfway through its 8 week schedule. The idea of this project is to utilise space at the end of the hall wing downside with a small meeting room being created. We are also creating office and storage space for the playgroup to utilise such that they no longer prevent the rest of the building being used when they are meeting. Once this is complete around the end of September, we



need to further develop what we can do with the building. We already have plans and volunteers to run a once weekly coffee hour largely for playgroup parents but also anyone else who wants to come along. There are thoughts of possible FEAST groups but these need firming up. It also opens up space for additional lettings to potentially help the finances.

A week after the scheme is due to finish, we have our harvest weekend with a harvest supper of jacket potatoes, chilli or bolognese served at 6:15pm on Saturday 4th October. This will be followed by a quiz prepared by Hedley. All are welcome and hopefully you should be able to see the finished rooms if the work has gone to schedule. Karen will be leading our harvest service the following day.

Our various groups are about to start meeting again after the summer. We have Monday @2 which is a group meeting with a speaker that runs on the first and third Mondays of each month. We have home church groups meeting on two evenings a week and once during the day. These also run fortnightly. Girls and Boys Brigades plus a Brigades Band run during term time. We have a young adults FEAST group bible study that meets fortnightly. There is a choir rehearsal on a Friday evening. There are other choirs that rehearse on our premises and in particular the Male Voice Choir have a concert on 25th October at Trinity.

We also have various links with the Loughborough Baptist and URC churches with Christian Aid lunches and a joint service most quarters. We are trying to arrange something together - probably a walk of witness or drama for Good Friday next year. In addition, we have around 3 services a year jointly with the Chinese congregation who hold their service after ours. The latest one was held on 17th August and was shown on the 12th church. If you wanted to see how this works and how uplifting it is to have a full church, mixing two different cultures and languages, the video will still be available until 16th September on the 12th church Facebook page. Finally, we have a jazz vespers service in the evening once a quarter with music by our own 'Chris Hill Jazz' band. This is widely appreciated and normally brings in people from across the circuit and from local churches.

There is a lot that goes on at Trinity already, but once we have the building more available during the week, time will tell what else we can do!

Andy Thorpe, Senior Steward

Twelfth Church

www.facebook.com/TwelfthChurch

Since March 2020 the Loughborough Methodist Circuit has put out a service each Sunday morning onto Facebook, comprising a mixture of livestreams and prerecorded services.



For the time being we will continue the Twelfth Church under the Charnwood and Mowbray Circuit banner, and Melton Methodist Church will continue to record their services and place them on their YouTube page each Sunday afternoon, as the two services each have their own audiences.

Going forward, we will mainly be livestreaming, and services will come from a variety of churches around the circuit.

Services are available to stream live, or can be watched back later for up to 30 days.

Upper Wreake

We have chapels at Hoby and Frisby on the Wreake in the Wreake Valley with a small membership working to maintain a Methodist presence.

Together with the Anglican Community we serve the local area, providing Hot Potato lunches, Tea and Cake afternoons, a term time Little Butterflies group for children under five, Tea and Chat sessions, a Men's Breakfast Morning, Quiet Days and a weekly delivery of service DVDs for the elderly housebound. Advent and Lent study sessions are held at the appropriate season.

Our worship pattern is comprised of Methodist services and joint services with the Anglicans.

Jenny Hurst, Steward



Woodhouse Eaves

Greetings from the congregation of Woodhouse Eaves to everyone in the newly formed circuit.

We're excited to be part of something new.

As ever we are busy with regular worship, Messy Church, Take Time and our term time weekly parent toddler group Play and Praise.



Our premises are well used by community groups. We host Baby Ballet, two weekly choirs, a local history group, Beacon Players (our local drama group) as well as occasional bookings for events and parties.

Our Messy Church, on the first Sunday of the month, remains successful and popular. We are pleased that two of our young men who are reaching their teens, have volunteered to help with sessions in the new academic year. We are thrilled, as these 2 in particular have been coming since they were toddlers. We ended the summer term with our usual picnic in the park, but rain drove us back into the church. We look forward to a new term and welcoming our regulars as well as new families.

Play and Praise takes place every Thursday morning during term time. We're looking forward to the Autumn term when the older children start school and new families will join in the fun.

We continue working ecumenically with the Baptist Church and St Leonard's Swithland with a regular seasonal bible study which is hosted in turn by the churches. World Day of Prayer in March each year is planned by a committee with representatives from 6 local congregations in Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves and Swithland.

Take Time takes place via Zoom from 10.30am – 11am on the first Friday of the month. It is a meditative, reflective session led by trained practitioners, to listen to an imaginatively formatted Bible passage and then have a guided quiet time to speak to and listen to Jesus. It is open to everyone from the circuit. We would warmly welcome any new faces as well as our regulars. Contact details below if you would like to be added to the mailing list. If you haven't already done so, come along and give it a try.

We're pleased that we now have a new sound system installed with more up to date technology.

For more details on any of the above groups and initiatives, contact me.

Gill Thompson, Senior Steward (gt300@btinternet.com)

Wymeswold

For many years we have held an Easter Morning “Messy Church” Breakfast. Although Messy Church no longer meets as we do not have young families or children attending chapel at present, we still get together for Breakfast on Easter morning and deliver the Easter message in a “messy church” “café church” style between the cereals, eggs, and croissants. It was



after the Easter morning breakfast that we were approached by a former Messy Church member, now attending university with the intention of becoming a teacher, Amelia was disappointed that there were no children attending to experience the event which she herself has attended since she was very young, together with her brother and mum. She offered to run a couple of Activity Afternoons during the summer holidays, hoping that this might encourage some younger people to come into our building and experience the feeling of being part of our church family. I am pleased to say that we had 7 the first week and 8 at the second event. A fun time was had by all and we were asked by one young man when we would be doing it again. So plans are being made to offer an afternoon during October half term, which is as not as easy as it might sound as children moving to secondary education in Wymeswold have the option of either a Nottinghamshire school or a Leicestershire school, which means 2 different weeks for half term. Hopefully we'll continue with these afternoons during each of school holidays through the year and maybe by the time next Easter comes we'll have some younger people enjoying Easter Breakfast with us. Watch this space!

In May our Local Lay Pastor Eleri led us in a Love Feast as we were pleased to welcome two new members to our church family. Apart from the lack of younger people and families Wymeswold Chapel



Love Feast

continues to offer a Warm Welcome on Tuesday afternoons to a group of around 8-20 individuals who come along for tea/cakes and conversation. We have continued to engage with the village school to offer Open the Book each Tuesday morning at School and have also delivered Experience Pentecost in Chapel at the beginning of June to two of the classes. Our next Experience Journey will be Experience Christmas providing we can fit this in to the busy schedule at school.

At present plans are well under way for our first United Open Air Harvest Festival on September 21st. Together with St

Mary's we plan to hold an Open Air Harvest Service on the Washdyke, which is a community space with an orchard and picnic benches. It is located very close to the 1st Wolds Scout Hut, which will be used in the event of wet weather. Invitations are being sent to local farms and we hope to have representation from The Wolds choir to help with the singing of some familiar Harvest hymns.

Following the success of our "Christmas Decorations" last year, we will start to make decorations during the Autumn Warm Welcome afternoons and hope to have lots to hang outside chapel for people to take as they pass by. In early December the village usually has a Christmas Tree on the green, which is adjacent to the Chapel building and for many years there was also a tradition of singing carols around the village, which then moved to the green when touring the village became just a bit too much for everyone with the expansion of the size of the village. We've missed singing carols outside for a couple of years, so hopefully we can re-instate this much loved Wymeswold tradition. There's a lot to plan and look forward to as we move into the Autumn and Winter. If you are interest in finding out more about anything that I have mentioned, why not follow us on [Facebook](#) on our Wymeswold Methodist Church page, where you can also message me if you wish to discuss Experience Journey's or anything else.

Margaret Folwell, Senior Steward



Welcoming our new members

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.*

Registered Charity no. 1132186
Trusted to Methodist Church Figures 2021-22 45344923

The **Methodist Church**

