METHODIST CHURCH

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October **2021**





– ECCLESIASTES 3:11 –



Minister—Rev Judith Lincoln



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Service details for October

3rd October

Stewards Roderick Lay, Hazel Brewer, Ian Lay, Jenny Marsay

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Ann Lay

6.00 p.m. Circuit Zoom Service – Rev Joy Langford

10th October Homeless Sunday. (Prisons' Week begins)

Stewards Linda & William Walmsley, Zoe Tur-Ribas, Ann Lay

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Mrs Edith Cobley

6.00 p.m. Circuit Zoom Service – Rev Judith Lincoln

17th October No service in our church (One World Week begins)

10.00 a.m. CTiM United Service at St. Wilfred's RC Church, Coalville

6.00 p.m. Circuit Zoom Service – Rev Helen Bell

24th October

Stewards Ian Lay, Iris Bown, Rosie Woodland, Ann Holloway

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Howard Pollard

31st October

Stewards Linda & William Walmsley, Ann Lay, Jenny Marsay

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Rev Helen Bell

"I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things." Mother Teresa

DATE	ORGANIST	FLOWERS	CLEANING
3 rd	David Woodward	Linda Walmsley	Iris Bown
October			Linda & William
			Walmsley
10 th	Margaret Silverwood	Jenny Marsay	
October		Lucy Crossley	
17 th	No Service	No Service	Jenny Marsay
October			Roderick Lay
24 th	David Woodward	Rosie Barrs	
October			
31 st	Margaret Silverwood	Sandra Andrews	Iris Bown
October			Ann & Ian Lay

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

As a keen walker, I love watching the changing seasons: daffodils and blossom in spring; long warm days and beautiful flowers in summer; the colours, ripe fruits, conkers and acorns of autumn; frosts and stunning sunrises and sunsets in winter.

The vivid reds, oranges and yellows of autumn are beautiful, and many of us enjoy the fruitfulness of this time of year- blackberry picking, playing conkers, Harvest suppers. But the nights are drawing in, the weather is getting chilly, some wildlife go into hibernation, the leaves die and fall from the trees, and we may look back to summer with nostalgia. As it gets darker and colder, we may feel fed up- especially after 18 months of pandemic.

But can we perhaps learn something from this rhythm of the seasons? Just as the trees bear their fruit as the weather gets colder, sometimes as we grow older we nevertheless grow in wisdom and love, and our lives become more fruitful. For the Methodist Church autumn brings a new year. At Synod one of the readings was Isaiah 43: 15-21. In this, God tells His weary people, bruised and battered from exile, that He is doing a new thing. Jesus spoke of a grain of wheat dying and bearing fruit¹: we might think of conkers and acorns falling from the tree, before they grow into new trees. We may, individually and as a Church, feel battered, bruised and weary- but God uses us as we are, to bring new life and hope to others. We may not know how, any more than an acorn or a conker knows what it will become- but God will do it.

With love in Christ,

Judith

PASTORAL CARE

If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or had a family bereavement, please contact our Minister, Rev Judith Lincoln, or our Pastoral Secretary, Kerry Sharpe, on 07979 607099.

RENATA IS BACK!

FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 7PM

Piano Recital - in tribute to Malcolm Goldring Tickets £12 adults | £6 U16s

We expect that tickets will sell very quickly and want to ensure that our Church community has the first opportunity to purchase a ticket. This means that you will have 2 weeks to purchase your tickets before they go on general sale (you may purchase your tickets from Sunday 25th September and they go on general sale Monday 4th October)

Unfortunately, we are unable to reserve tickets so if you would like to come please pay for them asap - in cash to Rosie, or email Kerry – kerryjane34@yahoo.com to pay online.

We will be adhering to all relevant government and Church COVID guidelines. We are not providing refreshment on this occasion but would encourage you to bring your (cold only) refreshment if you wish. Thanks. Kerry, Rosie & Kate

WAYS & MEANS MEETING Monday, 11th October at 10.30 in the schoolroom.

Our 125th celebration year of 2019 was a great success and we had hoped to build on that throughout 2020. We held a meeting at the beginning of 2020 and planned a programme of events for the year. You know what happened next! Many of you were involved in that planning, so we hope that you will be able to come to a meeting on **Monday, 11th October at 10.30** in the schoolroom when we hope to put together a programme for the end of this year and for 2022. Everyone's input will be most welcome.

<u>MUSIC CAFÉ</u> will meet on Thursday 14^{th} and 28^{th} October. Join us at 2 o'clock on the 2^{nd} & 4^{th} Thursdays of the month for an afternoon of music, singing, friendship and fun.

CHRISTIAN AID Thank you

Many thanks for generously supporting the CTiM fundraising weekend for Christian Aid. The coffee morning raised £493.75 & the Sunday service collection amounted to £174.39, making the magnificent total of £668.14.

Please send items for the November issue to Linda & William Walmsley by Sunday, 24th October.

MISSION IN THE LEICESTER WEST CIRCUIT - REWILDING THE CHURCH

CHRISTIANS EXPLORING WORSHIPPING GOD IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Over the summer I went to my nephew's wedding service which was held in Captain's Wood in Essex. As the couple said their vows I looked up at the tree trunks arching into the sky and I thought how much like the pillars of a cathedral they were and what an excellent, awesome place for such an occasion. Perhaps it's no surprise then that Christians with a love for the natural world have recently been exploring worshipping God in the countryside with 'Forest Church', or 'Mossy Church' as they have for families at New Lubbesthorpe.

THE 'REWILDING' METAPHOR FOR THE CHURCH

Did you leave any parts of your garden to grow wild over lockdown? In the late 1990s the Knepp Estate in West Sussex gave up unprofitable farming that was killing the soil and land and started 'allowing nature to take the driving seat.' By 2002 there were big changes: the low-level hum of insects, clouds of butterflies and knee-deep meadows of wild flowers. Steve Aisthorpe in his new book *Rewilding the Church* suggests that at a time when the Church is in urgent need of renewal the metaphor of rewilding offers us hope. Not in the ability of humankind to intervene but in the powers of nature for regrowth. He suggests that the renewal of the Church will likewise come from the inside out. Not so much from our attempts to manage and organise Church life but as we follow Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to reform us.

Just as sun, rain and soil give nature astonishing energies, Christians following Jesus and doing as he does build an amazing, vibrant community of love. Can we focus on our core values of sharing what we have, showing kindness to others, being forgiving, standing up for justice, so that the Holy Spirit 'Rewilds' the Church?

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR CHURCH AND LOCAL COMMUNITY?

In my new role as the Circuit Mission Enabler I will be helping churches to develop the good mission work that is already being done and to see if there are any new opportunities to meet the needs of our local neighborhoods.

Around our Circuit there already are: A Music Cafe at Markfield, a friendship group - New Parks, New Friends, Messy Church with a communal meal at Leicester Forest East, Girls' Brigade services in various churches. There is much more and I hope to share some of it each month or so on our Circuit website for encouragement, prayer and in case you would like to go along!

If you have any thoughts on mission opportunities in your church and community that you would like to share then please contact me.

Justin Moulder Circuit Mission Enabler (*Rewilding the Church* by Steve Aisthorpe is published by St Andrews Press, 2020)

DO YOU KNOW?????

<u>WEBSITE</u> - All of the notices are available on our website? – just go onto <u>www.markfieldmethodistchurch.org</u> and look along the tabs at the top for news and events – then you will see newsletter underneath and you can then pick the one for that month.

So if you haven't got your copy of the newsletter or choose to save paper and look at the newsletter online – they are all there. Lots of other info on the website too!!! Including all the events, our history and lots of other info – please take a look!!

<u>GOOGLE REVIEWS</u> – we have 9 reviews at the moment. If you haven't reviewed our Church, please do so – the more reviews the better (as long as they are positive!!) – just search on google for our Church and it should bring you the google hit on it along with reviews – click on reviews and you can then do your own!

FACEBOOK – We also have our own FaceBook page – just search Markfield Methodist Church and "like" the page and you will get any posts I put on. I don't inundate folks at all, it's usually about events, special service etc...

Thanks for reading.

Kerry Sharpe