

# Circuit News



Ballgate



Bardney



Bardney Dairies



Burton Road



Central



Cherry Willingham



Coningsby



Horncastle



Monks Road

1 Summer suns are glowing  
over land and sea;  
happy light is flowing  
bountiful and free.  
Everything rejoices  
in the mellow rays;  
all earth's thousand voices  
swell the psalm of praise.

2 See God's mercy streaming  
over all the world,  
and his banner gleaming  
everywhere unfurled.  
Broad and deep and glorious  
as the heaven above,  
shines in might victorious  
his eternal love.

3 Lord, upon our blindness  
your pure radiance pour;  
for your loving-kindness  
make us love you more.  
And, when clouds are drifting  
dark across the sky,  
then, the veil uplifting,  
Father, still be nigh.

4 We will never doubt you,  
though you veil your light;  
life is dark without you,  
death with you is bright.  
Light of light, shine o'er us  
on our pilgrim way;  
still go on before us  
to the endless day.



Wragby



Woodhall Spa



Welton & Dunholme



Washingborough



Swallowbeck



Stones Place



St Giles



St Columba

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Moorland Park



Navenby



Nettleham



North Hyleham



Reepham



Scothern



Skellingthorpe

## Circuit Letter

Dear Friends, After serving in this Circuit for the last four years, I will be moving on in the summer, to serve as the superintendent minister of the Battersea and Wandle Valley Methodist Circuit, as most of you will already know.

Arriving in Lincoln in 2021, with the after effects of Covid still influencing our behaviours, it was about understanding what we could do, were willing to do and who was available to do it. It took a little while to discern, especially where members of our churches emerged from the pandemic with different priorities and commitments to family, yet at the same time, eager to re-gather as a worshipping community.

The opportunity to look afresh at our mission plans, helped us to be realistic about our resources and where we wanted to put our energy. It also gave me a chance to walk closely alongside the churches for which I have had pastoral charge. Mainly, Washingborough, Reepham and Cherry Willingham, as we sought to understand the new context, in which we found ourselves, and to discern together, what the church's ministry, would look like in each local context. Along the way, we have had some wonderful times of learning and growing together, as disciples of Christ, as we reflected together through the seasons.

These have also been times of fun and laughter, shared meals and fellowship gatherings, as well as times of celebration. To these church communities, for me, it has been a joy and a blessing to have had the opportunity, of being part of your journey. I thank you for your appreciation of my ministry among you, for the things we have learnt together, but most of all, I thank you for your love and

prayers, as we sought to serve each other in the reciprocal ministry, that is part of being, the Body of Christ,

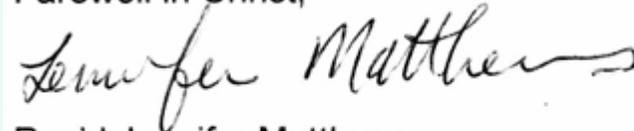
Particular thanks go also to the congregation at Monks Road, (for which ! also had pastoral charge). Although I did not get the chance to lead worship in all of the circuit churches, in those churches where I have led services, the response has always been encouraging. Thanks also to those who gather at Stones Place, where I regularly led worship, for your encouraging words. Additionally, I have truly enjoyed serving and leading worship among those who reside at Minster Court (Bracebridge Heath), Woodview Residential Care Home (Branston), and Holmleigh Residential Care Home (Navenby). As I look back, I see that there is so much to give thanks for. Particularly for the opportunities I have had, in developing new skills, especially in my ministry with the children of Washingborough Academy. To the wider circuit, and to members of the CLT, I extend my thanks also.

I recall a message preached by the since retired, Rev'd Peter Barber, at the service to welcome me in my first appointment in ministry. He said; "Both minister and church belong to God and are a gift to each other and together are meant to be a gift to the world. He added; "When we begin with the premise that we are gifts to one another then that alters our whole perspective - it actually moves us into a way of thinking and responding that is shaped by GRACE - by seeing one another as gifts of God, by seeing ourselves as gifts of God."

To each of the congregations, where I have served as your minister or led worship, here in the Lincoln Circuit; I have been greatly blessed and affirmed by your response to my ministry. For that I

thank you; but most of all, I thank God for each of you. You have truly been a gift .

Farewell in Christ,



Rev'd Jennifer Matthews

08.05.2025



Dear Rev Jennifer Matthews

As you prepare to embark on this new chapter of your ministry, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for the wisdom, compassion, and guidance you have shared with us. Your time in our circuit has been a blessing, and your words and actions have inspired and uplifted so many.

Though we will miss your presence among us, we know that your gifts and dedication will continue to enrich the lives of those you serve in your new role. May God bless you abundantly in this new journey, and may His grace and peace go with you always.

With gratitude and best wishes,  
Lincoln Methodist Circuit

# News from our Churches

## Bailgate Methodist Church

We start the week with Sunday Worship and Sunday School for the children. Bailgate will celebrate 145 years of worship, fellowship and service to the community on 1<sup>st</sup> June with a special anniversary service led by Rev. Wing Commander Ian Brown OBE.



There are three bible study groups which meet at various times throughout the week, one at Bailgate and two in members' homes. On Monday afternoons we welcome Toddlers with their carers to come and enjoy playing, singing and enjoying a story in the hall. On Tuesday there is Luncheon Club for elderly folk who live on their own in the Bailgate area. An excellent lunch is prepared by a small team and is much appreciated along with the conversation that goes with it. This is often followed with a short Taize service attended by some of the Luncheon Club members. On Wednesday evening we host one of the Night Light Crisis Cafes. Also, on Monday and Wednesday the uniformed organisations seem to fill the building, the Guiding sections on Mondays and the Scouting sections on Wednesdays. (It was great to see the Scout Group represented at the Annual Saint George's Parade at the Cathedral.) On Thursday morning a prayer group meets in the Well (at the front of the church) followed by a coffee morning welcoming all visitors. In the evening, we exercise our vocal chords practising the hymns for the following Sunday as well as learning new ones. The choir recently led an Own Arrangement singing hymns and choruses we hadn't sung for some time. The ladies also led an OA using Margaret Roe's useful scripts presenting the lives of the women of the bible, which was well received. A recent addition to our meetings has been the dementia café, Bailgate Buddies which meets once a month on Thursday afternoons. Although small in number at the moment, the group is steadily growing. Thanks to the hard work of the gardening group, we have a lovely redesigned community garden which was opened last year and a BBQ was enjoyed. You will often see someone from Bailgate sitting there in the sunshine eating a lunchtime sandwich.

There are many groups who hire rooms at Bailgate for various meetings. The Bailgate Preschool uses the building every day. The charity Safer Families/Home for Good has an office on the premises, we hope to find out more about what they do at one of our OA services in July. The popular Lincoln Flower Club has been meeting in our hall monthly for 50 years. Our excellent church organ is used for organ recitals by well-known local and visiting organists on the first Thursday of each month,

with money raised for charity. There is a newly formed WI group, Lindum Townswomen's Guild, a dance school and an International Women's Meeting. Keep fit and Yoga classes and various choirs and music groups including a Renaissance Band also meet. The hall is occasionally used for children's parties. The Country Market provides hospitality in the lounge every other Saturday with crafts and delicious homemade jams and baked items.

We are forever thankful for our beautiful church and those who organise the use of its many rooms; for those who keep the Victorian building in good order and manage at the same time to balance the books. With God's help we will continue His work at Bailgate for many years to come.

## Cherry Willingham



We once again held a pre-Lent lunch for those who were able to attend just a couple of days before the start of Lent. This popular gathering seems to set on becoming an annual event on our calendar.

Easter is a very special time for all Christians, it kind of goes without saying it? The one aspect that comes to my mind is the Good Friday walks of witness both locally, a short distance that most can manage from the shopping centre to the Church, longer walks embracing the villages in and around us.

The meetings for prayer, mention in the Spring edition have 'got off the ground' with approximately two meetings per month, one on a Saturday morning and the other on a weekday afternoon. At this time in the year we look forward also to some outdoor events; the Cherry Willingham Churches together are planning the 'activity tent' at the village gala in August. Details for this and other events are to be announced.

PG

I would like to thank everyone for coming to the celebration of my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. We had a lovely party at "Down the Road" with delicious food and a special birthday cake. Also thank you for the gifts and cards.

Richard Wilson

## News from Queen Street Horncastle

(<https://www.midlincs.info/horncastle>)



### WALKING BUDDIES GROUP

'QS Walking Buddies' is an informal and mixed group of walkers which held its inaugural walk in December 2022. The idea being, "Let's go for regular walks, find out if anyone in the congregation is interested in forming a group" by Alison, Stewart and Andrew. And so it was.

Gradually more people have joined in. The walks may be led by anyone. Tony usually takes the photographs. Initially we did the walk and then, at the end, went on our own way home. We soon discovered that, for a donation, we could make a drink in nearby churches, even have snacks or take our own picnic there. Gradually other members of the Queen Street congregation joined in for refreshments and we now call them, affectionately, 'non-walkers'!

Some unwritten 'rules' seem to have evolved i.e. that we finish the walks near an eatery, at around 12-12.30pm. This again developed so that those members of the congregation and friends, who were now unable to do the walk, would join us for 'après-walk' refreshment. It may be a cafeteria, pub, inn and has even been at members' homes.

Walks we've enjoyed (over 60 at the time of writing) are varied. Just a few to mention:- The coast, Chapel St Leonards and Anderby Creek; East Kirkby and the Aviation Museum area; Hubbards' Hills, Louth; Kirkstead Bridge, Sustrans path by the River Witham; Woodhall Spa, the Golf Course; Southrey, with its interesting 'New England' style church; many local walks, where we've been delighted and surprised to learn so much more of our own town's heritage and 'hidden' scenery.

The plan for the walks is circulated a week or so before each walk and a report sent out after the walks, with photos from Tony. This is circulated to everyone on the mailing list and serves to also give 'non-walkers' stories and views of the walk.

What started off as a simple suggestion really has developed into a special fellowship which, in turn, has spread amongst the whole congregation and atmosphere within the church.

Reports of the first year's walks were collated and printed in a small booklet.

If you would like to know more please email - [marion@mmhome.me.uk](mailto:marion@mmhome.me.uk) - subject 'QS walks'. This link will take you to further details - <http://www.midlincs.info/horncastle-qs-walking-buddies>

### 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Queen Street has had a Methodist chapel on the site since 1837. This was replaced in 1870, but in 1962 it was found to be unsafe and again a replacement was built

and opened in 1965. 2025 is the 60th anniversary of the opening of the current building. This is an important community facility for the town and surrounding areas, with several rooms for hire as well as the chapel, which has a welcoming and serene atmosphere.

### Anniversary events planned so far:-

June 1st 4pm - an afternoon of fellowship and the congregation's choice of SONGS for PRAISE, with guest preacher and a Faith tea.

July 12th 3pm - 4.30pm - **Strawberry Fayre** - Strawberry themed event with background Brass Band music. Just come along (indoors if wet) Strawberry teas, cakes and delights for sale.

September 6th 3pm - Afternoon, Late Summer concert by Local professional vocalist, Poppy. 1950s/60s themed - please feel free to dress accordingly! This will be followed by tea and scones. Ticketed event £10. Contact for further information on any of these events - [marion@mmhome.me.uk](mailto:marion@mmhome.me.uk) or 01507 526436 (please leave a message with your contact details)

### TRAVELLING GUILD

With the John Wesley ethos of travel and inclusivity, the meetings are held at different churches in the circuit in turn. Speakers are chosen, with the proviso that they comply with the guidelines of:-

**CS** Christian Service : **C** Cultural : **D** Devotional : **S** Social

The autumn/winter season will start at 2pm on Monday 6th October and the new program will be available for the next edition of Circuit News. We hope that you'll be able to come along.

Contact - Eileen Kelsey [e.kelsey221@btinternet.com](mailto:e.kelsey221@btinternet.com) 'TG' in the subject line

**Queen Street Methodist Church, Horncastle LN9 6BD**



## Monks Road Methodist Church

During the Summer our church suspends its weekday activities during August – this helps everyone have a break and come back renewed at the beginning of the new Methodist year.

Until August our activities happen as usual. We will continue with our Craft and Friendship group on Mondays between 10 and noon and followed by a light lunch – everyone is welcome. We are looking forward to celebrating our church's 111<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June. The church does not have as many members as when the church was opened but we work hard to ensure the Word of God is available to

those around, along with offering friendship and help in our neighbourhood. Scouts, cubs, beavers and Girl Guides continue with occasional camping trips away.

Each month in our newsletter we have an article highlighted **Care for our Environment**. Our oceans are suffering desperately, particularly polluted by plastic which poisons water life and eventually reaches our food chain. How many items of plastic are in your bathroom or kitchen? At our church we are trying hard to reduce the plastic we use both in our homes and at church to help care for our environment. Plastic is a wonderful substance which has enhanced our lives in all sorts of areas – not least in the medical field but we have become far too reliant on it where we could use other safer items like glass or crockery for storage or buying items in glassware or paper bags. In Genesis 1:20/21 we read:

*"And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.""*

Later in the chapter God blesses humanity and instructs them to care for His creation. God blesses us in so many ways and requires us to care for His beautiful world. Anything we can do in church and at home to care for our earth by being aware of excessive plastics use, cheap fashion, careful water use, recycling – why not plant a tree if you have the space? There are so many ways to care for God's world. Summer could be a good time to look around and see where we can help and protect God's world.

### North Hykeham Methodist Church



We continue to enjoy our monthly lunches provided by Swallowbeck Methodist Church.



We have a new group, ChitChat, which meets monthly on Thursday afternoons at 2pm.

On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May we had a VE Day party, organised by Jacky and Sheila, a great time was had by all.



Soral visited Bomber Command and said what a wonderful display of poppies.



Another group we enjoy using our Church building is a happy bubbly children's group called **Toddler in Hykeham**, a pre-school group run by members of the Alive Church but open to all local children; numbers vary to being in the 20s to 10-15. Numbers build up in the winter months and it can be a noisy time especially when they arrive but near the end of the morning it is Story Time and it's so lovely to see the children sat cross legged on the floor listening to the reader.

A few Mums and or Grandmothers stay as a reassuring presence particularly for the younger ones.

There is a lovely big cupboard at church full of toys which have been collected over the years and added to by Alive who maintains them and keeps them Hygienic.

With caring helpers always willing to help and encourage, Wednesday morning is a happy time for all at church.

A lovely spin-off from this group is they make decorations at Christmas and dress a window in our church for our congregation to enjoy.

As we no longer have a Sunday School it's so lovely to have these little ones in Gods house.

### Reepham Methodist Church

March began with us hosting a World Day of Prayer service,



which this year was prepared by women from the Cook Islands. It was a lovely service in a full church. Thanks to so many people who were willing to take part and prepare a wonderful visual display.



Our monthly fellowship themes have covered the seasonal themes of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

A busy Holy Week included lunchtime reflections with a soup lunch and a Maundy Thursday Agape meal at the Parish Church. Rev Jennifer led our united Good Friday service which focused on objects relating to the crucifixion. She also led our Easter Day communion service when we were joined by Cherry Willingham and on the following Sunday, we shared a service at Cherry Willingham which included reflections on some of the resurrection appearances.

Fun Friday continues to be popular with our regulars.

We shall soon be saying goodbye to Rev Jennifer and we would like to express our thanks for her ministry among us, particularly for her pastoral care.

### Skellingthorpe Methodist Church

As I start to write this we are recovering from a very busy weekend! Some of us considered taking our sleeping bags to chapel as there seemed to be a lot to fit into a very short space of time.



Our normal monthly coffee morning (for Christian Aid) was already on the calendar, and it was nice to be supported by members of other churches as well as village people. Proceeds were down again which seems to reflect the countrywide condition of people's pockets.

What was not on the calendar until quite recently was a baptism on Sunday and a funeral on the following Tuesday, quite a challenge for the stewards! Deacon Helen ably performed the baptism of a very well behaved and sleepy little boy in front of a congregation of almost fifty friends and relatives. It was a very relaxed service and some of the baptism party joined us afterwards for coffee. A couple who arrived slightly late and are seeking new 'church home' were made very welcome.

The funeral was really a memorial service for one of our long-time members who sadly ended her days in Stones Place. Gwen was a lovely lady who many of the congregation knew from her days as the village postmistress. The church was full, and it was lovely to have the organ accompanying our singing. Rev David Lawton returned to conduct the service and there was much chat over refreshments afterwards.

So, whilst the last few days have been busy and tiring they have also been very encouraging. Earlier in the year we were wondering what the future held for our church, especially as our treasurer and property secretary has, reluctantly, retired from both posts due to ill health. We shall miss him as the building and finances have been kept in very good order whilst he has held the posts. We already had other vacancies, the duties of which were being picked up by the stewards but, following the advertisement of all vacant roles, and much discussion between ourselves, Rev Richard chaired an informal meeting one Sunday afternoon which resulted in the filling of all the vacancies. Praise the Lord!

So....it's 'onwards and upwards' we go at Skellingthorpe as we enter a new and different phase of witnessing in our village.

Pat Robinson



### St Giles

We plan to hold our Summer Fayre on Saturday July 19, from 11.00-3.00pm

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.

There was a combined service between ourselves, St Giles Parish Church and St John the Baptist Church on the Ermine when Rev Jeff Heskins led the service. This coincided with Mothering Sunday which was the subject of Rev Juliet Wriglesworth's very powerful and thought-provoking sermon.

The fencing and storage container have been erected behind the back of the church. We are now in contact with Continental Landscapes who are helping us with some of the groundwork for our Community Garden and hope to have the first phase up and running shortly. The local Tesco store is also providing free compost.

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.

The Community Larder now gets regular deliveries from local supermarkets of produce that is almost out of date. This is offered to Larder clients, the coffee morning and Free-4-All and then to the wider community so nothing goes to waste.

Boys Brigade and Scouts, whose numbers are increasing, continue to meet 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.

Sadly, Roy Hutchinson, a long-standing member of our congregation passed away recently. His thanksgiving service was very well attended with over £600 being collected and passed on to the Air Ambulance.

Some of our young people are looking forward to this year's 3 Generate in October, which was so good last year.

Tickets for 3 Generate 2025 are on sale. If you are aged between 8 and 23 and would like to join the Lincoln Circuit group please let me know asap. The weekend runs from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October and is at the NEC again. We hope to travel together by mini-bus. Last year we were supported by the Circuit and the District which meant our costs were covered. I'm hoping we can do the same this year. Check out the 3 Generate webpage for more details of the event. My email is: juliet.wriglesworth@methodist.org.uk





### STONES PLACE MHA Skellingthorpe Road LN6 7PA

The VE Day BBQ featured the singing of songs from 80 years ago and was enjoyed by everyone. Another BBQ is planned during Volunteers Week to thank all the volunteers who improve the quality of life for the residents. We thank Viv, from the knit and natter group, who has offered to help with stewarding duties for a few Sunday services on the next rota, and the daughter of one of the residents who may be able to consider helping after her planned surgery in July.

In appreciation of all the support received at Stones Place by paramedics, they are welcome to take away a free bacon butty every Thursday from 8-10am – “Blue Light Breakfast”

Giving thanks is an important aspect of MHA’s life and we have the opportunity to take part in this by using the worship resources for MHA Sunday, available on the website [mha.org.uk/sunday](http://mha.org.uk/sunday). Churches are invited to use these when an “Own Arrangement” service is planned. Donations help to support chaplaincy, music therapy and community engagement at residential care homes such as Stones Place.



Rae Perkins – Circuit MHA rep



### Swallowbeck Methodist Church

We were sad to lose one of our long-standing members, Kim Hunter. The Service of Thanksgiving for Kim’s very full life on 28 March saw a packed Church, reflecting her involvement in so many different organisations around Lincoln. During Lent our Bible Study group followed the ‘Hope in Hard Places’ produced by Embrace the Middle East and we are now taking a break over the summer but will begin, once again on zoom, in September. A group of 20 or so continue to enjoy a lunch on the second Wednesday of each month but we have space for new folk who would like to join us for food and time for chatting. The cost is £5 for a two-course meal plus tea/coffee – if you, or you know someone who would like to join us please telephone Jackie on 01522 884884.

A temporary hire slot until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 on Mondays has become available @ £17 per hour at Swallowbeck Methodist Church Hall, Newark Road, Lincoln LN6 8RZ. Disabled access, toilets, kitchen, car park and piano included. No smoking, alcohol or gambling permitted.

Contact email: [churchsecretary@swallowbeckmethodistchurch.org](mailto:churchsecretary@swallowbeckmethodistchurch.org) for details, plus availability for regular hire on other days.

Jackie

### Washingborough



We move into Summer preparing to say farewell to our Minister Rev Jennifer Matthews after 4 years with us. There will be opportunities to thank her for example at the Circuit Service at Washingborough on the morning of Sun 27<sup>th</sup> July.

There are still tickets available for our fund-raising concert by the Lincolnshire Hospitals Band on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> June. Concert starts at 7pm, doors open 6.30pm. Tickets are £5 and proceeds are for WMC. Tea & coffee available at interval – donations welcome if you can afford it. The band will also invite people to make a donation towards their costs if you can afford it. For tickets , try ringing one of the following :

01522 851139

01522 792153

01522 839251

At the end of June we are holding a Celebration of Creativity. Various arts and crafts can be viewed on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June between 10am and 2pm. The theme continues on Sun 28<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am when Rev Jennifer will lead a joyful celebration at WMC, jointly with Cherry Willingham and Reepham .

We continue to look for people to fill vacant posts and we have another Steward vacancy imminent when Joan Bennett steps down from that role after many years’ service.

Our Anglican friends at St Johns and associated Churches will at last have a new vicar in place from 1<sup>st</sup> July and we look forward to working with him and wish him well.

Like all of you we get ready to face the challenges presented by the Circuit re-organisation and ministerial vacancies.

The Coffee Stop Tuesday morning fortnightly drop in sessions operated jointly with our Anglican neighbours have had various advisors popping in eg Social prescribers, Age UK , a Care Co-ordinator for South Lincolnshire Healthcare, a member of the Digital Inclusion Team from the Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust, and on 8<sup>th</sup> June we will have the local community fire safety advocate who can advise on home safety visits.

Keith Swann





## Welton and Dunholme

We were delighted to have a very full church for our East-er Sunday service which was led by Rev. Richard. The Maundy Thursday Agape meal was enjoyed by all including friends from St Mary's, Nettleham and Scothern, and the quiet Good Friday meditation was appreciated by those present.

Rev. Margaret Doughty preached at the Chapel Anniversary on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We have been worshipping in the new hall for ten years now and a display of photos recorded the building progress and opening.

Several stalls and refreshments at the Welton May Fair raised over £700 for chapel funds and, thanks to John Ryland, an additional £200 from the sale of his plants. A 60s evening in April, raised £300 for the Leprosy Mission.

In the coming weeks we will have a book stall at Dunholme Fete on 14<sup>th</sup> June and we are hosting events for the Welton Arts Festival, 3-5<sup>th</sup> July. There are several Festival events throughout the village to which everyone is welcome; please see the website for further details.

We are sad to report the death of Rev. Norman Bray, a long-standing preacher and member of our community, who will be sadly missed. His family have been very appreciative of the support he received from his friends in the Methodist community.

The Café Church at Ingham, part of Welton and Dunholme Methodist Church, continues to meet regularly on the fourth Sunday of each month except December.

Attendance averages 30 people, some of whom worship in other churches and some for whom the Café Church is their only place of worship. We sing hymns, we say prayers, we listen to readings from the Bible, we sit around tables and discuss questions set by the leaders on the theme of the day. We also drink coffee and eat homemade cake! At present we are "studying" the Ten Commandments.

Elaine Johnson and Elva van der Bos

## Daughter of the Manse: Reflections of life in a Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit

Seeing the pictured Chapels on the front of the Spring 2025 Circuit News brought back memories for Mary Chambers (nee Sidaway) resident in Saxilby.

As a 13-year-old she moved with her parents Rev Frank and Mrs Florence Sidaway and brother John from Liverpool (West Derby area) to Lincolnshire.

Bardney Methodist Manse was at the top of Church Lane, where also stood the now demolished Methodist Chapel and Lecture Hall, which later became the place of worship as seen in the picture.

Three of the Chapels shown – Bardney, Bardney Dairies, and Wragby were all in the Bardney Circuit under the Rev F Sidaway as sole Minister. (Superintendent of himself !!)

Other Chapels in his care were Bullington, Southrey, Bucknall, Horsington, Minting, Hatton, and East Barkwith.

Rev F Sidaway served here from September 1949 to August 1953, moving on then to Grimsby, Barrow-upon- Humber, Gainsborough before retiring back to Barrow-upon-Humber.

Mary met John Chambers whilst living in Bardney and they married in March 1956 at Bardney Methodist Church. Her brother John gave Mary away, her father Rev Sidaway officiated, the then resident Minister the Rev Atkinson also took part, as did the Church of England Vicar at Bardney, Canon Burles.

The late 40's and early 50's was a time when the village policeman was largely visible on his bicycle keeping law and order, the Morrells canning factory and the Sugar Factory major employers, making Bardney a pretty large village, although most people knew each other and it felt a good community.

Christmas Carols were sung around the village accompanied by an old organ aboard a farmers wagon. There were concerts too around the Circuit by the Bardney Chapel Choir, Conductor Rev Sidaway, accompanied by Mr Cecil Marks, who faithfully served as Bardney Chapel organist for many years.

One foggy night the choir travelled by coach to Sotby Chapel in the lower Wolds near Horncastle. After the Concert and twenty minutes into the journey home coach and choir found themselves back at Sotby – a 'circular tour' on country lanes all looking alike on that really dense foggy evening. Quite how long it took the coach driver to reach Bardney and home is now long forgotten, but many Happy Days often recalled, including delicious Harvest Suppers at Bardney Dairies and always a warm welcome from the two farming families of Stevensons there. There is a saying about the folk of Bardney always having a door open in 'Welcome'. It was surely true when the Sidaway family abided there.

## Crafternoon

It's a natural part of human nature, but it makes me sad when we 'do ourselves down' and limit ourselves. I've had lots of people say to me that they don't come to my creative groups because they 'can't do' this or that. I have come to understand that as humans, our deepest fear is never actually that we're inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we do have ability and that we therefore have potential for influence and joy. It is our light, not our darkness, that most freaks us out! It takes



courage to be ourselves in front of others, visible and vulnerable to comment and praise.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be good at this, to have this gift, skill or understanding? My argument would actually be who are you not to be good at this, to not have this gift, skill or understanding? Do you like writing, drawing, problem-solving, puzzling, painting, modelling, talking, sharing. Do you have life experiences and stories to share that might help others?

We are all children of God, born to manifest all that is good within us, so we shouldn't feel we have to shrink so that other people won't feel insecure around us. We should never feel embarrassed by what interests us or brings us to a creative place. Joy isn't just for some of us, it's for everyone. As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give others the permission to do the same. As we are freed from our fear, our presence automatically frees others.

Craft-ernoon is a community art group that meets at Navenby Methodist Church on a Monday between 1 and 3pm and Moorland Park Methodist Church on a Wednesday at the same times. It is a safe space, inclusive and welcoming of everyone. It is a place to discover, explore and celebrate our own creative gifts and those of others. It's a place where we can 'have a go' at things for the first time without fear of judgement or embarrassment. We freely offer inexpensive resources, priceless inspiration, practical suggestions and a treasure trove of ideas. Creative Activity is an essential in my life and it is good for the soul. It 'interrupts us', slows us down and helps us to notice what's important in the world and in ourselves. It can help us make 'something new' happen in our hearts and our imagination. It can take us from a place of playful adventure towards more profound transformation as we learn to let go and connect with others through the things we are interested in. While you're deciding what that is, the kettle is on and we are here to chat, so please come and join in. See you soon. Deacon Helen. [07958 940 263](tel:07958940263).

### Deacon Helen's 2,026 mile challenge



At Moorland Park Methodist Church, I am Chaplain to 4th Lincoln Girls' Brigade. Apart from a group at Alford, it's the only GB left in Lincolnshire. As someone who found their own younger and particularly teenage years a massive challenge, I love the responsibility and privilege of looking out for the girls, helping them to grow in confidence and purpose. I wish I'd had a faith-based community group and safe space like it when I was finding life tricky.

The next International Conference of Girls' Brigade will be taking place in the beautiful Cook Islands in March 2026. Our lovely leader Hayley from 4th Lincoln was awarded a place but has to fundraise her way there. This is an amazing opportunity to discuss the challenges and successes facing different countries. I know she is

excited to explore how we can grow and nourish faith amongst our young people across the world and is looking forward to being a voice within all the varied fellowships.

To show Hayley we're proud of her and to help fundraise her trip I am walking 2026 miles which works out around 40 prayerful miles a week. (That's an indication that I'll take my contemplative time!) The rest of the money (It is my aim to raise £2,026!) will help fund educational trips for the girls locally.



There are of course community grants where I could raise this kind of money quicker, but I'd much rather do it this way and raise awareness of Girls' Brigade and involve others as I go. I'll be out and about with colleagues and friends from local schools, colleges, walking groups and community projects.

We all need to slow down and see more of the world around us and be thankful for those around us too. I'm not doing this challenge because I've not got enough ministry without it, but because I think it's important to make head space for prayer, theological reflection and for our own well-being. It will also allow me to see and understand our communities better.

Please do get in touch and help keep me accountable and encouraged on [07958 940 263](tel:07958940263). I can happily send you updates and/or a link to my donations page. It has also become an opportunity to share some beautiful photographs of where I've been and what I've seen. I'm still around each Monday at church for Craft-ernoon 1-3pm.

In a world that has us counting steps, money and calories, let's learn to count our blessings and enjoy the moment too!

### What Rev Canon Alan has been getting up to?!

11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The City Food & Drink Lecture is an annual, invitation-only high-profile fixture in the City of London and international food and drink industry calendars. The Lecture is delivered every year by a leading figure in the British food business who is invited to speak about the issues they regard as most important in shaping the way food is produced, distributed, marketed, sold and consumed.

Held in the Great Hall at the prestigious Guildhall the hybrid event is attended live by 550 and a further 300 virtual audience from around the world. The City Food & Drink Lecture is organised by the eight City livery companies whose roots are in the food industry – namely the Worshipful Companies of Bakers, Butchers, Cooks, Distillers, Farmers, Fishmongers, Fruiterers, Poulterers.

This year's keynote speaker John Shropshire, OBE Chairman of G's Group his family

are all engaged in this major international grower, importer and exporter of salad's and vegetable's across Europe North America and UK. He spoke of the opportunities and challenges facing this sector. I have attended this event for about 10 years extraordinary speakers who have bold visions. Princess Anne always does an excellent vote of thanks with some critique too! Princess Anne will be at the Lincolnshire Show, this year, on its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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**Visited three of the largest producers: one of flowers and the other of strawberries and one of blueberries!?**

The one near Spalding 75 acres of glasshouses growing every type of cut flowers for all the major retailers also developing, from the essences of the plants, oils and fragrances for the perfume industry. Also, David Ball the CEO has created a research and development unit into medicines for treating epilepsy. I met David Ball when he was 23 years old and just taking over his father's business he is now 40, married with two sons, and clearly a leading entrepreneur. Humble and kind, with a big vision to extend the plant growing to a hundred acres under glass, the biggest in the UK, and supporting graduates from Cambridge and Oxford. David has a deep heart and desire to ensure the medicines he produces are accessible and affordable.

The other was at Nocton – Steff Munks - He took over the site/s of a former flower grower who had built accommodation and a sports centre for his workforce - Steff has upgraded these and built more units for small businesses and rents out the cold stores and packing sheds to Branston Potatoes. I planted a tree and blessed the site in around 2008 - I found the tree! Again, a leader with enormous energy, skills and insights. It was so exciting to meet and sense his vision. He took over a strawberry grower enterprise on the site where the strawberries go into Sainsbury's and his workforce were incredibly motivated and incentivised because of fair wages and wonderful accommodation, one of his female Ukrainian employees was a bundle of joy and energy picking nearly a tonne of strawberries in a day by hand – hard to believe! - They were delicious.

The Blueberry Farm near Peterborough, a village called Nassington—a true family operation. Mee Farmers is run by husband and wife duo, Peter and Zoe Mee, with their children, Charlie and Emily. Following agricultural college, Charlie returned to the farm to manage the farm's arable operations, Charlie's girlfriend Charlotte runs the Blueberry packhouse through harvest and keeps up the farm's bookkeeping and environmental stewardship plans through the winter months. Meanwhile, Emily completed her Chartered Accountancy in London before returning home mainly to develop some tasty blueberry products! Such as Blueberry Gin and Champagne (sparkly wine) and jam's and chutney's. Blown away, again by their energy and courageous vision. I was with a group of students from the Commonwealth,

India, Kenya and Ghana all gaining knowledge to take and develop businesses in their home countries. With a bit of encouragement Lincolnshire Agricultural Society is part of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC) of which Princess Anne is the President following on from her father Prince Philip. This broadens the work and possibilities of engagement for Lincolnshire Farmers and young people.

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**Had various visits to the House of Lord's** enabled the opportunity for six students to go from Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, all of whom are going to study some elements of politics at Universities soon, two are going to Cambridge. They were all more than captivated by the whole experience as Lord Taylor of Holbeach took us into some hidden recesses of the House and thoroughly explained the purpose of the Lord's, even got to go through a direct tunnel from the House to Westminster Tube station thus avoiding the numerous protests going on up above! I was able to link in other business re the Farming & Businesses taxes.

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**I visited the second biggest port for receiving products into the UK - Immingham Docks.** At the behest of a haulier whose brother-in-law, a farmer only a week or so earlier I had conducted the funeral of. I saw container ships unloading thousands of tonnes of Fertilizer, myriads of cars; heaps of coal and iron ore alongside yards and yards of wood. The lorry driver I was with Geoff shared his story and the story of a loss of a dear friend to drink and drugs and he shared how he could only express his feeling – having not sung and written much before by writing songs and music and forming a band!

An interesting quarter, with the **Workers Memorial event** for all those killed in work accidents across the planet being respectfully remembered, not so well attended this year as it landed on a workday rather than last year's on a weekend.

The **Chaplaincy weekend at the Cathedral** was a resounding success on so many levels, awareness raising, reaching out to new audiences for me a refreshing of my calling! Financially £55000 raised generous sponsors and donor on the Dinner evening with Sir Jonathan van Tam our speaker and John Inverdale our MC - utterly incredible a great team effort! Baptised my grandson Eugene (3 yrs old) in London; what a fun day that was!

My sense of God's presence everywhere is enhanced and richly fulfilling and brings immense joy. As we expand and reconfigure our Ministries in this patch we call Lincoln City and Lincolnshire I wonder how we can tap into the boundless energies and vision of others? Something to ponder.

# Praying Together



**1** Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer! Draw me closer to You this summer. **Amen**

**2** Please support our children and young people as they transition from one academic year to the next, or enter the world of employment. Be with them every step of the way helping and guiding with their choices. **Amen**

**3** Joyful God, we thank you for this time together. We thank you for the sun in the sky, the cool sea water, and the sand. We thank you for yummy snacks, buckets, spades and beach umbrellas. We thank you for our family, our friends and the lifeguards who keep us safe. **Amen**

**4** God of rest and recreation, be with all our school staff, in whatever category, as they prepare for a well-earned break prior to preparing for the new academic year. **Amen**

**5** Thank you for this world. which you have created. Thank you for summer sun, which reminds us. that your creative breath. is still alive and active. Thank you for the warmth of your love, sustaining this world, your garden. **Amen**

**6** Merciful God, we are grateful that you encourage some of us to act as chaplains, advocates, ministers. Thank you so much that these people are there to help and encourage us when we need them. **Amen**

**7** God, as the heat of summer intensifies, we pray for those without air conditioning or electricity, clean water, and health care. **Amen**

**8** Lord we pray for those nations devastated by war or natural disaster. Please be with those desperate people in their agony as an ever present friend and comforter and bring them all hope for a better future. **Amen**

**9** Dear Lord we thank you for all the many blessings and good things you have poured upon us. So much, Lord. May we be truly grateful for all your bounty. **Amen**

**10** Please, Lord, help us to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. **Amen**

**11** In all that we are and do, inspire, enable and encourage us, O God. Help us to learn from you and from each other, to seek justice and hospitality for everyone, and to defend the weak and the vulnerable among us. **Amen.**

**12** Dear Lord, thank you for our Emergency Services. We are grateful and, indeed, fortunate to have such dedicated combination of people, with the appropriate skills, ever ready to help at a moment's notice. Please, be with them as they attend each assignment. **Amen**

**13** Caring Lord, we pray for the elderly, housebound, vulnerable, those in residential care, who are often very lonely. Make us sensitive to their needs and move our hearts and minds to seek ways in which we may become involved. **Amen**

**14** Mindful Lord, we praise and thank you for carers, who daily show tenderness, kindness, and offer practical support where needed. Increase our awareness of the conditions under which they work; often earning so little for such a valuable contribution and help us seek social justice for them. **Amen**

**15** Creator God, we believe that you created us, and that in each of us is something of a seed, an essence from you, a potential to grow and to influence others. May our seed have positive conditions for growth and become an influence for good in the world. Helping care for people in need and preserving life in all its forms. **Amen**

**16** Abundant Lord, be with our farmers as they strive in all weathers to provide us with our basic need of food. **Amen**

**17** Loving God who created all that lives, from the tiniest amoeba to the greatest of whales, which fill us with wonder and awe. We recognise your amazing ability to create out of what seems to be an impossibility, yet we believe that all things are possible with you, and we are grateful for your loving care. **Amen**

**18** Dear Lord, reveal your love through us, until, with open minds and hearts we resolve the injustices of this world

and grow your kingdom. **Amen**

**19** 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*

**20** 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*

**21** 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 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*

**22** Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

**23** O Lord, from whom all good things come: grant to us your humble servants, that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**24** Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

**25** God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

**26** Faithful creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living word, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**27** God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**28** Gracious Father; by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**29** Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**30** Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**31** Lord, let your rain of blessings fall on your Church to produce literal food and blessings for your children. **Amen**

An invitation to an Ecumenical Quiet Day with the theme Holy Place at Stow Minster, 12th July 2025, 10 am - 3.30pm

A donation of £10 to support the fabric of this beautiful church is suggested.

Places are limited. To book, please contact David Justham on 01427 788725 or email [david.justham@talk21.com](mailto:david.justham@talk21.com)

Road side parking available. Hot drinks provided. Please bring a packed lunch.



## Lincolnshire Methodist District Environmental Newsletter April 2025



**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A Rocha UK PROJECT

A grand total of 25 churches in the Lincolnshire District have now registered with Eco-Church and of these 8 have gained their bronze award and 4 have gained their silver award. Very well done everyone!

Richard Britton-Voss of Sleaford Circuit and Rev John Boardman of Grimsby and Cleethorpes Circuit are your District Eco-Champions on hand to help you register with Eco-Church. Get in touch with them directly or via the District Office [pa@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk](mailto:pa@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk)

Which church will be the next to go for bronze?



Presentation of the Silver Eco-Award at St Christopher's in Grimsby



Image by Freepik

### Counting the cost

At the recent Synod, held on 5<sup>th</sup> April, members were asked to submit details of how they travelled and if they had arrived by car how many miles would be driven. It was calculated that 0.4 tonnes of carbon had been used.

The challenge of a meeting like Synod or other District gatherings is how to reduce our carbon emissions whilst still enjoying the benefits of meeting face to face.

### Church news

The Asda Foundation has recently generously granted £2,685 to Brigg Methodist Church to help with the development of an eco/community garden.

The garden development will enable the provision of some raised beds and pathways, and subject to other funding applications the inclusion of a sensory garden and eco elements. The development of the garden is being overseen by paid Youth Worker, Grace, with involvement from youth groups, including those on the New Places for New People initiative 'Sustain', and community members. It is also planned that the garden will subsequently provide outside space for Community Meals in the summer, organised by Oikos, Brigg.

### Eco-District

Now that an impressive 25 churches are registered with Eco-Church and as soon as a few other criteria are met the District can apply for its Bronze award. Watch this space.

The Methodist Church  
Lincolnshire Methodist District



**Summer Concert**  
**Saturday 7th June**  
**2025**

**7 PM Nettleham**  
**Methodist Church**  
**Featuring Lindum Ladies Choir**

**Musical Director Nick Perry**  
**Accompanists Simon Clark**



**Tickets £8 including refreshments**

Contact [delia.vincent33@virginmedia.com](mailto:delia.vincent33@virginmedia.com)

01522 824537

In aid of  
Nettleham Methodist Church.



# Strawberry Fayre

taste of an English summer  
enjoy a **Strawberry Tea** on the lawn  
to the background sound of  
Brass Band music  
**Saturday 12th July - 3pm-4.30pm**  
Just come along (indoors if wet)  
Strawberry themed teas, cakes and delights  
on sale



Queen St Methodist Chapel, Horncastle, LN9 6BD

<https://www.midlincs.info/horncastle>

Charity no: 1136058

## Calendar Dates - Summer 2025

Thursday -	29th May - 8th	Thy Kingdom Come
Sunday	8th June	Whit Sunday, Pentecost
Monday	9th June	Whit Monday
Saturday	14th June	King's Official Birthday
Sunday	15th June	Trinity Sunday/Fathers Day
Monday - Sun-	16th-22nd	Refugee Week
Thursday	19th June	Corpus Christi
Saturday	21st June	June Solstice
Saturday	28th June	Armed Forces Day
Tuesday	15th July	St Swithin's Day
Wednesday	30th July	International Day of Friendship
Monday	4th August	Summer Bank Holiday
Tuesday	12th August	International Youth Day
Friday	15th August	Assumption of Mary
Monday	25th August	Summer Bank Holiday
Monday - Sat- urday	1st Sept - 4th Oct	Creation Time
Friday	5th Sept	Food Bank Day
Monday	8th Sept	Fairtrade Fortnight begins



Saturday	Location	Leader(s)
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Gainsborough	Mary and Chris
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Barnoldby Le Beck	Andrew Moir
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Bardney	Andrew MacDonald
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Barton on Humber	Carole & Jane
9 <sup>th</sup> August	TBC	Peter Butcher
23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Navenby*	Elaine and Mandy
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Calistor	Andrew Moir

For further information contact:  
 Lettie Fortune, Walk administrator.  
 Tel: 09741338457 email: [Lettiefortune@gmail.com](mailto:Lettiefortune@gmail.com)  
 (\*Bus from Bracebridge Heath)

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 email: [lincolnmethodist1702@outlook.com](mailto:lincolnmethodist1702@outlook.com)

Material for the **Autumn 2025** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Wednesday, **13 August 2025**. Any material received after this date will not be included in the September edition.

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