

Spring 2025

Circuit News

Lincoln 17/02

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Bailgate



Bardney



Bardney Dairies



Burton Road



Central



Cherry Willingham



Coningsby



Monks Road



Moorland Park



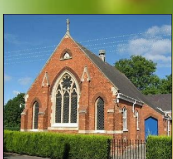
Navenby



Nettleham



North Hykeham



Reepham



Scothern



Skellingthorpe



St Columba's



St Giles



Stones Place



Swallowbeck



Washingborough



Welton & Dunholme



Woodhall Spa



Wragby

A massive thank you to all our contributors for making this publication so successful. 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

In the meantime, please enjoy a Blessed Easter.

Material for the **Summer 2025** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Wednesday, **14 May 2025**. Any material received after this date will not be included in the June edition.

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Circuit Letter

The annual Report from *Shelter* shows that there has been an increase of more than 14% in homelessness since the previous year.

I recently had the pleasure of chairing a church council, whose members were exploring the installation of showers and a washing machine to provide basic facilities for those sleeping rough. They planned to fund this work through collections and grants.

Caring for the homeless is not new to Methodism. In 1738 John Wesley bought an old munitions factory and provided basic hospitality, including food and clothing as well as education, medical care, financial help and shelter to those in need. Refusing to judge others, he set about bringing reform - whether that was for the imprisoned, the homeless, for the abolition of slavery or to encourage women into leadership roles. He followed the teaching of Jesus to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the ill and welcome the stranger.

Wesley was committed to social justice and his teaching and actions had a profound impact on how Christians now engage with issues of poverty, homelessness, and social care. At the heart of his view was his interpretation of Christian love. He believed that Christians should show mercy and compassion to all people, particularly those suffering from poverty and homelessness. His sermons emphasised that faith must be more than just having belief; faith must be active, enacted through works of charity, justice, and kindness. His perspective aligned with the biblical call to love one's neighbour as oneself, which extended to both spiritual and material needs.

Wesley therefore believed that poverty was not just an individual's fault but was rooted in the social structures of his time. As an advocate for the poor and marginalized, he argued that Christians must fight against inequality and systemic injustice. Poverty was a moral issue, not merely a social or economic one.

Wesley was dismayed by the disparity of wealth which the Industrial Revolution was creating. His social ethics, therefore, were grounded in the belief that wealth and material possessions were to be used responsibly, with the aim of uplifting others rather than enriching oneself. He promoted education as a means of lifting people out of poverty, as well as for moral and spiritual improvement. Wesley believed that poverty should not be a permanent condition, and that society had a collective responsibility to eradicate it.

John Wesley's approach to the homeless and poor was grounded in his Christian faith, which called for a commitment to mercy, justice, and social responsibility. He advocated not only for personal charity but also for a systemic change that could address the root causes of poverty and homelessness.

Going back to the church I mentioned at the start ... the showers will probably go in what is known as *the stables*, that is, the place where visiting preachers used to tether their horses. Perhaps Mr Wesley might even have tethered his there?

Every blessing,
Rev. Richard

John Wesley's Manifesto

1. Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people
2. Help everyone to have a job
3. Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage
4. Offer the best possible education
5. Help everyone to feel they can make a difference
6. Promote tolerance
7. Promote equal treatment for women
8. Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism
9. End all forms of slavery
10. Avoid getting into wars
11. Share the love of God with everyone
12. Care for the environment

News from our churches



Central Methodist Church

Greetings from Central. We are pleased that Rev. Margaret is recovering well from her knee replacement and is back at Central encouraging us all, we missed her enthusiasm. We had a busy Christmas season the highlight of which was a visit to our

Christmas Tree Festival and Carol Service by our local Romania Children's Choir, it was a great blessing to those there. We continue with our Monday drop in and our New to you shop which is proving popular to the community. Also, our support of the food bank has become part of our outreach and is still very much needed. We have this year welcomed the Centre of Reconciliation who run the hygiene Bank. They are now renting rooms from us for their offices and storeroom. We look forward to working with them in all they do. It has always been our prayer for Central to reach out to our community and we are beginning to see our prayers being answered, so we look forward to what God has in store for us in this year .

Shoebbox Appeal 2024

We have been advised that 25,633 were sent from UK to Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova. Heartfelt thanks are sent to you all for your incredible generosity. 2025 Central will be, once again, registering to act as an area collection centre. We do not have the donation deadline date yet, as soon as we do, we will advise you of the days and times we will be open for you to drop off your shoeboxes.



Cherry Willingham Methodist Church



Looking at the shelves in our local shops it is hard to reckon that we are still in the period of Christmas; yet the Easter Eggs and other treats are in abundance with their tempting offers.

Reflecting firstly on the Cherry Willingham pre-Christmas outdoor Carol service on a very chilly December evening was again well attended, and the warming tea, coffee or squash afterwards with a mince pie was indeed very welcome in the Library.

On our Sunday service on January 5th the Church were requested to act out the bible passage of Matthew chapter 2 in a role play, (the visit of the wise men from the east) and at fairly short notice! A quick sort through the costumes usually used for the monthly Prospects Service and some



'mix and match' resulted a costume for each the actors involved. With no time to rehearse, some quick thinking, it went ahead wonderfully well! Some of the actors involved are in the photo adjacent.

Looking forward to the warmer weather as we are, and with the opportunity for some of the more usual outdoor events. Also, and very importantly the Church has had the calling to meet for prayer perhaps on a monthly basis. This is planned to go ahead shortly with some trial dates and times to discover what best suits the congregation best. Dates, time and location will be announced.

Just a reminder the Prospects monthly service (mentioned above) for adults with learning difficulties is run by Cherry Willingham Methodists, held in Washingborough Methodist Church by kind permission and on the 3rd Sunday in the month at 3.00pm (the 3rd at 3 if it helps?)

PG





Monks Road Methodist Church

Our *Craft* group began again after Christmas early in January. We meet on Monday mornings between 10.30am and noon, after which we share a soup lunch together and everyone is welcome so if you wish to share with us, bring your own craft project or just come for coffee and chat, we would love to welcome you. While the church is open on Monday mornings we also welcome anyone who needs a warm space.

Our *First Tuesday* group got underway again on 4th February when we enjoyed learning more about the Jewish community in Lincoln during medieval times from Chris Johnson. The March meeting on Tuesday, 4th March will be our AGM – it lasts about 10 minutes – and then Revd Terry Nowell will regale us with one of his interesting, well-researched talks – please join us – 2pm in church and hear about Tenynson.

The *World Day of Prayer* this year in our area will be held at All Saints Anglican church on Monks Road when the four churches along the road will join with each other and share the service prepared by the women of *The Cook Islands*. The title of the service is “I made you wonderful”, taken from Psalm 139 recognising that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. *Kia orana* is the traditional greeting in The Cook Islands and means “May you live a long and fulfilling life” and as Christians we trust that God will help us to live for Him. If you have a World Day of Prayer service in your area, please support it if you can. The service used to be called *Women’s World Day of Prayer* but that was altered several years ago, and it is a service where everyone, men and women, can meet together and share with Christians from other parts of God’s kingdom, learning about their way of worship and celebration and helping us see God’s work across the world. WDP is always held on the first Friday of March which this year is 7th March and on Monks Road will begin at 11am at All Saints Anglican church and all are welcome.



North Hykeham Methodist Church



North Hykeham have had some excellent services and are pleased to say our numbers have averaged 25—30 each week.

Christmas was good: the Guides and Brownies made angels etc to help decorate the church; they made a gift for every member which was greatly appreciated. Rev Alan did a Blessings service which was very uplifting and welcome.



Our knitters have been busy, and we have lots of lovely warm blankets ready for the needy. If anyone has any spare double knitting wool, we would be grateful to receive it.

Barbara

As booking secretary for North Hykeham Chapel, I have the opportunity to meet a wide variety of people who use our hall and get an idea of what’s available in the community:

West Lindsay District Blind club meet alternate weeks on Wednesday - this is a large group and I’m always impressed by the number of volunteer drivers there are. These wonderful people give an opportunity for an afternoon to chat and meet people. To some disadvantaged elderly this is often the highlight of their week. There is certainly a buzz in the air on these afternoons. There is of course a Raffle, a speaker, and a cup of tea and biscuits. The volunteers who run this group give a very valuable service to some disadvantaged people. Thank you; and it’s good to see the hall being used for such a worthwhile cause.

Jackie





Reepham Methodist Church

Our Christmas events all went well, with carols and readings at the final Fun Friday before Christmas, a Christmas party at Richard and Jane's, and a Christmas

Nativity service shared with Cherry Willingham. Members of our church family no longer able to worship with us were visited with a gift of a card and a plant.

Fun Friday continues to do well, with a couple of new members replacing others who are no longer able to attend. Although our numbers are sometimes low on a Sunday our monthly fellowship is much appreciated and well attended.

Plans are in hand for Holy Week and Easter when we share daily lunchtime reflections with a soup lunch with the churches in Reepham, Cherry Willingham and Fiskerton as well as a Maundy Thursday Agape meal at the Parish Church and a Good Friday service with the Parish Church which we will be hosting this year. Our Minister, Jennifer, will be leading our Easter Sunday service which we will share with our friends from Cherry Willingham.

We are also hosting the World Day of Prayer service on March 7th at 10.00 for our three villages and would welcome anyone else if there is not a service near you.

Skellingthorpe Methodist Church

Our 130th anniversary year ended with a flurry of activities and events during December. The Festival of Wreaths was launched at the beginning of the month. We were blessed to receive so many beautiful and imaginative wreaths from numerous people and churches. Wreaths were made from all manner of materials and represented every season, sentiment and celebration during the year. They were knitted, crocheted, patchworked, gold painted, photocopied, tinsel-wrapped, and one even had flashing lights! Our target was for 130 wreaths, but



each time we thought we had a total, more wreaths arrived so we never did discover the final number! Many, many thanks to the churches and individuals in the Circuit who made wreaths - we couldn't have done it without your support and creative talents.

The Coffee and Carols by Candlelight evening organised by the Card Craft Group is now such a well-established village tradition that people arrive earlier and earlier each year to be sure of a seat. Card Craft Group membership had dropped during the year, so other groups meeting in the building were approached to read poems and happily none of them refused.

The December monthly Coffee Morning rounded off a busy year of such mornings. During 2024 a total of £1,556.61 was raised for various charities at these coffee mornings and other giving events. Most of the charities benefitting had been suggested by our regular attendees at these events.

The Annual Carol Service was an extra special occasion because, thanks to a friend of a friend, a retired church organist was found and he volunteered to play the organ for the Service. What a joy it was to have a church full of people singing at the tops of their voices and accompanied by an organ played at full volume!

We now wonder what 2025 has in store for Skellingthorpe Methodist Church. Our membership is small and ageing, and we realise that what we have always done with such enthusiasm and ability may not always be possible. We shall no doubt attempt to do it anyway, although we may need extra support at times.

The Good News is that Card Craft Group numbers are building up again this year and that an increasing number of ladies (although gentlemen are just as welcome) are attending both this group and the Chapel, Chat and Craft Group.





St Columba's LEP

Future Community lunch dates: March 22nd and May 17th at 12.30pm price £6

**MURDER MYSTERY
EVENING**

April 26th at 6 pm (with mystery raffle).
Faith supper; donations for church funds appreciated.

A well in advance diary date: Christmas Tree Festival: December 13th

St Giles Methodist Church

We had some fundraising events before Christmas which brought in a total of £670 for church funds. We plan to hold our Summer Fayre on Saturday July 19.



Two of our younger members of our congregation, Theo Hooper and Louis Brierton, are hoping to be baptised during Juliet's service on March 9.

Our Sunday School, otherwise known as Cre8, is doing well with up to 12 children attending on Sunday Mornings. Joan Todd and Lynda Ward lead the class using Roots material. Prashant Rosario and Anisha Matham are helping too.

Our quarterly combined service with our friends at St Giles Parish Church took place at the Methodist Church at the end of December when Rev Juliet led the service with Rev Canon Jeff Heskins giving a very interesting and thought provoking sermon. The next combined service will be at St Giles Parish Church at the end of March.

The fencing and storage container have been erected behind the back of the church. We are consulting with Amy Stancer from the St Giles Nursery about detailed plans for the Sensory Garden.

Our coffee mornings on Wednesdays and Fridays, part of the Warm

Rooms initiative, are proving popular with free bacon butties and toast provided. The Free-4-All and Community Larder are open at the same time so the church can get very busy. Our Monday Coffee Mornings no longer meet due to lack of interest.

Boys Brigade and Scouts, whose numbers are increasing, have resumed after the Christmas break on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The Night Light Café on Tuesday evenings continues to prove a great help for those with mental health issues and some respite for their carers.

The church is also becoming a popular venue for birthday parties with several bookings in the coming weeks.

STONES PLACE MHA Skellingthorpe Road LN6 7PA



We would welcome a few more stewards to join the team who prepare the chapel lounge for the church services at 3pm each Sunday. If any friends or relatives of the current residents would like to join the rota to offer 1 duty per month, here is an outline of the duties.

1. Put hymn numbers on board
2. Fetch glass of water for preacher
3. Switch on microphone and check that residents can hear at the back of the room
4. Welcome residents at the door



After service, drink tea/coffee with residents
switch off microphone and put hymn numbers back in box



Swallowbeck Methodist Church



At the time of writing we are mid-way through our winter Zoom Bible Study course based on the "7 Laws for Life" DVD by Selwyn Hughes and presented by Mick Brooks. We are grateful to John Turner, Keith Woolhouse and Alan Perkins for leading the sessions, especially to Alan for his technical expertise enabling us to meet via Zoom from the comfort of our homes on cold and dark winter evenings. On 16 March we are looking forward to welcoming the District Chairman, Rev Angy Long, to lead our Church Anniversary service which will be followed by a roast lunch.

Swallowbeck will be taking part in Christian Aid Week (11-17 May 2025) by inviting the preacher appointed for 11 May to use some of the worship resources found on the website.

Each year, Christian Aid looks back at its impact. Last year it worked with 260 partners in 25 countries around the world – from Colombia to South Sudan and from Ukraine to Afghanistan and more. Working through 410 projects, Christian Aid tackled climate change, conflict and humanitarian disasters and reached 4.5 million people living in poverty. Over 3 million people had their humanitarian needs met by Christian Aid's partners – so important in a time of terrible conflict around the world. This was only possible due to the 3,000 churches and other supporters across Britain and Ireland who raised over £80m. To find out more about Christian Aid's impact, go to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/what-we-do/annual-report>.

Jackie



Welton & Dunholme Methodist Church



Looking back, we enjoyed successful Christmas services and celebrations, with a full church for the Carol Service.

Looking forward, it is our 210th anniversary on 23rd March - we are the oldest church in the circuit - and we will be welcoming Rev. Margaret Doughty to lead the service. It is also ten years since we opened our new hall, and we plan to review our hopes from 2015 and establish our aspirations for the next ten years.

Last year at Easter Rev. Richard led us in the Stations of the Cross; this year he is planning a Stations of the Resurrection, leading us from Easter towards Pentecost. Later in the year we will be hosting some events for the Welton Arts Festival in July to which everyone is welcome. More details will be circulated nearer the time.

Our Saturday and Wednesday coffee mornings continue to flourish thanks to several dedicated volunteers. Feedback is always very positive, describing the buzz and welcoming atmosphere. Do pop in if you are in the vicinity, 10.00 - 11.30am; we would be very pleased to see you.

Elaine



Bailgate Methodist Church Organ Recitals start again on 6th March and will be every 1st Thursday of the month through the year up to November. They are from 12 noon to 1pm free entry with a retiring collection. The money raised goes towards the organists expenses, Bailgate Church and a charity, usually a children's charity. On March 6th the recitalist is Justyna Poszluszna who is the organist at St. Giles church.



Mid-Lincolnshire Methodist Church

Mid-Lincolnshire Circuit Travelling Guild

For many years we have very successfully operated a Wesley Guild meeting fortnightly travelling around the Circuit meeting at 4 of our churches in turn. We have found The Guild to be part of the social and caring life of our small rural churches:

- To promote open and honest discussion of the meaning of the Christian faith;
- To broaden the cultural horizons of its members;
- To be a caring fellowship;
- A point of contact with Christianity for people to develop their devotion to Christ;
- To encourage interest in the local community;
- And to support care projects: locally, nationally and overseas.

We extend a welcome to our new church friends as our circuits come together and invite invitations from interested churches who would like to join in our circumnavigation of the extended new circuit.

There are 4 dates still on the current programme (start time 2:00pm):

Date	Venue	Activity
Monday, 3 rd March	Horncastle	Social time
Monday, 17 th March	Woodhall Spa	Derek Warner
Monday, 7 th April	Horncastle	a brief Annual General Meeting followed by the Chair and/or vice-Chair of the Methodist Circuit. Bring and share meal
Monday, 14 th April	Bardney	Holy Week: devotions with Revd Sue Evans

We also celebrate Rogation at 2pm on Sunday, 1st June at Low Grange, West Barkwith, LN8 5LF. Speaker Rev Canon Alan Robson. Cows, tractors and picnic – what could be better? Come and join us.

For further information about either of these items, please contact Lawrie Lambert (tel: 01673 857515; email: annlambert154@btinternet.com)



THE FESTIVAL OF CHAPLAINCY WEEKEND INFORMATION

To celebrate and appreciate the work and achievements of chaplaincies in Lincolnshire and beyond.

**First Festival of Chaplaincy at Lincoln Cathedral
Friday 21st March to Sunday 23rd March 2025**

WHAT'S ON

FRIDAY 21ST MARCH – BLACK TIE FUNDRAISING DINNER IN THE NAVE

The dinner is open to anyone and is planned for over 500 people with a champagne reception, with John Inverdale as MC for the evening and Sir Jonathan Vam-Tam as guest speaker. Guests are expected to be from companies and organisations from across Lincolnshire and a wonderful evening with 4 course dinner, in a unique setting is expected. Tickets are selling fast so booking essential. info@festivalofchaplaincy.co.uk

SATURDAY 22ND MARCH, 10AM – 4PM - FESTIVAL IN LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

Free entry to the Cathedral on this special open day - for everyone. Come along for a day of activities, information, talks and music showcasing the unique contribution chaplains make.

- Information on local and national chaplaincies will inform and engage
- Interactive activities for young and old alike will be hosted by chaplains and associated community charities such as Lincolnshire Rural Support Network and Lincolnshire Agricultural Society
- Talks held in the Chapter House will inspire
- Last opportunity to see the Table for the Nation before it moves away from Lincoln (<https://lincolncathedral.com/table/>)
- Discover the amazing beauty and inspiring stories of Lincoln Cathedral, including Guided Floor Tours of the Cathedral throughout the day.
- Local choirs and music groups will provide a musical backdrop and entertainment for the day

SUNDAY 23RD MARCH, 3.45 PM - EVENSONG

Come and join the Festival Evensong service in St Hugh's Choir. The service will have a special focus on chaplaincy with guest preacher The Venerable Dr Giles Legood, MBE, KHC, Chaplain in Chief of the RAF Chaplains Branch and Archdeacon for the Royal Air Force. Everyone is welcome.

MORE ABOUT CHAPLAINCY

Across our wonderful county and beyond and across all aspects of life from healthcare to agriculture, prisons to armed forces, caravan parks to waterways, hospices to theatres you will find dedicated chaplains working alongside ordinary people giving their time, offering their support, lending a listening ear and all helping to bring hope. This is the work of the church outside of the church walls and this is what the Festival of Chaplaincy will celebrate.

For more information visit <https://lrac.org.uk/events/festival-of-chaplaincy/>



Stewards at the Festival of Chaplaincy – 22nd March 2025

We need stewards to welcome visitors to the Festival of Chaplaincy in Lincoln Cathedral. If you are interested in helping for an hour or two then please contact Alison.

Mrs Alison J Godfrey
District Officer and PA to Chair of District
Lincolnshire Methodist District
c/o Burton Road Methodist Church
175 Burton Road
LINCOLN
LN1 3LW
01522 370126
PA@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk

Faithwalkers Schedule – March to May 2025

Saturday	Location	Leader(s)
8 th March	Scampton	David & Elva
12 th April	Cromford, Derbyshire	Andrew Moir
26 th April	Binbrook	Andrew Moir
10 th May	Blue Bell Walk	Carole & Jane
24 th May	Local (TBC)	Tineke & Joanne

For further information contact:

Lettie Fortune, Walk administrator.

Tel: 09741338457 email: Lettiefortune@gmail.com

Farmer's Life

It's funny how a farmer spends countless hours getting the land ready, from ploughing to planting.

He spends £1000's on fuel, equipment, and repair bills. He spends many hours praying for rain or sunshine instead of sleeping. He sweats like no other job will make you. He works like most people wouldn't.

He gets yelled at and cussed by people who get caught behind the tractor traveling down the road, and he spends many times of the day wondering if it's worth it!

The deer, rats, mice, badgers, cabbage whites, ants, midges are just a few pests to contend with!!

He does all of this for what??? Ask yourself, "Why would he do that?" The answers are all around you.

The plate of food sitting in front of you, the clothes on your back, the shoes on your feet, and the last answer is the one that puzzles most people. It's the dust, love for agriculture, and the satisfaction of knowing he has done his part at the end of the day!

Let's thank all the farmers out there who help make the world go round!

God bless our farmers!





The Tale of the Two Pots and the Elderly Woman

An elderly woman had two large pots that she carried across her neck on the ends of a pole. One pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water, while the other pot had a crack and only arrived half full after the long journey from the stream to her house. For two

years, this daily routine resulted in the woman bringing home just one and a half pots of water.

The perfect pot was proud of its flawless performance. However, the cracked pot felt ashamed of its imperfection and miserable that it could only fulfill half of its intended purpose. After two years of what it saw as failure, the cracked pot finally spoke to the woman by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself," it confessed, "because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The elderly woman smiled gently and said, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I've always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds along your side of the path. Every day, as we walk back, you water them."

"For two years, I've been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there wouldn't be this beauty to grace the house."

****Moral of the Story:****

Each of us has our own unique flaws. But it is these imperfections that make our lives together so interesting and rewarding. Embrace people for who they are and always look for the good in them.

Cake Sale



SATURDAY 29TH MARCH

10am to 12am

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH , BRANT ROAD LN5 9TR

BRING CAKE, BUY CAKE!

Come along at any time between 10-12am to bring a cake or plate of baking, then buy some treats!

Or just come along and buy! Stay for as long as you want.

**REFRESHMENTS AND CHAT AVAILABLE
WHILST YOU BROWSE!**

All proceeds will go to The Joy Foundation as they continue to help local children to flourish

For more information contact Andy on 01522 822853 or email andy.housam@joyfoundation.org.uk



Music as ministry

The importance of singing together

We all have a music ministry of sorts. The most obvious ones are the organist and choir director, anyone with an instrument, anyone singing in a choir or the music group. These are the people who lead the music in our worship. But every time the congregation join their voices to sing anything out loud, they minister to one another.

You might say, 'If you heard me sing you wouldn't think it was doing anyone any good', but that's to miss the point. When we raise our voices in song, we are not performing, but joining together as God's people, brothers and sisters in Christ, in the work that is worship. To worship mindfully - paying attention to the good news and letting that work within us and respond to it – takes effort, and we need help and support from the whole community.

We support one another - hearing our small voices become the greater voice somehow inspires us. And when the familiar hymns we sing with gusto join us together, they send us out uplifted into our everyday lives, humming the melody, taking the threads of words with us as food for the coming week – and making us ministers of the words (and the Word) to the world: small voices singing the good news as part of a greater song.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: 'It is the voice of the Church that is heard in singing together. It is not you that sings, it is the Church that is singing, and you, as a member of the Church, may share in its song.'



Can we change the world through singing?

The words that we sing challenge us to change ourselves so that we can change the world.

Sunday morning: get up, breakfast, shower, dress. To church in time for choir practice, sing, tea and biscuits afterwards, home again. Sunday lunch. And so on, throughout the year. The thing is, does it have any effect? When we're sent out into the world at the end of the service, is our relationship with the world any different as a result of what we've heard, sung and prayed together? And if not, why not?

One of the wisest teachers I ever knew used to say 'the acid test of liturgy is what happens afterwards'. He knew that we have to meet the words, music, actions and community of worship with hearts ready to listen, consider, take to heart and use to change our lives, or we're in danger of standing still, clutching our comfortable message, reinforced by our favourite hymns. But a diet of comfortable music isn't going to proclaim the good news in a way which brings the kingdom into our midst. Sometimes we need to hear new words, new tunes, or to hear our familiar songs with new ears. The words we sing aren't to entertain, or to make us feel good; they should inspire and form us into the followers Jesus wants us to be, which means stepping outside our comfort zones more than occasionally.

The psalms are a good place to begin. The intimate conversations – bitter complaints, frank confessions, statements of wretchedness, hard for us to read sometimes – between the psalmist and God show us struggles we can identify with. We recognise the thankfulness of someone for whom the worst so nearly happened...but did not. The community laments and songs of praise remind us that we are part of a community which looks to God, in Christian terms, the Body of Christ. The psalms of enthronement and kingship hand on to us the idea of a God whose majesty is probably beyond anything modern people can imagine. In the psalms there is wisdom for our own day, comfort, inspiration, praise and sadness. They give us a vocabulary of both words and ideas with which to encounter and proclaim our God, whether as Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. They speak into our lives in a way which illuminates and identifies the things we need to examine about ourselves – and they will, if we hear them, sing them, reflect on them, pray about them and act on them, change us from within, and lead us to change the world as well.



Methodist Women in Britain

Swanwick Conference 2025

this little light of mine ...

Friday 4th to Sunday 6th April 2025
at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire
with keynote speaker
Rev Dr Sonia Hicks
(President of Methodist Conference 2021-2022)
plus worship, workshops, fellowship & friendship



Swanwick Residential Weekend 2025

4 April 2025 – 6 April 2025

Rev Dr Sonia Hicks draws on her own experience as a Black woman Presbyterian as she speaks of the difficulty of letting the light of Christ shine brightly but also challenges us not to allow the light to matter what the cost.

Come and be challenged and encouraged.

Plus a variety of workshops, fellowship, Bible Study and worship all in the beautiful Derbyshire



Full Price Ticket

£200.00



Deposit Ticket

Please note the outstanding balance of 100 pounds will be due before the 18th March 2025. You will be emailed a link to pay the remaining balance at the beginning of March.

£100.00

Calendar Dates - Spring 2025		
Saturday	1st Mar	St David's Day
Tuesday	4th Mar	Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day
Wednesday	5th Mar	Ash Wednesday
Friday	7th Mar	World Day of Prayer
Sunday	9th Mar	Circuit Service—North Hykeham— 3pm
Monday	10th Mar	Commonwealth Day
Monday	17th Mar	St Patrick's Day
Friday– Sunday	21st-23rd Mar	Chaplaincy Festival
Sunday	30th Mar	Mothering Sunday
Sunday	13th Apr	Palm Sunday
Friday	18th Apr	Good Friday
Sunday	20th Apr	Easter
Wednesday	23rd Apr	St George's Day
Tuesday	6th May	Coronation Day
Sunday - Saturday	11th -17th May	Christian Aid Week
Thursday	29th May	Ascension Day, Holy Thursday
Thursday - Sunday	29th May - 8th June	Thy Kingdom Come
Sunday	8th June	Whit Sunday, Pentecost

District Training Day for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

'Methodist Way of Life, Revitalising Worship for Today'

Saturday 26th April



PRAYING TOGETHER

1 Jesus, you stand at the gate of every new year and day. Take our hands and guide us always with the light of your love. Amen.

2 Our Father, please help us recognise that the world can be extremely unfair. Let us acknowledge that we live in a wonderful community. Let us treat everybody equally in all that we do. Help me take action when somebody is treated unfairly. We ask this in your name, Amen.

Axel, age 9, Elston All Saints Anglican Methodist Primary School.

3 God, praises mean nothing without us actively seeking justice: may we speak out and guard space for others to speak. May we protest all that outrages you. May we stand with Christ alongside all who cry out to you. Amen.

Dan Haylett, District Chair, South West Peninsula District

4 Dear Lord, You bestow upon us the gift of life on this rich and beautiful earth. Yet we see oppression all around, and, if we're honest, within our own souls. Gracious God, move us and transform us. Soften our hearts and show us how to love our neighbour. Shake us out of our comfort zone. In the face of injustice give us the courage to challenge those in power, as Jesus did. Amen.

Phil Crane, campaigner for tax justice, Isle of Man

5 God of the Outcast; God of the Disempowered: Thank you that you walk with us as One who has been rejected, despised, mocked. Help us to follow the story of your pathfinders long past: justice-seekers like the Primitive Methodists who opened wide doors to welcome all. Amen.

Elizabeth Morris, Learning Officer, Englesea Brook

6 God of all, we praise you for the life that you give us, even when we cling to it by no more than our fingertips and, in Jesus' name, we protest the inequality created by human greed. Amen

Sheryl Anderson, former District Chair, former Liverpool District

7 Peace is a rose. So lovely, so delicate, so fragrant, so easily crushed. Holy God, let peace flower in our damaged world. In parched places, let peace take root, in broken places, let peace send forth strong shoots, in barren places, let peace bud and bloom, that all may see her beauty, feel her softness, be overcome by her gentle perfume, and tend her. Amen.

Sally Jones, presbyter, South Warwickshire Circuit

8 Dear God, we pray that each one of us feels your presence now and every day, whatever the circumstances, time or place. May we all reflect you, in our particular words, thoughts and deeds, in such a way that others too can come to feel and know your presence throughout the whole world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Croft House Theology Study Group, Fair Isle, Shetland

9 Wherever-God, lead us to those for whom your light shines. Whatever-God, open our eyes to all that you yearn to do. Whenever-God, you call us to shine the light of your love into the darkness, remind us that we are never alone, but you always go with us. Whoever-God, link us with all those who strive for justice, equality, well-being, wholeness, peace and life; that we might work as partners, for your people, in your world. Amen.

Foundry Project, Trinity Methodist Church Woking, Wey Valley Circuit

PRAYING TOGETHER

10 Dear Lord, Thank you for being there when we are down. We thank you for being the light that guides us through our darkest times. You are the sun that shines down on us every day. You are a star that leads us in the darkness. Amen.

Chloe, Year 6, Radcliffe Hall CE/Methodist Primary School

11 Almighty God, we recognise that all good things come from you. While we feel discouraged, underserving and unworthy, you continue to shower us with treasures of love, forgiveness, healing and restoration. You remind us that when we dive into the depths of the sea, or soar to the heights of the sky and travel to lands afar, that we cannot escape your presence. So, when we feel forgotten and alone, come close to us and help us encounter your strengthening Spirit. Amen.

Mark Mander, Royal Navy/US Navy Personnel Exchange Programme Chaplain, Royal Navy

12 Here is a space Lord – what I choose to fill it with is up to me. But if I lay my burdens down for a few moments and seek the bright sunshine of your presence, then your presence in my inner being can transform the time and place, however ordinary and routine it may be. Lord, do this for me now. Amen.

Paul Wardle, local preacher, Tiverton and Wellington Circuit

13 Dear Lord, We thank you for the word and for everything we have. We thank you that you're there for us when things are tough. We thank you for giving us a second chance when we do something wrong. We thank you for those people who cheer us on and give us confidence. Amen

Claudia, Year 4, Aspull Church Primary School

14 Dear God, Thank you for sending your love through your Son Jesus. Thank you for Jesus' kindness when he fed the hungry, healed the sick and gave us hope when we had none. Thank you for shining your light and helping us to spread gentleness. Thank you for building a beautiful world that gives us everything we need, even when we cannot always see it. Amen.

Fir Class, Holly Hill Church School, Birmingham

15 Loving God, help us to see the hidden treasure in our communities. People who quietly go about doing wonderful things that make a difference, yet not seeking the limelight. Our churches are made up of individuals who tirelessly try to show your love to others, and so bring hope and help to people in need. Often these 'hidden treasures' are the catalyst behind a new project that encourages others to try something different. We bring them to you in gratitude for their selfless giving of themselves, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Amen.

Aileen Fox, local preacher, Central Norfolk Circuit

16 Lord, you are always working even though we might not see it, in difficult times of suffering and pain, walking next to us. You are the light in the darkest of times; the hope when all is lost and the strength when we fall. Help us to trust in your plan and see your treasures in those around us. Amen.

Ealish Ayres, 3Gen, Isle of Man

17 Dear God, Thank you for all of these hidden treasures: peace, nature, a place to call home, food to eat, air to breathe, a bed to sleep in, clothes to wear and a

PRAYING TOGETHER

life to live. Help everyone to realise that we have these hidden treasures and to make the most of them. Amen.

Ellie, Year 2, St Peter's Methodist Primary School, Canterbury

18 Dear God, Please be with us when we are sad, scared or frightened. Help us to remember you're always in our hearts. Amen.

Sophie, Year 2, Nutgrove Methodist Primary School, St Helens

19 Dear Lord, Thank you for your renewing and giving new life to things. You have designed the seasons to each hold a special lesson for us. You created everything so wonderfully and orchestrated everything to work in harmony in nature. Amen.

20 Dear Father, thank you for Your continual renewal, refreshing, and restoration. I pray that this season will be one of growth in my life. Grow me just as You grow the flowers, vegetables and fruits of this season. In Jesus' Holy name I pray, Amen.

21 Father God, thank You for new life. I pray that You will bless this new season. Bless the ministries I seek to honour You in. Bless the wonderful people that You have put in my life. Bless my church Lord. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

22 Oh, Lord. Thank you for fresh starts. I pray that You would open my eyes to new opportunities that You have for me. That you would give me words to say to make the most of those opportunities. In Jesus' Name I pray, amen.

23 Dear Father, I pray that You would bring our family closer together during this time. Help us to use our time wisely.

I pray for those who are partying and being reckless, that they would come to know you in a real and powerful way. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen

24 Jehovah Jireh, You know the state of our land. I pray that You would send the perfect amount of rain to water the crops and animals that we depend on. Help us to trust You. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen

25 Dear Lord, I want to lift those who have lost, or are losing hope. I pray that they would find that You are our one true hope. That in You we have a hope like no other. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen

26 Father God, I pray that You would continue the work which You have started in me. That You would transform me and renew my mind and heart. That You would change us from the inside out. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen

27 Jesus, thank you that you have crossed through the waters before us. Bless us and strengthen us for the challenges ahead. Amen.

28 Lord Jesus, you were anointed to bring new sight, freedom and good news to all people. Help us to share this good news of your love and care with everyone we meet in the week ahead. Amen.

29 God, thank you that you love us enough to say difficult things to us. Thank you that you help us to change. Please continue to fill us with your love and to make us better at showing it to those around us. Amen.

PRAYING TOGETHER

30 Jesus, you have the power to change any situation. Be with us this day at home, work and school, and help us to share your love and strength with everyone we meet. Amen.

31 Life-giving God, keep us well rooted in you, so we can grow and be strong through all that happens this day. As you encourage us, may we encourage others to live and grow well. Amen.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 Friday 7 March A service for everyone!

You are warmly invited to attend any of the following
Lincoln services:

10:00 am

St Peter and St Paul RC Church, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, LN6 7RB

11:00 am

All Saints' Church, Monks Road, Lincoln, LN2 5JN

2:00 pm

All Saints' Church, Brant Road, Lincoln, LN5 8RN

St Giles' Methodist Church, Addison Drive, Lincoln, LN2 4LQ

St Hugh's Church, Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham LN6 8JB

St John the Evangelist Church, Grantham Road, Bracebridge Heath, LN4 2LD

St Luke's Church, Jasmin Road, Birchwood, Lincoln, LN6 0YR

7:00 pm

Bailgate Methodist Church, Bailgate, Lincoln, LN1 3AR

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