

Wigmore Wavelength



February/
March 2019

Wigmore News & Events



Rev Arlington Trotman will speak about Racial Justice on Sunday 10th February at 7.30pm at St John's Methodist Church Luton. Refreshments in a friendly atmosphere included.

The 2019 World Day of Prayer is on Friday 1st March, 2019. There are two Services: 2pm at St. Francis Church, Carteret Road, and at 7.30pm at St. Luke's Church, High Street, Leagrave. The theme, prepared by the women of Slovenia, is **Come – Everything is Ready!**

It is now *'The World Day of Prayer'* to emphasise that women and men are equally welcome at this ecumenical event.



You are invited to a Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel on the following Wednesdays at 11.00am:

THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN **3rd April 2019 Major David Evans** Ecumenical Officer The Salvation Army;

SAINT ALBAN **1st May 2019 Rev Gill Hulme** Methodist Minister Bishop's Stortford;

5th June 2019 Rev John Hardaker URC Minister, St Albans

'Precious Pearls' - Celebrating Women Across Faiths & Cultures

6.30pm – 8.30pm 7th March 2019 at High Town Methodist Church Hall. **Please let Grassroots know by 4th March on Luton 416946 if you would like to attend.**

More @ grassrootsluton.org.uk/news-events/ or on Wigmore Church noticeboard

Lent Study Group - details coming soon about a study group in our area, possibly based on the film *'Hook'*. See back page diary. Lent begins on March 6th.

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we have just celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and been reminded by the Lectionary that we are one body with many parts, each distinctive but equally important. In the United Reformed Church, we profess to believe in the unity of the church - the clue is in the title - but unity should never be confused with uniformity. Each branch of the church, even within denominations, is different; it has to be, as the church is people and we are all different. To use a wonderful illustration, imagine the beauty and wonder of a rainbow with its seven distinct colours and the shades created at the meeting of those colours: now imagine what would happen if you placed those seven colours all together in one pot and mixed well – the result would be a grey/brown nondescript mess. We need our diversity, our different colours, to truly reflect the glory of our creator God.

This diversity means that how we resource our journey to God needs to be a smorgasbord rather than a set menu. Each one of us has different needs, we start from different places and our relationship with God is unique. We also all have different tastes! As we approach Lent, we all have a different way of using the time. It is a time for preparation and contemplation. Traditionally, people have given something up for Lent, usually chocolate or cheese or even alcohol but I have always worried that this was more about me than about my relationship with God. Hence, I have chosen, and encouraged others, to give up some time for Lent, deliberately making space for time with God, either with others in a study group or by doing something contemplative each week or day of Lent. The simplest way is to buy a special book, preferably with a faith emphasis, and read it during Lent, making notes of the questions it raises or the things that particularly strike you in the text. Lent is a special time for journeying. Within the pastorate there will be an opportunity to meet together in study groups, and in Dunstable there will be some Churches Together Study Groups. The material for both is still being finalised but will be in the notices soon.

If you are looking for a book to read, two that I would recommend are *When the Heart Waits* by Sue Monk Kidd, or *At Home in the World* by

... Thich Nhat Hahn. The latter is a series of reflections by one of the world's most revered masters of mindfulness.

If you like taking photographs then *Spirituality in Photography* by Philip R Richter would be an interesting read and you might like to couple it with taking a photograph every day in Lent, either the same view each day reflecting on the changes day to day, or perhaps using a theme of a different colour each week, or simply something you notice each day. The possibilities are endless as the book demonstrates but doing it deliberately will itself be a spiritual exercise.

The important thing is to let God into our lives in a special way during Lent and there are, as we know, many ways of doing that. We simply have to find the way that is right for us.

Enjoy the search — Love and prayers,



Luton Foodbank needs this

month:— pasta sauce; UHT milk; tinned fish; instant noodles, long life fruit juice.

£20.00 helps us get a 3 day food parcel to someone who needs it.

They will face extra need for food for families in half term week (18th to 22nd February).

Please pray for people in the Yemen - the UN predicts a humanitarian crisis and the worst famine in 100 years: over 2 million people displaced, with children and families in urgent need of food, water and medical supplies. More at www.unicef.org.uk.

Good news — numbers of rough sleepers in Luton are down so far this winter, according to official statistics from a count on one night. People working with rough sleepers are questioning the accuracy of this statistic.

Church Family News

Hon Khow's Funeral took place at Luton Crematorium on Tuesday 22nd January, conducted by Rev Jenny Spouge. It was well attended by members of Wigmore Church and May's friends from the church at Castle Street.

Her life story was exceptional — she lived in Malaysia, near Penang and Singapore and was determined to give her daughter, May, a better chance of independence than she had had. She worked and saved to send May to university and, late in life, took the big step of moving to live in the UK, in Luton, just after the Millenium. She quickly found a niche at Wigmore, becoming a faithful and cheerful member of the congregation and Margaret's Bible Study Group until she had to go into residential care. May worked hard to maintain a high standard of care for her and will miss her mother greatly. Please remember May and her mother in your prayers.

David Gower is back in hospital, now on Ward 14. He has a problem with swallowing and is due to have a CT scan to diagnose the problem and find a treatment. The cast on his ankle is due to come off in 2 to 3 weeks. He sends God's blessing to us all.

Philip Alderman is preparing to move into his own home. We hope he will enjoy his new surroundings in his own space.

We now have a new Church Directory: please speak to Valerie if you would like a copy.

Hannah Bennett's Concerts

March 2nd St Andrews Church, Blenheim Crescent, Luton at 7.30 pm: Mezzo soloist Elgar's Sea Pictures with Luton Symphony Orchestra

March 24th St Lawrence Church, Willington at 3pm: Afternoon Recital by Hannah Bennett with pianist Keval Shah

March 30th St Andrews Church, Blenheim Crescent, Luton at 7.30 pm : Mezzo soloist Mendelssohn Elijah with Luton Choral Society.

Hannah will be very pleased to see you at any of these concerts.

On the next 2 pages you will find proposals for Wigmore's next charity, for 2019/20. Please talk to the people who have proposed them, look at the websites and be ready to vote by 17th March. The result will be announced at the Church Meeting on 24th March. .



Home Leone
Building Communities of Hope with the Poor

1 Slums to Sustainable Living

Hundreds of thousands of people in Freetown, Sierra Leone, live in unimaginable squalor which enabled Ebola to spread in 2014. 280,000 homes are needed by 2028; few have been built. Home Leone owns 25 acres of land and is building the first 56 homes of 344 in Destiny Village, near Newton. They aim to build primary and secondary schools, a health centre, businesses creating employment, power, water and waste management, vocational training, recreational facilities and more. They work with in-country partners, thousands of children get an education, people have fresh water or live in a healthy home and not a slum and they transform lives with a hope and a future.

Website: www.homeleone.org **Charity Number:** 1158211
Company Number: 8974510

Proposed by **Jacqueline Esama John**



MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

2 Medecins Sans Frontières

(Doctors Without Borders) is a

humanitarian organisation for emergency medical aid. In more than 70 countries it provides relief to victims of war, natural disasters and epidemics irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. MFS was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

Website: www.msf.org gives details of what they do and how they spend their income.

Proposed by **Sheila Marsden**



3 Practical Action is a UK-based charity working in East, West and Southern Africa, Latin America and South Asia - inspiring people to discover and ...

...adopt ingenious, practical ways to free themselves from poverty and disadvantage. Their projects cover four main categories: access to sustainable energy solutions, food and agriculture, urban water and waste, and reducing the risk of disasters. 94% of all income is spent directly on programmes around the world (the remaining 6% being invested in further fundraising and administration).

Website: <https://practicalaction.org>

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/practicalaction

Registered Charity Number: 247257

Proposed by **Bob Squires**



4 This charity was founded in 1981 and worked with local partners in 37 countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and in the Pacific region to bring sustainable water supplies and toilets

close to homes and to seek to prioritize safe hygiene practices in poverty reduction plans. Safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities are essential to those trying to escape poverty and live in more healthy communities. **WaterAid's** campaigning and fundraising has extended to Australia, Japan, Sweden, and the US. *Wigmore last fund raised for Water Aid in 2008*

Website: www.wateraid.org/uk **Charity Number :** 288701

Proposed by **Lawrence Patterson**

Ballot papers and a ballot box will be available on Sundays 3rd and 10th March. Please complete your ballot paper and put it in the box by Sunday 17th March. Votes will be counted and the result announced at the Church Meeting on 24th March.

Our charity for 2017/18, 'Friends of Sawbridgeworth' raised £2,300 to fund work on the gardens, grounds and outdoor seating used by patients at the hospital and visitors and their children to make it easier to take patients outside. Thank you to everyone who helped to raise this money in memory of Steven Cakebread who was a patient there for over 2 years.



Fairtrade Fortnight

- 25 February – 10 March 2019

will celebrate the people who grow our food in some of the poorest countries in the world and who are often exploited and badly paid. This year Fairtrade Fortnight focuses on cocoa and chocolate.

A cocoa farmer in West Africa needs £1.98* a day to earn a living income. Currently, a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on less than 78p** a day. Women's situation is even worse. They plant and harvest on the farm, look after children, carry water, collect wood, cook and clean for the family, and transport the cocoa beans to market but they are likely to be paid even less.

Fairtrade is campaigning for a living income for cocoa farmers in West Africa - enough to pay for essentials such as clothing, medicine and school for their children. Buying Fairtrade chocolate and cocoa helps to keep up the demand and allows farmers to sell more of their cocoa on Fairtrade terms thus increasing their income. Check for the logo above.



Fairtrade Cake Baking Competition on: Saturday 23rd February 2019, 2-5pm at St Christopher's Church Hall, Felix Avenue, Luton LU2 7LE Your cake(s) must contain at least 3 fairly traded ingredients.

This competition is sponsored by **Grassroots** — if you have difficulty sourcing Fairtrade ingredients they may be able to help.

Church Action on Poverty Sunday takes place this year on the last Sunday before Lent, **Sunday, 3rd March**. Church Action produces resources for churches throughout the year, for Bible Study Groups, Poverty Lunches etc. It asks churches to **Give, Act & Pray** to reduce homelessness and poverty. You can access them through their website : www.church-poverty.org.uk/act/resources. It includes a quiz (the answers are included!) which could be used over a Poverty Lunch.

Book Review: ‘Becoming’, by *Michelle Obama*

To many the US is known for being a land of opportunity and nothing portrays this more than the story of Michelle Robinson who married Barack Obama and for eight years was the country’s First Lady. However, this was not just a girl from the roughest and most deprived side of Chicago but an African American whose ancestors were slaves in the southern states and becoming the wife of the most powerful person in the world made her a role model for millions.

This book gives evidence that where there is support and encouragement from parents, a close family relationship with other relatives and someone willing to learn and achieve then opportunities can be found. Michelle was fortunate that all these aligned to produce a young person that proved she could make university and end up at Harvard Law School. From there she went to a job in an upmarket Chicago law firm where she met Barack. The important parts of this book are not that she is just the wife of a political star, or a mother of two girls but that she achieved academically and socially in her own right and has her own agenda which is one saying to girls of ethnic minorities everywhere that it is possible to achieve, to be someone and to make your own mark on the world.

The role of a First Lady is not a paid job and it is made what it is by the individual. Michelle’s work in the fields of education, health and with military veterans were areas she chose and her words have given her a new and more informed outlook on some of the countries issues and the problems faced by those who were less fortunate than herself or who have been left behind by the society they have served.

It appears clear that she will not be a politician like her husband but that the experiences she has encountered, and her moral compass will mean that she might well influence people and organisations in the coming years. It is interesting that other US First Ladies like ... Ford or Barbara Bush have found that this privileged position has motivated them to plough their own furrows.

As a read this book is interesting, well written and portrays an individual who has a determination to be herself as well as a support to her husband and her two emerging daughters. The values of her parents have indeed been passed on to the

The values of her parents have indeed been passed on to the daughter.

Lawrence Patterson

Work on the Building

Over the past year Ian Alderman, Property Steward, with help from Alan Crain and other members, has commissioned, overseen and in some cases done a lot of work on the fabric of the church building and the boiler, which broke down completely last winter and has had major repairs (it still needs new parts which the gas fitter is trying to source).

Following the installation of the automatic front doors, which have greatly improved access for mums with prams and people with wheelchairs, woodwork on the front of the building has been restored. After the theft of lead from the roof woodwork there has been improved and painted and new non-lead water proofing has been fitted. The main hall has been painted for the first time since the church was opened and the wooden doors and screens have been restored and painted.

Pre-school has 2 low level toilets in the ladies' loo, funded by the Council, and a hygienic disposal system for nappies in the disabled loo.

As if that was not enough, a gardening detail spent a Saturday morning chopping, cutting back and weeding the borders and will be doing it again in the Spring.

A very big thank you to Ian and his helpers—the building looks amazing!

The next Wavelength will be the April/May (Easter) edition and will be published on Sunday 7th April. Please give articles, Jokes, information, news of members, etc to Lawrence or Wendy by Sunday 31st March **latest** — preferably in writing.

☺ How does a penguin build a house? *Igloos it together!*
What did the big furry hat say to the warm woolly scarf?
"You hang around while I go on ahead."

Wigmore Church (URC/Methodist) Information

Church Address: Crawley Green Road, Luton LU2 9TE

Tel: 07553 073 865; **Website:** www.wigmorechurch.org.uk

- We are a **Fairtrade** Church

Ministers: We are receiving Methodist ministerial support from Deacon Jacqueline Esama-John, and from Rev. Heather Whyte, URC minister.

For baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact Deacon Jacqueline Esama John, 01582 730129, or Rev Heather Whyte, 01582 724823. *Email* minister@wigmorechurch.org.uk

Church Officers: Secretaries: Sheila Marsden (Meetings) Tel 01582 721592; Valerie Alderman (Correspondence) 107 Manton Drive LU2 7DL Tel L 659190 *Email* secretaries@wigmorechurch.org.uk

Treasurer: Lawrence Patterson, Tel Luton 450466 *Email* treasurer@wigmorechurch.org.uk

Booking Secretary: Sheila Marsden, Tel L 721592 ; bookings_sec@wigmorechurch.org.uk

Wavelength Editors: Lawrence Patterson — as above; Wendy Squires L 734051; wavelength@wigmorechurch.org.uk

Methodist Circuit Office: Marina Mele is the Circuit Administrator, based at The Square Methodist Church, Dunstable LU6 3SN Tel 01582 665799 *Email* office@southbedsmethodist.org.uk

Churches Together In Luton: www.lutonchurchestogether.org.uk

Please see the *Welcome leaflet* (copies in the foyer) for details of church services, activities and community groups.

Spare copies of Wavelength are available on the table in the foyer—please take one; an electronic copy is available on request to the editors and it is also on the church website in colour — www.wigmorechurch.org.uk Go to *News* & scroll down to find the link.

Church Diary

February

Monday 4th 7.45pm Secretaries & Treasurers meeting at
St Ninans URC

Tuesday 5th 7.45pm South Beds Methodist Circuit meeting at
Beech Hill

Thursday 7th 7.30pm Elders Meeting at 107 Manton Drive

Sunday 10th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Steve Rogers

Tuesday 12th 7.30pm Social & Fundraising meeting at
1 Ravenbank Road

Sunday 17th 10.30am Morning Worship inc. Holy Communion
led by Sheila Marsden

Sunday 24th 10.30am Church Action on Poverty service – LA

Thursday 28th 3.45pm -5.15pm Messy Church at Wigmore

March

Friday 1st World Day of Prayer – services at St Francis C of E,
Cartaret Road at 2pm & St Luke's, Legrave at 7-30pm

Sunday 3rd 10.30am Family worship led by Rev Heather Whyte

Monday 4th 7.15pm Showing of Lent Film *-Hook* at the Square
Methodist Church, Dunstable

Wednesday 6th – start of Lent

Sunday 10th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Shepherd Kombo

Sunday 17th 10.30am Morning Worship inc. Holy Communion
led by Rev Heather Whyte

Thursday 21st 3.45pm – 5.15pm Messy Church at Wigmore

Sunday 24th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Deacon
Jacqueline Esama-John

Sunday 31st 10.30am Morning Worship – local arrangement

April.

Sunday 7th 10.30am Family Worship led by Deacon Jacqueline
Esama-John