

CIRCUIT NEWS

Winter 2023-2024

Lincoln Methodist 17/02

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<u>Christmas Day Services</u>		
9:30am	St Giles Welton & Dunholme	Revd Juliet Wriglesworth Revd Richard Mottershead
10:00am	Swallowbeck Central Navenby Washingborough	Revd Canon Alan Robson Revd Margaret Doughty Deacon Helen Gardner Revd Jennifer Matthews
10:30am	Bailgate Monks Road Nettleham	Revd Juliet Wriglesworth Revd Dr Terry Nowell Revd Richard Mottershead

Calendar Dates -December 2023 to February 2024

Friday	Dec-01	World AIDS Day
Sunday	Dec-03	First Sunday in Advent
Sunday	Dec-10	Human Rights Day
Saturday	Dec-22	Winter Solstice
Sunday	Dec-24	Christmas Eve
Monday	Dec-25	Christmas Day
Tuesday	Dec-26	Feast of St Stephen/Boxing Day
Wednesday	Dec-27	Feast of St John
Thursday	Dec-28	Childermas
Friday	Jan-05	Twelfth Night
Saturday	Jan-06	Epiphany
Thursday	Jan-25	Burns Night
Saturday	Jan-27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Thursday-Thursday	01-29 Feb	Black History Month
Tuesday	Feb-13	Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day
Wednesday	Feb-14	Ash Wednesday / Valentine's Day
Friday	Mar-01	St. David's Day

Circuit Letter

Thank you. . . for those who were involved in the process of 'stationing' me, moving me and helping me to get settled in the Lincoln Circuit. Thank you.

I have enjoyed going to new places in and around the circuit and count it a great privilege to minister with you in this next chapter of our faith journey together.

It's good to see the different ways things are done in each of our churches, and with 20 churches across the circuit there are quite a lot of ways. We are blessed in this circuit to have Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Ministers and Supernumeraries (retired ministers) to lead the worship. It feels good to be a part of this group in the service of our Lord as we aim to make Christ known.

The new plan for the period of December to February which outlines the Methodist services across Lincoln has just been published: it is called, ***Worship across the churches***. My intention is that it will be used for personal prayer, rather than being treated as a document for seeing 'who's preaching' in a particular week.

I've suggested in '*Worship across the churches*' that you can divide the week up into different prayer sections. For example, you could pray for everyone leading worship on a given Sunday: the preacher, the person who unlocks the church door, worship leaders, society stewards, musicians, readers, welcomers, refreshment makers, audio control-

lers, Holy Communion stewards, furniture movers . . . in fact the list is as long you want to make it. The point is it can be used to pray about everyone involved in worship rather than just the officiant leading from the front.

In using it this way it becomes a daily prayer tool. At the end of it is a *Thought for the Quarter* for your personal reflections with two prayers which can be offered alongside your devotions.

If you don't automatically get this leaflet and would like one, ask your local steward or call Catherine in the Circuit Office (01522 525 494).

Oswald Chambers, a Christian minister and teacher at the start of the last century said,

"worship is giving God the best that He has given you."

Rev Richard

Christmas Eve—Circuit Service



Moorland Park



News from our Churches



Navenby

We are looking forward to our Journey of Advent at the end of November preparing for the birth of Jesus.

We had a good Harvest Festival and Holy Communion led by Rev Margaret Doughty. Gifts of produce went to the Nomad Trust.

Jean and Lloyd Richards celebrated 64 years of married life; Jackie and Chris Hopson celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Rob Willett and Enid O'Brian in October, both members of our church.

Diary Dates for November-December 2023

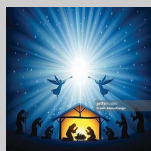
Friday 24th November, 5pm-8pm —Lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Church

Friday 22nd December, 7pm—Carols by Candlelight Service
Collection for Action for Children

Monday 25th December, 10am—Christmas Day

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL THE LINCOLN CIRCUIT**

From Navenby Methodist Church



Burton Road Methodist Church



Hi All

Burton Road Methodist church here, well we are very happy to say that the building project has finally started, and we are all very excited to have the builders on site ripping all the old toilets and kitchen out, ceilings down and other various things happening.

This has been a very long time coming and we are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Chambers for their legacy to the church so that this work can be done and completed, we will always remember these two wonderful people of God to whom so much joy has come to Burton Road through them.

Whilst the building work is being completed those that hire the area out are working together to use the church sanctuary for their groups, this has been coordinated by Mark Thompson and is working well. Unfortunately, we have lost a couple of groups but once the project is finished, they will be returning to us which is great. A large portaloo is situated outside to the side of the building for use as we are having new toilets so this is a new thing for us all to get used to; I am sure by the end of march/April next year we shall be all very well bladder trained!! 😊

Thank you to all who have supported and prayed for our church whilst we have been dealing with all the paperwork and had conversations about how the building will be and what we are going to be using it for once finished, which we are all still praying and making plans for so please keep us all in your prayers as the building work carries on throughout the winter months and for what a great opportunity this is to share with the community surrounding the church.

Thank you once again Wendy Thompson Senior Steward and all the wonderful congregation here at Burton Road Methodist Church 😊



North Hykeham Methodist Church

North Hykeham have appreciated excellent services this quarter with good attendance, average 25. We brought gifts for 3 Sundays and had a wonderful Harvest Service taken by our worship leader, Heather. Rev Alan kindly took our gifts to the food bank.



We are looking forward to our annual visit in November from David Harris, a local preacher in Sheffield. David spent two years in the circuit some years ago!

We would be pleased to welcome visitors on 26 November.

Barbara



Bailgate Methodist Church

Bailgate Methodist Church had the last of this year's monthly organ recitals today (2nd November) from 12 mid-day to 1pm. It was to have been Hillary Punnitt from Chelmsford Cathedral, but she was not able to come as she had a medical problem; instead, Justyna Posluszna stepped in at the last moment and gave us a varied programme which was enjoyed by 30 followers. These recitals have been given for some years now, and the last series raised enough funds to enable us to give £405 pounds each to Bailgate Methodist Church, The Air Ambulance and Macmillan Nurses.



The crisis cafe is also open every Thursday 10am to 12 mid-day to provide a safe place for people to have a coffee or tea and enjoy fellowship.

Chris Matthews

Monks Road Methodist Church



Like all our Methodist churches, Monks Road is a welcoming community. We have the only public building at our end of Monks Road and so we are available to open as a community hub whenever there is a need. Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are part of our family and meet every Tuesday. The local city councillors meet once a month at our monthly charity coffee mornings and we are a rental space for local groups like the Tower Action Group and Abbey Ward Forum as well as a place for other groups and birthday parties.

We are now open as a Warm Welcome space each Monday morning until the end of February. This time is combined with our Craft and Friendship Group which is open to anyone to bring their own crafts or just to come for coffee and chat followed by a soup lunch.

Our Christmas Fair will probably have happened by the time the Winter edition is published but this is another event when the local community come in, helping us to raise funds and also enjoy sharing friendship with us.

Our Advent course began on Wednesday, 29th November at 10.30am in the lounge off Walmer Street. The four Wednesdays will look at the Advent course "Out of the Ordinary" and everyone is welcome to join us as we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming.

Folk Carols have become an enjoyable annual celebration when Jonathan Nowell and friends lead us in folk carols and readings; it will be held on Sunday, 17th December at 3pm and the circuit is warmly welcomed to join us. The following Sunday morning will be a service of carols and readings and our short Christmas Day service will be held at 10.30am when friends are asked to bring a present to unwrap if they would like.

Christmas blessings to all our circuit friends from all at Monks Road.



Central Methodist Church

Central is recovering from Shoe Box Mania and, although it seemed very slow at first, but we are glad to announce that 276 shoe boxes from, not only our circuit, but from further afield as well, are on their way to bring hope and pleasure to people in need. We also sent large containing lots of knitted goods, which will be keeping people warm in the near future. Our thanks go to Val Pilkington who has coped with the difficult task of sorting the money out as well as being on hand to receive the boxes and also loading the van to send them on their way.



Christmas it seems is on the way.



With the Salvation Army, we have been invited to share in the Crib Service at St. Peter at Gowts on December 3rd at 3pm, something that we have not done for many years now.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Tree Festival which is on December 16th. from 10 till 4 when we finish up with Community Carols in the church, which looks an absolute picture. If anyone feels like trimming a tree to add to our display, please feel free. The theme is Christmas Carols, and we say, “the more the merrier”, especially as we had to cancel last year when the boiler let us down.

Our morning service on Christmas Eve will include the Lord’s Supper and we also look forward to our Christmas Day service at 10am.

In spite of the anti-social behaviour we constantly experience at Central, we feel that there is a real need for us to keep the witness there, and we pray, not only for our “patch” but for all our various communities around the circuit.



Swallowbeck Methodist Church

On 4 November two members of our congregation, David Reed and Christine Bradshaw, were married at Swallowbeck. We were all invited to share their special day and celebrate along with their families and friends with coffee/tea and cake after the service. We offer them our congratulations and wish them well for their future life together.

A local drama group have booked our church hall for 3 pantomime rehearsals and there are Christmas wreath making workshops on 22, 24, 29 November and 1 December. Our zoom Bible Study group continues with the Advent course “Immanuel: God with us” by John Birch starting on 27 November. If anyone wishes to join with us, please contact John Turner. We will be participating in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Columba’s during the weekend of 9/10 December with a decorated tree depicting our activities at Swallowbeck. The Festival will run from 10.00am-3.00pm on Saturday, 9th and from 11.00 on Sunday, 10th with a Carol Service at 3.00pm followed by a Christmas tea – everyone welcome.

Skellingthorpe Methodist Church



The Chapel Craft and Chat (3 C’s for short) meetings normally start with a ‘thought for the session’ and the thinking for the October meeting was ‘New Beginnings’. The Methodist Church year begins in September and this year the Lincoln Circuit had a double dose of new beginnings! We were sad to see Rev David Lawton depart and sent him off with a tea party, also sending flowers to Sue, his wife. However, we were pleased to welcome Deacon Helen Gardner into our midst and look forward to her ministry in the village for the foreseeable future. We have also seen quite a bit of our new superintendent, Rev Richard Mottershead, who chaired the Autumn Church Council meeting.

Currently we are still holding fortnightly services but by the time you read this we shall probably have returned to weekly worship. After much discussion at the Council meeting, it was decided to recommence weekly services but retain the alternate morning/afternoon arrangement which has worked since the pandemic. So, from the beginning of December the services on the first and third Sundays will be at 10.30am and the ones on the second and fourth Sundays will be at 3.00pm; when there are five Sundays in the month who knows what will happen, but we shall make sure everyone knows in good time!



Deacon Helen has been very proactive in investigating all our community events and has encouraged us in planning a Christmas Angel festival. The Card Craft group and 3 C's group continue to be popular and are well attended, the latter gathering new members as a chance to meet up with friends for a cuppa and a chat. Last year's crochet Christmas Tree which stood in the porch was so successful and well received that this year we are knitting scarves to cover the same framework and adorning it with hats, scarves and pompoms to be passed on to the needy when it is dismantled in the new year.

The monthly coffee mornings (first Saturday) also continue to be popular as a regular chance to meet up for a drink and a chat in a warm space whilst raising money for needy causes. There won't be one in January, but we are currently wading through a list of suggested charities for next year's programme. Deacon Helen is in charge of the Facebook page now, so take a look as details will be posted on there.

We are also hoping to start a bible study group in the new year so that is another 'new beginning'. It is sometime since we have done this so we're looking forward to it.

Christmas looms and plans are being made:

The Coffee Morning on 2 December, 10.0am – 12 noon is in aid of Action for Children

Coffee and Carols by Candlelight on 5 December, 7.00pm, donations for Macmillan Cancer Support

Carol Service on Christmas Eve, 24 December, 3.00pm

So, as we approach the close of 2023, we look forward with Hope to a 'new beginning'

on 1 January 2024; but before that happens may we wish you all the very best of everything as we celebrate the birth of our Lord this Christmas.

Blessings from Skellingthorpe

Welton and Dunholme



We were delighted to welcome our new minister, Revd. Richard Mottershead, as the preacher at our Harvest Festival and we look forward to a long and happy association.

With the arrival of Autumn, all our regular activities are underway again and we particularly want to remind friends across the circuit that they are always welcome at our weekly Wednesday and Saturday coffee mornings, 10.00 – 11.30am. Everyone is also welcome at our popular monthly film club. This takes place on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00pm in the chapel and is followed by an afternoon tea. Please phone Linda McCree on 01673 860998 to book your place.

As we look forward to the Christmas season, our Christmas Praise service will be on Sunday 3rd December and our candlelight Carol Service on Sunday 17th. Please note that this will be at 4.00pm and will be followed by a faith tea. 'Christmas Jumper' coffee morning will be on Saturday 16th.

We wish all our friends across the circuit a happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.



St Giles

Following the success of our Summer Fayre preparations are well under way for our Christmas Fayre on December 2. This will be followed by a concert by Lindum Ladies Choir.

Young Athena Clarke, daughter of Zoe, is to be baptised the following day in a Holy Communion Service led by our minister Rev Juliet Wriglesworth. The welcoming of some new members in also in the pipeline.

After a lot of hard work Cay Sherlock completed her Worship Leadership course and was duly rewarded when she was formally commissioned on November 5. She, along with Andy Yaboah have now embarked on a Chaplaincy course.

On November 4 St Giles were hosts to a District Youth Day organised by Deacon Jane Paine when several churches demonstrated what they were doing for young people in the Lincolnshire District.

As an alternative to Halloween lots of young people attended our Light in the Darkness event with lots of dancing and games.

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 when visitors come to into the more relaxing lounge for coffee, games and chat are also proving to be more popular.

The Little Blessings group is going well, led by Krystal Selmi, where mothers and pre-school children get together. Not forgetting the Boys Brigade and Scouts whose numbers are increasing on Wednesday and Friday evenings and the Light Night Café on Tuesday evenings continues to prove a great help for those with mental health issues and some respite for their carers.

St Columba's Church



St Columba's church is very busy preparing for a Christmas Tree Festival. This will take place over the weekend of the 9th and 10th December. The church will be full of Christmas Tress decorated by the groups that use the building, local schools and churches. A variety of different stalls will be available to purchase those unique gifts, tombola, raffle and cake stalls too!

The event will begin on Saturday at 10 am until 3pm with local school choirs singing throughout the day to add to the atmosphere. On Sunday open 11am until 3pm followed by Carol service at 3pm then a Christmas Tea.

We are of course fundraising too. The money raised this year is being split between the church and Uganda (an event that one of the church members is raising money for to purchase dry goods and soap at source while there on a visit in the summer of 2024).



The trip to Uganda: My name is Janet Turner-Harrison, I sponsor two girls, Lillian and Edith, and St Columba's Church sponsor Daniel, both from a village in Uganda called Soroti. In August 2024, I am going to fly to Entebbe and visit the CEO of the trust PIOTU (which stands for Pass it on Trust Uganda). I will stay in Kampala and then travel to Wasaki one of the villages they support, a two-hour drive. I will also travel to Soroti a seven-hour journey where I will stay with the team for a week working in the school, visiting the villagers, community and of course meeting the children, especially Daniel, Lillian and Edith and their families. Before travelling to the villages, I will go with Hellen (CEO) to purchase the dry goods and soap at source, thus supporting the local community.

The goods will be given out to the families that need it most.

To raise the money for the items St Columba's church are helping to fundraise. There is the Christmas Tree Festival on 9th and 10th December; then on February 24th, commencing at 6pm, there is going to be a quiz night, with food, to raise more money; then on April 20th, commencing at 2pm, we will be holding a concert where people can put their names forward to play an instrument, sing, read etc, from the North URC Circuit, during a planned afternoon. There will be a place for donations which will also go to the fund!



This will be a very exciting trip and I am looking forward to going. The ticket has already been purchased by me and all money raised will go to the items required in Uganda.

Washingborough

Moving into Advent and preparing for Christmas we send our good wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year. Like many of you we have a very busy



schedule over December and will rely on volunteers to help with a number of Carol Singing events, a busy schedule of Services – Carol Service Christmas Eve 10.30, Christmas Morning Celebration 10am, New Year's Eve morning service 10am.

We host the annual Blokes Who Sing Christmas Charity Concert (for Nomad Trust) on the morning of Sat 9th Dec – concert starts 10.45, refreshments from 10am. Come along to support. No charge but donations encouraged.

Our Worship for All service on Sun 10th December will be a Gift Service where monetary gifts will be received for Christian Aid's "Middle East Crisis Appeal".

The Autumn saw six visits from various age groups at Washingborough Academy and our small team of helpers hosted them. We always get some interesting questions!

Our Autumn Church Council meeting again drew attention to our need to encourage more people to come forward to fill key roles becoming vacant. We agreed on the need to try to upgrade our projection system and to look at grant funding, fund raising, etc to enable a project to proceed to get this done.

Do pop along to one of our Coffee events – Saturday Welcoming & Warm Space Coffee Mornings from 10am -12 noon on the first and third Saturdays in the month. No charge. Tuesday Coffee Shop, run jointly with our friends at St Johns, second and fourth Tuesdays in the month 10am -12 Noon. There is a small charge at these with any proceeds shared between the two Churches.

Prayer Groups, Fellowship Group, and Bible Study have continued to meet over the Autumn.

Keith Swann

Cherry Willingham



"Pumpkin Fun": Spreading the light....

Back in about 2018 we read in an issue of the Circuit News how Monks Rd Methodists had welcomed families out "Trick or Treating" on All Hallows Eve into their church. As a result, the Methodist church in Cherry Willingham decided to run something similar. We don't have a building so in 2019 we obtained permission from the Parish Council to run an event on the grass area near the Parade shops (where lots of "Trick or Treaters" would be passing by), on the



evening of 31st October. It was a big success – as well as great fun! Covid prevented us from running a similar event in 2020 but we decided to have another go at it in 2021. It was so well received again that we decided to make it an annual event and so this October saw us running our 4th Pumpkin Fun evening.

As usual, it was a team effort with folk from the Anglican church helping us with the activities on the grass area and the Vine Community Church opening their nearby building for drinks and activities. Various LED lights hanging from the trees and hollowed out pumpkins with battery tea lights and LED lanterns along the paths turned the grass area into an inviting space; the mist that came down part way through the evening just added to the atmosphere. We had four different games for children to have a go at – Light Ring Toss, Pumpkin Skittles, Pumpkin Toss and Monster Mouth – and gave out plenty of sweets as prizes.

Lots of small children came with their families but we also had a significant number of young people going round the village in groups together. Over the course of the two hours, “Mr and Mrs Pumpkin” gave out over 150 bags of Hope, which we had supplemented with sweets and other goodies. The pan of Pumpkin Soup was soon emp-



tyed and a number of families were grateful for the warmth of the Vine Centre - and the chance to sit down! Once again the atmosphere was amazingly positive; the children and young people were very polite and thoroughly enjoyed playing all the games and their parents and carers were very appreciative of all that was on offer.



We are so glad that we have seized the opportunity to turn Hallowe'en into a positive evening in which we can support and reach out to our local community.



Thank you Monks Rd Methodists for the original idea!

Jenny Robinson (On behalf of Cherry Willingham Methodist Church and Christians Working Together in Cherry)

Homily from a member of North Hykeham Methodist Church

The Silver Birch leans slightly as if in deference to the prevailing west wind. But also, it seems, in an act of defiance, stoical, like a sheep or a goat standing alone on a bleak mountainside in a gale.

Such thoughts! But what can they tell us about ourselves? Do we, too, lean as if in deference to – to what? The way of the world? Well, yes, it could be said, yes. Or to a Creator, high above, no one has ever seen? Well, yes, again. Because we are believers. But do we not mind submitting ourselves in this way? Not at all. We do so willingly with a sense of comfort, for is it not well known that God is in the wind.





Worship Leading and Preaching

It was a privilege to be invited to St Giles for their service on November 5th at which Cay Sherlock was commissioned as a Worship Leader. It was a lovely service of celebration with a good congregation of mixed ages, followed by a buffet lunch and celebration cake.

Cay has worked hard over the last four years to complete the training. She started by doing a shortened version of the course, but it fired her up for further study and she wanted to do the full version. She was joined by Laura Barker-Jorgensen and Moss Takavarasha, both from Bailgate. We had a difficult start during Covid when we had to meet on zoom and there were few opportunities to lead worship. Other issues have meant that for all of them the work has taken longer than anticipated.

The Local Preachers' Meeting in September was pleased to agree to Cay being commissioned as a Worship Leader. Moss has completed the first half of the Local Preacher course (which is the same as the Worship Leader course) and is now working on the second part. Laura has nearly completed the Worship Leader course.

Alan Measures and I are Circuit tutors and we have enjoyed working with the group, seeing their progress and development. In addition, Alan, Roy Jackson and Lesley Shapcott have been their mentors.

We are also pleased that Wendy Thompson from Burton Road has been given a "Note to Preach", the first step on the way to becoming a Local Preacher. She is working with a District group with Alan as her tutor and Geoff Gilbert as her mentor.

It is encouraging that we have people coming forward as Worship Leaders or Local Preachers but as you will notice from the gaps in the Circuit Plan, we need more! If you feel called to serve God as a Worship Leader in your own church or as a Local Preacher taking services across the Circuit, then please let Alan Measures or me know. It is a demanding course, but well worth doing if you feel called.

Margaret Roe



Covenant Services

7th January 2024

10:00am	Navenby	Revd Margaret Roe
10:30am	Bailgate	Revd Juliet Wriglesworth
10:30am	Central	Revd Margaret Doughty
10:30am	Scothern	Revd Richard Mottershead
10:30am	Swallowbeck	Revd Canon Alan Robson
10:30am	Washingborough	Revd Jennifer Matthews
10:30am	Welton & Dunholme	Revd Alan Barker
3:00pm	Stones Place	Revd Richard Mottershead

14th January 2024

10:30am	Burton Road	Revd Juliet Wriglesworth
10:30am	Cherry Willingham	Revd Jennifer Matthews
10:30am	Moorland Park	Revd Margaret Doughty
4:00pm	Reephram	Revd Jennifer Matthews

21st January 2024

10:30am	St Giles	Revd Juliet Wriglesworth
11:00am	St Columba's	Revd Canon Alan Robson

3rd February 2024

2:00pm Welton & Dunholme

Supernumerary Ministers, Worship Leaders, and Local Preachers, Stewards and Circuit Ministers



PRAYING TOGETHER

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

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

2 Come, O courage of God to sustain us. Come, O strength of God to protect us. Come, O holiness of God to purify us. Come, O love of God to transform us. Amen.

Thomas à Kempis (c 1380-1471)

3 We are yours, O God, for you have made us and loved us. We are yours, O God, for you have saved us and called us. Being yours, O God, let us eternally rejoice in your presence. Amen.

Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

4 With all the citizens of earth, O Christ, we rejoice in the glory of your divinity. With all the citizens of heaven, O Christ, we rejoice in the glory of your humanity. Amen.

Ephrem the Syrian (306-373)

5 Blessed be God's great name to all eternity. Blessed, praised, honoured, exalted, extolled, glorified and adored be the name of the Holy Blessed One. Blessed be God beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort. Amen.

From the Jewish Kaddish (c 1000)

6 All honour to you, O Lord, in the paradise of your love, in the recitation of your goodness and in the contemplation of your blessings. Unending is our song. Endless is our praise. In you is our refuge, our joy and our delight. Amen.

Chinese Imperial Prayer (1538)

7 Cleanse our hearts, O Lord our God, that with perfect love we may hope in you and purify our consciences that with sure confidence we may pray to you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Basil of Caesarea (c. 330-379)

8 Great, O God is the power of your glory; great are the wonders of your works and great is the wisdom of your justice and mercy, and for all these we bless you and magnify your holy name, now and for ever. Amen.

George Wither (1588-1667)

9 Let our chief conversation be with you, O God; let the joy of our salvation be your grace and the heart of our faith be your presence. Amen.

Madame Jeanne Guyon (1648-1717)

10 Turn our faces towards you, O God, dearer to us than life and wiser than thought, uncountable as the sand and unfathomable as the stars, breath of all being, desire of all hearts, everywhere present, ever revealing your glory.

Zarathustra, Iranian prophet (7th or 6th century BC)

11 We turn to you, O Crucified Redeemer, converted through your cross, conquering in its sign, transformed by its grace and at peace within its shadow. Amen.

William of St Thierry (1085-1148)



PRAYING TOGETHER

PRAYING TOGETHER

12 Pour into our hearts, O God, the love that casts out fear, the truth that sets us free and the grace that is sufficient for all our needs. Though you are unseen, do not be unknown. Though you are hidden from our eyes let us rejoice in your beauty at the last.

Louisa M Alcott (1833-1888)

14 Everywhere and always, O Christ, let us feel your presence, the gift of grace upholding us, the gift of faith strengthening us, our hope fortified and our love reborn. Amen.

Marie Bernarde Soubirous (1844-1879)

15 Let us walk with you in the way of the cross, O Christ, faithfully enduring its demands, constantly sharing its message and daily revealing its love. Amen.

Prayer of the Palestinian Women of Jerusalem (date unknown)

16 Your purposes stand firm, O God. Your power trustworthy, your rest safe, your truth beyond telling, your searching without end, your love unforgetting and your indwelling for ever. Amen.

Tukaram, Indian mystic (c. 1608-1649)

13 Come, Holy Spirit, inspiration of prophets and strength of apostles. Come, Holy Spirit, power of the Father and wisdom of the Son. Come, Holy Spirit, source of all joy and rest of the weary. Come, treasure of Majesty and mercy of the Most High. Come, Holy spirit, come. Amen.

Acts of Thomas, Syrian (3rd century)

PRAYING TOGETHER

17 From falsehood, lead us to Truth. From darkness lead us to Light. From death lead us to Immortality. Amen.

Indian, Brihadaranyka Upanishad (c. 600 BCE)

18 Come, O Word most gracious and guide your flock. Come, O Wisdom most holy and mother your children. Come, O Light most glorious and lead us to heaven. Amen.

Clement of Alexandria (c. 150-c. 215)

19 Let us be yours, O God. Let us not draw back from you, neither from your presence, nor from your cross. Touch our hearts and make them holy. Consecrate our lives and enlist them in your service. Amen.

Lucy Herbert (1669-1744)

20 Eternal and glorious Trinity, for whom we thirst and long; for ever let us desire your light, seek your face and wrap ourselves in the robe of your majesty and love. Amen.

Catherine of Sienna (c. 1347-1380)

21 Be to us, O God, our love and our hope; our thoughts flowing from you, our life being in you and our breathing taken with you; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

John Cassian (c. 360-435)

22 God of the slave, hope of the captive, healer of the broken; come to your people and set them free. Amen.

Hawaiian Benedictus, source untraced

PRAYING TOGETHER

23 Today, O God, may we drink from the cup of your salvation, rejoice in the company of your saints and delight in the sacrifice of your praise. Amen.

Polycarp of Smyrna (c.155)

26 May we watch for you, O Lord, in the storm, in the earthquake and in the fire; lest in the stillness of the silence you go undetected. Amen.

Based on 1 Kings 19:11-12

24 Day and night, we confess your name, O Lord, and proclaim your glory. In wisdom you have made all things and by your Spirit you sustain them. From sunrise to sunset you reveal your majesty, speak peace to our hearts and protect your people. With unending praise, with all your saints, we rejoice in the gift of salvation.

North African liturgy (3rd or 4th century)

25 Come and reign, O Christ, in our home and its life; in our church and its mission; in our nation and its politics; in our world and its affairs. Come, O Christ. Come and reign.

Mary Sumner (1828-1921)

27 Endue us with your power, O Lord, that our mouths may speak your word, our hearts reveal your grace, our lives proclaim your goodness, and our labours find fulfilment in heaven. Amen.

Sarah Mallet, Methodist Preacher (1764-1846)

28 Grant us Lord, the penitence of the publican who dared not raise his eyes to heaven, the desire of the prodigal who set out for home and the wisdom of the merchant who surrendered all to possess the kingdom. Amen.

Rabbula of Edessa (c. 350-435)

PRAYING TOGETHER

29 Let your peace rule in our hearts, O Lord that we may delight in your strength, rejoice in your grace and find our fulfilment in your will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

30 All our powers we surrender to you, O God, and our whole will to yours. All our designs we submit to your design and all our purposes to yours. Amen.

Phoebe Palmer, Methodist Evangelist (1807-1974)

31 Praise to you, God of all mercy, Lord of all being, Master of the day of judgement, Guide of the true way and Path of the blessed. You alone do we serve. You alone are our helper. Amen.

The Qur'an (7th Century)



Lord God, we sing with joy to share our prayer of hope and faith. Send us your Spirit, who will give us even more confidence, energy and joy. Help us, for we need you, not to be discouraged when times are difficult and we are tempted to turn in on ourselves. We want to see what is beautiful in the world and in each of us. We want to work in order to care for our "common home" and make it more beautiful. We want to recognise and encourage the values experienced by so many people, young, adult and old alike. We also want to share our own human values and those of our Faith, not by imposing them, but by living them first!

Let us show the strength that can be found in courage, trust and hope: We want to believe that the whole world is our home and that **all will reap what all have sown...** We want to believe in humble action and bare hands... We dare to believe in God's own dream: **A new heaven and a new earth where justice will dwell!**
Amen



SKELLINGTHORPE METHODIST CHURCH
COFFEE and CAROLS
 by **CANDLELIGHT**
 (Please bring a small torch if you have one)
Tuesday 5 December 7.00pm
 Seasonal refreshments
 Hand made Cards for sale
 Proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support

St. Columba's Church Centre
 Brant Road, Lincoln
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
 Saturday 9th December 10am-3pm
 Sunday 10th December 11am-3pm
 Carol Service at 3pm
 Light refreshments served
 Cake Hall Pledge Tombola Gifts
Saturday Attractions
 Come and listen to
 Meadows School Choir
 St. John's School Choir
 11.00am
 1.30pm

If you are looking for a home for those used postage stamps, please send them to Geoff Gilbert at Burton Road Methodist Chapel

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH
 High Street Lincoln
NEW TO YOU SHOP
 Monday & Thursday 10am-until 12-30pm
 ✓ Pre-loved Clothing
 ✓ Bric-a-brac
 ✓ Books
 ✓ Household Items
 Refreshments Served & a Warm Welcome
 Is Extended to All
*"Why Not Pop in and Say Hello,
 Make New Friends and Enjoy Good Company.
 All Ages Welcome"*
Circle Dancing
 First Wednesday of Each Month
 2 until 3-30 pm
Foodbank
 Each Thursday 10-30am until 1pm
Sunday Worship
 10-30am
 Followed by Tea/coffee and Chat.
All Welcome

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

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

Material for the **Spring 2024** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Wednesday, **14 February 2024**. Any material received after this date will not be included in the March edition.

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