

Circuit News



Lincoln Methodist 17/02

Summer 2023

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This world
Your creation
Rolled into a sphere
Packaged in sunshine
Gift-wrapped in love
Given to us
Thank you

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Calendar Dates - June to August 2023

Thursday to Friday	Jun 01-30	Month of prayer for toddler groups
Sunday	Jun-04	Trinity Sunday
Monday	Jun-05	World Environment Day
Wednesday	Jun-07	Circle Dancing (2pm, Central Methodist Church)
Thursday	Jun-08	Corpus Christi
Saturday	Jun-10	~~Flash Mob in Lincoln City Centre~~ Postponed Faithwalkers - Fosdyke (7 miles)
Sunday	Jun-18	Father's Day
Monday to Sunday	Jun 19-25	Refugee Week
Wednesday	Jun-21	Summer Solstice
Thursday	Jun-22	Windrush Day
Saturday	Jun-24	Armed Forces' Day Faithwalkers - Woodhall Spa (7 miles)
Wednesday	Jul-05	Circle Dancing (2pm, Central Methodist Church)
Friday	Jul-07	World Chocolate Day
Saturday	Jul-08	Faithwalkers - Scothern, Lincs (6 miles)
Monday	Jul-10	Teddy Bear Picnic Day
Saturday	Jul-15	Leaving service for Rev Bruce Thompson; 3pm at Louth Methodist Church.
Saturday	Jul-22	Faithwalkers - Everton, Notts (6.5 miles)
Tuesday	Aug-01	Lammas Day
Wednesday	Aug-02	Circle Dancing (2pm, Central Methodist Church)
Saturday	Aug-12	Faithwalkers - Tetney, Lincs (6 miles)
Saturday	Aug-26	Faithwalkers - TBC (6 miles)
Wednesday	Aug-30	National Beach Day
Friday	Sep-01	Creation Time begins
Saturday	Sep-09	Faithwalkers - Walesby, Lincs (7 miles)
Sunday	Sep-10	Education Sunday



Navigating Change



Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

*Nahum Tate (1652-1715) and
Nicholas Brady (1659-1726) based on {Psalm 34*

As I began to prepare to write this the words of this hymn were on my mind. Life seems full of changes, some good and some not so good. But it is a part of life we must accept. I sometimes reflect at funerals how much society has changed in the past 100 years. Some of those changes have made life much better and easier and others not.

Our Christian faith and the life of the church are not exempt from change. There are constant changes that challenge the way we work out our calling to follow Jesus. I guess one of the major changes over the years has been, that in my early life most of the church activities were based in the church. Today the call is to go out and connect with the world. Yes, our churches are still used as a base for Worship and community, but our mission has not changed, as disciples of Jesus we are called to bring hope and peace to the world.

It seems that we are in a season of change, and we must navigate through it. There are several changes going on across Lincoln and new leaders are coming in. Indeed, you will be blessed by two new members, Richard, and Helen on the staff team of the Lincoln circuit.

When John writes to the various churches in Revelation (Rev 2&3) we hear of the different circumstances of each of them. At the end of each letter there are these words, 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the church.' It is vital that during all the

changes that we listen to the Spirits prompting. And not only listen but respond in words and action.

Personally, I have been blessed by the many faithful servants who have given time and energy to make sure the Circuit functions as it should. You know who they are. I praise God for their faithfulness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So, as you approach a New Season in the life of the Church how might you respond to the call to follow Jesus? All I know is that when we are called and faithful to that calling many things can happen. I look forward to hearing of the new things you are doing as you navigate through this New Season. Please commit yourself to prayer as you move forward.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for the support Julie and I have received over the last 11 years. May God Bless you.

Yours in Christ

Alan

Praying you every Blessing

Rev Alan



Thank you
for all your support

News from our Churches



St Columba's Church

Daniel

As part of St Columba's giving, we sponsor Daniel through the Pass it in on trust Uganda.

Daniel is a boy from Soroti a village in Uganda where he lives with his mum and brother Eric.

As a church we sponsor Daniel to enable him to attend school, have a hot meal each day and have the school uniform.

Daniel is now 14 and growing into a handsome young man. He would like to be a teacher one day and is working hard at school to achieve this. We have yearly reports as to how he is performing and have had a letter from him too.

Along with this monetary support we send useful items to Uganda twice a year, this includes pencils, paper, games, and clothes.

Food parcels are a welcome too however this is sourced from Uganda as the food they eat are different to here. A donation of money covers basic food goods the amounts vary from £5 to £50 and anything in-between.

The village does not have electricity so items that are solar powered are useful such as lights and torches.

When parcels are sent to Uganda it costs to get it to the London Depot then to travel by sea to Kampala and then the 5-hour journey to Soroti.

If at any time you feel you have some spare money to contribute to these costs it would be gratefully received, also if you have any items that you would like to send please place them in the box provided near the display in church.

In the community that Daniel lives there are many families who struggle to clothe their children or give them extras. If you would like to offer any items of clothing or useful things these can be included in the parcels. The clothes can be for any age from baby to adult. Light weight toys can be included too.

If you feel you can contribute in any way, please feel free to contact me on my email below. Thank you!

Any queries email me on j.turner12@hotmail.co.uk where I can hopefully answer your questions.

North Hykeham



Once again, we would like to thank our minister and all preachers who have given us some excellent services this quarter. Rev Alan did a Memorial Service where we lit



candles and remembered our loved ones. David Sheehan took our church Anniversary and, once again, we thought of those that have gone before and put North Hykeham on the map.

Our congregation remains strong, average 25 each week.

One of our members has celebrated 60 years of marriage and probably would be one of the first to receive a card from the King.



Six of us enjoy Swallowbeck lunch club each month. A member writes, "In the almost silence the occasion tinkle of crockery can be heard. Sunlight shafted through the windows is being reflected in the

water being poured. Soft feet, smiling faces serve us with excellent food and there are murmurs of appreciation. Little is said, the priority enjoying our meal and spending time together.

Barbara



Swallowbeck

Swallowbeck send greetings to our friends around the Circuit.

As in previous years we flowered the cross on Easter Sunday and placed it outside as a witness to all passers-by of the risen Christ.



We celebrated Alan and Rae Perkins' Silver wedding anniversary with them over the weekend of 22 and 23 April and can't believe that 25 years have passed so quickly.



At the time of writing, we are busy preparing to celebrate the Coronation at Lunch Club, swiftly followed by 'Playing the Faith' and our 70th Anniversary weekend over 13 and 14 May.

After our busy and exciting month of May several members will be taking holidays during June and July so the summer will be a little quieter, but we will be looking forward to returning refreshed and ready to start the new Methodist year.



Monks Road



Here at Monks Road we believe we are a WAVE church i.e. We're All Valued Equally and welcome all despite each of our differences. To this end we have registered to be A PLACE OF WELCOME. This follows on from our opening as a Warm Space during the Winter.

As it says on their website: ***"Places of Welcome"** is a growing network of local community groups providing their neighbourhoods with places where all people feel safe to connect, belong and contribute.* Perhaps other churches in our circuit have also joined to welcome others they may have got to know during Warm Space sessions. Churches don't necessarily need to open specially but advertise when they are normally open for coffee mornings, craft groups etc. and use that time to be a PLACE OF WELCOME. We feel this is another opportunity to offer friendship to those in our community who may wish to make new connections.

Our monthly coffee mornings, on the last Saturday of the month, continue when we support several local charities. These coffee mornings are also attended by our local councillors which gives people from the community the opportunity to come and discuss local issues.

Our uniformed organisations suggested a few months ago that we needed a defibrillator outside our church, another important resource for the community. To this end cubs and scouts earned well while doing a 'bag-packing' session at Morrisons. Several church members have provided generous donations and along with an exceptional donation from the John Dawber Trust, at the time of writing, we are just about to order the unit and hope to have it installed in a few weeks time.





Welton and Dunholme

Our church anniversary service conducted by our minister, Rev. Alan Swann, at the end of March, celebrated more than 210 years of Methodism in Welton. Alan also presided at our Agape meal on Maundy Thursday which was attended by 25 people including friends from other churches.

Several successful charity events have been held at the chapel including a soup and sandwich lunch organised by Linda McCree which raised £705 for Action for Children. We were pleased to support college students Matty and Ellie who raised £130 for the YMCA, and Kirstie and friends who raised almost £700 for St Barnabas Hospice and Alzheimer's Society.

We are holding a concert with Lindum Ladies Choir on 17th June, tickets £5, to which all are invited, and our annual Strawberry tea is on 9th July, where everyone is also welcome.

We will be supporting the village coronation event on 7th May with a book and jigsaw stall.

Our popular film and tea afternoons end in May for the summer.

Ladies Fellowship recently enjoyed a beetle drive and will have their last meeting with Rev Alan Swann in May.

The men's monthly breakfasts continue their success with 30+ regular attenders.

Finally, we have welcomed Val Gravett as a church steward and member of the leadership team.

Elaine Johnson

Welton Knitting Ladies have been busy preparing for the Coronation!



Skellingthorpe Methodist Church



Worship services are continuing on a roughly fortnightly frequency where possible, the times varying which helps in the planning of preachers. Often the afternoon services are better attended, attracting local preachers who are unavailable in the mornings. We hope it may be possible to return to weekly services in the future, possibly on a less formal basis depending on human resources.

Sadly, some of the groups who used to hire the hall on a regular basis have had to close but the Monday Art and Yoga Groups still meet weekly as does the Thursday Village Choir.

The monthly coffee mornings continue to be well supported and make good use of the refurbished kitchen facilities whilst raising funds for charity. The money raised at the June event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II has been spent on purchasing a tree which is now sited in the Community Centre grounds. Eventually a commemorative plaque will accompany it.

The coffee mornings have also provided a 'warm space' during the winter months as have the two craft groups meeting on the first and third Tuesdays. The hours of both have been extended and the Craft 4 Charity group has been renamed Chapel Craft and Chat (3C's for short) as there has always been more chatting than crafting! New members are always welcome, in fact at the last meeting we had more members than tables so had to rearrange the room!

During the autumn 'crafty crocheters' and their friends manufactured a whole Christmas tree from hundreds of lovingly crocheted squares. This stood in the Chapel porch for the festive season before being dismantled and re-crafted into several fleece lined blankets most of which have been passed on to Stones Place Methodist Home

We shall be very sorry to see Rev David Lawton go when he retires in August but look forward to Deacon Helen Gardner joining the Circuit in September as she will be looking after us.

God is still working his purpose out in our village and next year the chapel celebrates 130 years on its present site which is encouraging. Any Ideas on how best to celebrate would be very welcome.

Church Stewards
8 April 2023



St Giles

The church had its 15 minutes of fame when we appeared on Songs of Praise. The broadcast featured our church's part in the Warm Rooms initiative with several people relating how our coffee mornings have helped them. One of those featured was Krystal Selmi who came to us at a low point in her life but now helps in the kitchen, runs the Little Blessings on a Friday afternoon and is one of four people who are becoming members on May 21. The others are Gail Alexandre, Zoe Clarke and Logan Marsden.

We were delighted to share Easter Breakfast with our friends at Bailgate Methodist Church and then join them in the united service led by Rev Juliet Wriglesworth. We also met at Bailgate to take part in the procession of witness on Good Friday.

We said our good-byes to Rev Nick Buck at his last service on April 23. We wish him and Sally well in their retirement in Worcester.

We opened the church doors on Saturday May 6 to watch the Coronation in brilliant Technicolour thanks to our new projector paid for by generous donations by church members and an equally generous grant from the Circuit.

Cay Sherlock has now been appointed as a trustee of the Community Larder which, unfortunately, is becoming more popular. As a result we have extended our hours to 10.00 - 11.30 on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Please continue to send your used ink cartridges to Richard Wilson at Navenby Methodist Church

Washingborough



At the end of the Coronation festivities was a focus on volunteering. Like many organisations our Churches rely on volunteers to keep the various roles and activities functioning. We continue to hope and pray that new volunteers might come forward as others seek to step down after many years of faithful service.

In March, Branston Fellowship, which has a close association with our Church, celebrated its 83rd Anniversary with a short act of worship led by Rev Sandy Osgerby, followed by a concert of songs from our very own Blokes Who Sing. This was followed by refreshments in the Hall. Donations were invited and £120 was raised for Church funds.

Like many Churches, the demands on our finances have increased with energy costs going up, property repairs to deal with and requests for further support for Circuit funds. We will thus need to turn our attention again to what can be done by way of fund-raising activities.

We continue to host occasional visits from pupils of Washingborough Academy, and other activities have been maintained. Bookings of our premises have increased so that the building is better used by the local community.

Moving into the Summer months, various activities prepare for a break and we give thanks for those who have helped sustain activities during the Winter months.

We join with others in sending good wishes, thanks and prayers to those Ministers in Circuit and District who are retiring or moving on and we look forward to welcoming replacements in September.

Keith Swann



Central Church

We are getting used to having Central back following the exit of the Community Grocery.

We learnt quite a bit about sharing our building, the joys and the pitfalls, but we feel blessed to have had a part in bringing this much needed resource to Lincoln.

We have a new colourful banner on our church railings showing all activities. In addition to Foodbank, we are now holding a coffee morning on a Monday: our 'New to you' shop is open, we play board games, chat, or just sit quietly. It really is up to the individual. We end the morning with soup and a roll.

Foodbank is very busy at the moment, with numbers rising week by week. We are grateful for all the helpers, many with no connection to Central, but just want to help.

Circle dancing takes place on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 2pm - light exercise with lots of laughter!

We have welcomed some overseas students who share worship with us; they are a great blessing, and it is wonderful to get to know them.

Our future plans include a flash mob event in the city centre, receiving the shoe boxes, and holding a Christmas tree festival.

At the heart of everything we do at Central is to let people know they are loved; there is hope and that love and hope comes through Jesus.

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL CHRISTMAS 2023



Central has registered, once again, to be a collection centre for shoeboxes and have been advised of the following requests by Link to Hope:

"Knitting and crocheting - in a shoebox we only need hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, ear warmer headbands, slippers.

The only other knitted/crocheted item we need is knee blankets that will go with your shoebox but not in them.

Please do NOT knit/crochet items of clothing such as jumpers, baby matinee jackets or anything for under 3 years old. Also, nothing in pastel colours please as it is just so impractical for the person that receives them."

Suggested 'craft items' - hair scrunchies, knitted/crocheted ear warmer headbands, simple tote bags [like the ones made last year], knitted hand puppets [Val has a pattern if needed].

The carriage cost remains at £3 per shoebox; the collection date will probably be late October/early November, this will be confirmed as soon as it is known.



Circle Dancing

2:00pm, First Wednesday of the Month

7th June 2023

5th July 2023

2nd August 2023

6th September 2023



Flash Mob in Lincoln City Centre – June 10th

If you've been wondering what this is all about, of Christian Unity, there was a short video "ingdom" was sung in the open air. It Margaret Doughty thought it to sing it out in the open as that we hold as Christians, known "Abide with singing in would start in city centre and then outside St. Benedict's on the erse is" transform, revive, and te with all the problems we are vent or get involved in the planning. For more information, please contact Margaret at revmd@gmx.co.uk or ring her on 01522 697177

The Flash Mob planned for Saturday June 10th has been postponed due to lack of support and we are hoping to rearrange this for later in the autumn. More details are to follow.

then to explain – during the week when the song "We seek your was very moving, and Rev would be a wonderful witness the words highlight the values and the tune is to the well-me". The idea is that those small groups around the converge into one large group High Street. The final line of each heal society" which seems appropri- facing today. All are invited to join the planning. For more information, please contact Margaret at revmd@gmx.co.uk or ring her on 01522 697177

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 24th June at 12:30pm at St Columba's. Community Lunch £6. Enquiries, and to book, Nicole Bond 01522 536034, email a.c.bond@btinternet.com

Sunday 2nd July at 10:30am at Central. This is the leaving service for Rev Alan Swann and Rev David Lawton.

Saturday 15th July, 3pm at Louth Methodist Church. Leaving service for Rev Bruce Thompson.

Saturday 16th September at 12:30pm at St Columba's. Community Lunch £6. Enquiries, and to book, Nicole Bond 01522 536034, email a.c.bond@btinternet.com

Friday to Sunday 6th-8th October 2023 at NEC, Birmingham. 3 Generate, which is a residential event for children and young people. Please contact Rev Juliet Wriglesworth for more details. Tel 01522 532828, email juliet.wriglesworth@methodist.org.uk

Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th December at St Columba's. Christmas Tree Festival. Enquiries to Nicole Bond 01522 536034, email a.c.bond@btinternet.com

Sunday 10th December at St Columba's at 4pm. Carol Service followed by Tea. Enquiries, and to book, Nicole Bond 01522 536034, email a.c.bond@btinternet.com

Compiling each Circuit News is a big but exciting job. It is really important that we celebrate all the good that is happening in the Circuit and would like feedback on our newsletter. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us; we welcome your thoughts. Please address to info@lincolnmethodist.org.uk

**May our lives bear witness
to an encounter with our Saviour and Lord.
May the fragrance of Christ linger upon us,
drawing all we meet to him.
Amen**

Material for the **Autumn 2023** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Wednesday, **16 August 2023**. Any material received after this date will not be included in the September edition.

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PRAYING TOGETHER

1 Please pray for our Superintendent Minister Alan Swann and his family, for God's blessing and protection to be with them. **Amen**

2 Pray for all the Ministers, Local Preachers, and Worship Leaders throughout the circuit for all the many duties they undertake. Pray that God will continue to strengthen them and inspire them in their ministry. **Amen**

3 Pray for the leadership teams, circuit stewards and church stewards, and administrators in all that they undertake in their service to God. **Amen**

4 Pray for the members of the District Team who support us. **Amen**

5 Pray for each of the groups and organisations which are using our premises. Pray for the leaders of the groups, for all the preparations they make to ensure the smooth running of everything. Pray for each individual who attends, that they will feel welcome and a part of our fellowship here. **Amen**

6 Pray for our local community, especially all who are struggling in any way. Pray for the homeless, those who feel lonely and cut off from society for any reason. Pray for the work of the Food Bank that it will be well supported by those in a position to help donate. **Amen**

7 Pray for the work done by Christians Against Poverty to assist those with financial problems and to help them plan for their future. **Amen**

8 Pray for the world, asking that we might all become better stewards of it. Pray for all those who are seeking ways to address the problems of climate change and ways to help our environment. **Amen**

9 Pray for areas affected by warfare and unrest that governments and leaders will seek peaceful ways to negotiate and that they will use their positions of authority with integrity. **Amen**

PRAYING TOGETHER

10 Lord God, together we ask that your Holy Spirit inspire us and lead us. May we be united in love and peace, in faith and in hope, that your Gospel may be proclaimed by the churches of this Lincoln Methodist Circuit, and our witness empowered by the love and support of each other. Help us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that all may see and acknowledge the wonder of the Risen Jesus, alive in his people, alive in the world. **Amen**

11 Lord Jesus, You know that there are students who are very anxious about the tests and exams that they must face very soon, and ask that You would calm their anxious, clouded thoughts. Please calm these nerves that they have, and let them rest in You always. We pray that as they enter the exam, that You will fill their hearts with perfect peace that only comes from You. Please also give them clarity of thought and prompt their mind to remember all the things that they have studied. Give them the wisdom and the ability to transfer their thoughts to paper. It's in Your precious name we pray. **Amen.** (Author Unknown)

12 Father, I need to hear from You. Today, I make the commitment to start having a daily quiet time. I will listen for Your voice above all of the other voices in my life. Lord, teach me how to centre my life on You and help me obey what I hear You say. In Jesus' name, **Amen.** (Mary Southerland)

13 God, help me love the life I live right now. Show me the good things I often overlook and help me be content with what I have. Forgive me when I compare myself to others, forgive me for longing for things outside of you and your kingdom. Thank you for loving me right where I am, right as I am. Help me keep my eyes on you. In Jesus' Name, **Amen.** (Nicki Koziarz)

14 God, teach us what it means to have faith in silence. When we face trials that are beyond our understanding, help us to find peace. Help me be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. You set all things in accordance to your time. Remind us to wait patiently and find peace in your plan. **Amen.** (Dick Woodward)

15 Loving God, your goodness and beauty are on display in the grandeur, glory and diversity of your creation. We praise and thank you for the wonder of our running streams, vast mountain horizons, light dappled forests, and deep blue oceans. May we see them as invitations to raise our eyes, walk into their beauty and meet you in your creation. **Amen.**

PRAYING TOGETHER

16 God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet.

Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name.

Amen.

17 Lord God, help us to remember those who tonight will go to sleep unfed and unwelcome, strangers in foreign lands, people who have fled for their lives and are far from their homes. We lift up to you those who are escaping persecution and conflict, having fled death, torture or ruthless exploitation. **Amen.**

18 Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces: grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

19 Pray for wisdom for the King, the Prime Minister, and the Cabinet. Pray for integrity, truth, and compassion throughout Government. Pray for the positive influence of God's people for the good of all throughout all Government departments.

20 Pray for greater Christian engagement in local and national politics and that churches will effectively support and encourage those who feel called to serve God in politics.

21 Pray for good relationships between churches and their local MPs and that churches will seek ways in which they can support MPs in serving their communities.

22 Pray for the work of the House of Commons and the House of Lords: that good and just decisions will be made and that the tone of debate is measured and constructive.

23 Pray for Christian MPs, Peers and staff: that their faith will grow and that they will seek to serve God, being salt and light in Parliament. Pray that all Christians working in Parliament will model disagreeing well and be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

PRAYING TOGETHER

24 Thank God for the freedoms we enjoy to pray and worship, and to participate in public life.

25 Think about how God is at work in the lives of everyone. You can see God shining out from all people. Remember this with the next person you speak to and give thanks for the glimpses of God you see in them.

26 Light a candle. Jesus is the light of the world. Pray about the places you experience darkness in your life, that Jesus' light might shine there.

27 Open your Bible at the Psalms and read one as a prayer to God. What resonates with you? Does anything make you feel uncomfortable? Consider in what ways these old words feel new to you and offer them to God.

28 Chose a piece of music that you find relaxing or calming. Spend some time just listening to the music, ideally with your eyes closed and your hands still. Switch off from the distractions of modern life, just for a few moments. Pray about any of the emotions you notice or feel during this time.

29 Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts, during these months of summer and vacation days. Grant us refreshment of mind and body. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

30 Jesus, thank you for Summer. Thank you for light and warmth. Thank you for the sun. Thank you for the gifts of nature and for the annual cycles and seasons. Today, give us that grace again, to see you as the Creator, the One who lifts us up to be with you forever, even now. **Amen.**

31 Go outdoors and find something natural: a stone, leaf, flower, or something else. Consider the ways God has made this thing and then reflect on how you too are wonderfully made by God. What does this mean to you?