

# Wigmore Wavelength



## New Life!

February/March 2020

## Events Calendar February & March 2020



International  
Women's Day

### Precious Pearls - Celebrating Women Across Faiths & Cultures

Theme: *“Women Caring for  
Mother Earth”*

on 5th March 2020 at 6.30pm – 8.30pm at High Town  
Methodist Church Hall, 47 High Town Road, Luton LU2OBW  
**Parking - Wenlock St - LU2 0NN - FREE AFTER 6.00pm**



**The World Day of Prayer** this year is on Friday 6th  
March. The service in Luton will be at 2-30pm at St  
Mary's Church in the town centre. The host country  
for WDP 2020 is Zimbabwe. The program is based  
on Jesus' encounter with a person who, although  
positioned for healing, had not acted upon the

opportunities given (John 5:2-9a). Jesus asked –“Do you want to be  
made well?” with the theme “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk”.



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

**You are invited to attend** a Free Church  
Service in the Lady Chapel on the following  
Wednesday 4th March at 11am: Leader, Mr  
Stephen Poxon Salvation Army Officer and  
Freelance Writer

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend  
Simon Carver, Email: [simoncarver@btinternet.com](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)



**4th April 2020 at 7.30pm at St Augustine's Church  
Luton**

### ***Rachmaninoff Vespers***

Sung in Russian. Tickets from Valerie or Ian.

**Luton Choral Society** is always happy to welcome new members  
— they rehearse at St Paul's Church, New Town Street, on Tuesday  
evenings from 7-30pm. Speak to Valerie or Ian for more information.

☺ How does a penguin build a house? *Igloos it together.*

**Dear friends,**

I wonder how many items in your shopping basket carry the Fairtrade symbol. Do you make a conscious effort to source Fairtrade goods? Like a lot of campaigns, it is easy for it to become too familiar and for assumptions to be made. This year Fairtrade fortnight coincides with the start of Lent which made me wonder if we should try and make our Lenten exercise one of positively seeking out Fairtrade versions of the things we regularly use. Perhaps rather than giving up chocolate we pledge to only eat Fairtrade chocolate during Lent.

Fairtrade is about paying a realistic price for the goods we need. In days gone by when all goods were produced within national boundaries and people bartered with each other there was no need for trade justice. Now we buy our goods from a supermarket who barter on our behalf and we revel in our good buys and our ability to buy more but at what cost and to whom. Trade justice is a complicated issue involving subsidies, embargoes and unfair trade agreements but the bottom line is that the vast majority of our everyday goods (luxuries to those in developing lands) are purchased at rock bottom prices and sold on with an ever increasing profit margin. Fairtrade seeks to redress the balance and ensure that the producers are paid a fair price for their goods. This means that Fairtrade goods are often more expensive than our normal brands but that is a realistic price. These days most supermarkets have some Fairtrade items and it is important that we support this as only demand will ensure the continuation. Personally I would encourage you to visit the Coop, who have taken Fairtrade on board to the extent that their own brand chocolate is all fairly traded, and they produce their own Fairtrade coffee, the full range of instant, a filter, standard and decaffeinated at prices which reflect the goods and not the speciality. They also have Fairtrade wine, tea, and some biscuits. The more we support this the more they will stock. We have the power.

Micah 6.11 reads *'Can I tolerate wicked scales and a bag of dishonest weights?'* The Lord's answer is no, and as Christians our answer should be the same.

If you would like to take this one step further then you might like to apply the LOAF principle to all your purchases during Lent – Local, Organic, Animal friendly and Fairtrade. Now very few items will be all of these things but if we seek out local produce first, organic where possible, animal friendly where appropriate, and Fairtrade where local is not available, we will be doing our bit for Climate Change, the health of our planet, the welfare of those animals bred for the food chain and global farmers. At the same time we will raising our awareness over our choices and how we live in partnership with creation.

**Love and prayers,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. P. K.' with a period at the end.

### **God in Love Unites Us.**

On a cold, winter afternoon, I went along to The Square Methodist Church in Dunstable, and armed with a warming cup of coffee, joined a gathering of representatives from our Methodist Churches in the Circuit.

We gave up our Sunday afternoon to discuss the findings of a Task Group (made up of varying ages and sexual orientations), who have put together a report on Marriage and Relationships, particularly looking at Same Sex marriages and should we allow them to happen in our churches. We were asked to give our opinions on the report and respectfully listen to other people's views.

A very robust discussion took place, where many different views were passionately expressed. Some were very clear that whilst same sex relationships were acceptable, could not agree to ...



such a marriage in a Christian church. Others felt Scripture made it plain that marriage was for a man and a woman only.

Many held the view that the churches' doors should be wide-open to embrace diversity and same sex marriage, and that the love shared between a couple was the most important thing. Who are we to allow our dogma to stand in the way of other people's happiness?

Our discussion showed the wide range of opinions that people hold. The Methodist Conference will have the final

say, and it will be a while before resolutions are reached.

I have copies of the Task Group Report. It is well worth a read.

Please come and ask me for a copy if you wish.

***Valerie Alderman.***

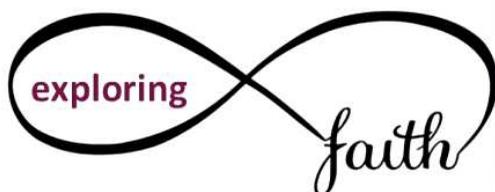
**Did you know that ...** a lot of tea bags contain a small amount of polypropylene plastic. Until recently it has been essential to help seal the tea bag paper together. Clipper's tea bags are now sealed with a completely natural, non-GM bio-material made from plant cellulose, known as PLA- Clipper uses natural, industrially compostable and a much more environmentally friendly sealant. More at [www.clipper-teas.com/tea-talk/plastic-free-tea-bags](http://www.clipper-teas.com/tea-talk/plastic-free-tea-bags)

**The next Wavelength will be published on Sunday 5th**

**April.** Please give any items for inclusion to Lawrence or Wendy, preferably typed, by Sunday 26th March at the latest. News and views, Church Family News, reviews of books, TV programmes or films, jokes all welcome.

If you would like something included but do not type, please speak to one of the editors who will help. Please stick to the deadline if possible — it's difficult to get everything typed up and fitted in if items are late.

# Pastorate LENT COURSE 2020, in conjunction with Dunstable Churches Together



A five-week course inspired by the book *Simple Faith* by Margaret Silf and led by Heather Whyte

This is both an introduction and a refresher, an opportunity to wrestle with some deep questions and begin to better understand your own faith. We will explore faith through such questions as who or what is God, how we relate to God, the place of mystery, the meaning of life, who is Jesus, what does it mean to follow Jesus, how do we pray, images of God, what we mean by faith, the significance of Jesus to and in our faith, prayer, what difference does faith make, and also touch on some of the big questions of faith. Each session will start with devotions and end in a time of meditation.

## **There will be two groups**

Monday 2-3.30pm at Wigmore Church Luton  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

Tuesdays 2-3.30pm\* Methodists (Square)  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> (\*2.30 – 4.00)

All material will be provided.

It is important to be able to do the whole course as there will be evolving themes. There is much to cover and so each session will start promptly, please respect each other by arriving in time to settle and prepare.

If you would like to attend one of these groups please sign up on the sheet in your church by 23<sup>rd</sup> February, or email Heather on [heather.whyte@urc.org.uk](mailto:heather.whyte@urc.org.uk) by the same date.



## Dear All

Each year, we organise an event to commemorate the Fairtrade Fortnight. Last year, in partnership with St Christopher's Church, Luton we held a

Fairtrade Cake Baking Competition.

***The good news is we are doing it again this year!*** You are therefore invited to bring your cake, its recipe and the Fairtrade packaging as evidence of any Fairtrade ingredients you may have used in the baking of your cake on Saturday 29th February 2020 at 2pm at St Christopher's Church Hall on Felix Avenue, off Stockingstone Road, Luton LU2 7LE. You are all welcome even if you are not a baker. You can taste the cakes.

For Parking, best option is Round Green Pay & Display Car Park, Ramridge Rd, Luton LU2 0TQ OR You can park in the neighbouring streets, but please take care not blocking anyone's entrance. OR You can try finding not so obvious car park, at the back of Jolly Topers Pub & Restaurant, accessed via a narrow alley way, immediately left after the Church, adjacent to Chicken & Chips Shop, before the roundabout. We look forward to see you there.

With best wishes for the bakers as well as for the tasters ...

**David Jonathan (Johnny)** GRASSROOTS & LUTON COUNCIL OF FAITHS 47 High Town Road, Luton, Beds. LU2 0BW 01582 416946  
jgrassroots@btconnect.com [www.grassrootsluton.org.uk](http://www.grassrootsluton.org.uk)

## ***Climate Emergency!!***

**Extinction Rebellion** took to the street of Luton on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan as part of Operation Mad Hatter to raise awareness of the ecological climate crisis and in particular with the proposed expansion of our airport from the current 18 Million passengers per annum (ppa) to 32 Mppa!

I have joined the local XR group because I feel I can no longer sit at home and watch the ever more depressing news about the Climate Emergency and not do something! But what to do – what should I do? The whole issue seems so overwhelming that I'm sure we all feel ...

... somehow paralysed wondering if there is anything we can do to stop a world carrying on hell-bent on business as usual – in the face of the dire warnings of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) which continues to report on the latest research as well as the indefatigable Sir David Attenborough and others issuing yet more warnings that this emergency is happening right now!

So I joined the group as they were planning a demonstration for the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan starting at the Airport to make a big noise and try and raise some awareness as well as publicity about the Climate Crisis to the 'passengers'. Mall and leaflets were handed out.

I was somewhat anxious as this was my first event and not sure what reception we would receive at the airport from the police and security staff. I was part of the 'Samba band' which were playing drums and percussion bells and making a lot of noise! The protest march stopped at St George's Square and two of the XR group gave speeches, thanking the Council for declaring a Climate Emergency earlier .. in the week where they set the aim of the town to reach a net zero carbon budget by 2040 and instruct London Luton Airport to also



reach net zero carbon by 2040 as well! The march concluded with a performance of a 'discobediance' dance, with yours-truly making a fool of himself trying to follow all the disco actions of the Bee Gees 'Stayin alive'!!

So, in conclusion: I think the march achieved as much as it could have been expected to with a gratifying 150 or so people joining us and I was glad to have taken part. We made a lot of noise on the way and especially in the

Mall but I could see on the faces of many of the shoppers they ...

didn't know why we were there or what we were campaigning about! There was a good write up in the Luton News and we also featured on the Look East news in the evening. We all like to fly to our holiday destinations but flying as I now fully appreciate is very costly to the environment, releasing 4 to 5 times the amount of CO2 into the atmosphere as an equivalent high speed train journey. So the campaign to get government to start taking real environmental steps to reduce our carbon emissions and local government to halt the proposed airport expansion goes on.



*Ian Alderman*

## **Praying for Heartland**

The URC churches in the Heartland group are asked to pray for the other churches in the group.

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb -Wigmore Church -the ongoing use of the building and the spiritual life of the church

9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Panshanger Church, Welwyn Garden City- involvement in the group

16<sup>th</sup> Feb- Greenwood Church – the new amalgamation of Bricket Wood and Chiswell Green churches

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb- Homewood Road, St Albans –Children; new ideas for outreach

1<sup>st</sup> Mar -Trinity Church, St Albans -Palestine motion to Synod for support so it can be debated at URC Assembly

8<sup>th</sup> Mar – Free Church WGC -Prayers for congregation and church leaders

15<sup>th</sup> Mar- Wheathampstead – for the Development Project

22<sup>nd</sup> Mar -Heartlands Group – our joint working and life together

29<sup>th</sup> Mar -Edward Street, Dunstable – looking at worship



**February Messy Church** will be on Thursday 13th, 3-45 to 5-15pm. The theme will be '**New Life**'. Children and their carers welcome — and anyone who would like to help.

### **Offering a helping hand for those in need -Luton**

This group are giving practical help to those who are living from hand to mouth and have very little in the way of everyday resources —they have a Facebook page that gives a very clear list of things that people can provide.

This is not a charity but just a group of people committed to helping those (mainly refugees) who are struggling to clothe and feed themselves. So if you are having a clear out and have good clothing or toiletries that you no longer need then you can bring them to Raynham Way Community Centre and the Trustees will ensure they are passed on and will reach people and families that are in need.

By putting the heading above in the Facebook search box, you can find out a whole lot more about how to help those who have few if any resources.

If you want to make a delivery of items to Raynham Way the best times are Monday, Wednesday and Saturday between 8.30am and 1.30pm. Thanks for anything you can provide.

**Lawrence**

**Apologies to anyone** who has found parts of this **Wavelength** hard to read. I had to squeeze things up a bit in places because I had a lot to fit in (thank you to everyone who's contributed — I'm not complaining!!). Thank you to those of you who wrote articles, some of them quite challenging but hopefully interesting and entertaining at times.

## Wigmore Church (URC/Methodist) Information

**Church Address:** Crawley Green Road, Luton LU2 9TE

**Tel:** 07553 073 865; **Website:** [www.wigmorechurch.org.uk](http://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](mailto:minister@wigmorechurch.org.uk)

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

**Treasurer:** Lawrence Patterson, Tel Luton 450466 **Email** [treasurer@wigmorechurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@wigmorechurch.org.uk)

**Booking Secretary:** Sheila Marsden, Tel L 721592 ; [bookings\\_sec@wigmorechurch.org.uk](mailto:bookings_sec@wigmorechurch.org.uk)

**Wavelength Editors:** Lawrence Patterson — as above; Wendy Squires L 734051; [wavelength@wigmorechurch.org.uk](mailto:wavelength@wigmorechurch.org.uk)

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

**Churches Together In Luton:** [www.lutonchurchestogether.org.uk](http://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](http://www.wigmorechurch.org.uk) Go to *News* & scroll down to find the link.

# Church Diary

## February

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Geoff Best  
7.30pm Sunday Night Live at the Olive Tree  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 7.45pm Methodist Circuit meeting at Beech Hill  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 3.45pm Messy Church at Wigmore Church  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship inc. Holy Communion  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Wigmore Church closed all day  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Steve Rogers  
24<sup>th</sup> Feb to 8<sup>th</sup> March Fairtrade Fortnight  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb -Shrove Tuesday : 26<sup>th</sup> Feb -Ash Wednesday  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Fairtrade Cake Baking Competition at  
St Christopher's Church Hall, Felix Avenue

## March

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Family Worship led by Rev Heather Whyte  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 2.00 – 3.30pm Lent Course led by Rev Heather  
Whyte at Wigmore Church  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Precious Pearls at High Town Methodist  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 11.00am World Day of Prayer at St Mary's Church  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Induction of Karen Campbell at Holy Trinity  
Church, High Wycombe  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Lent course at Wigmore Church  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship Inc Holy Communion  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Lent course at Wigmore Church  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 3.45pm Messy Church at Wigmore Church  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Mothering Sunday – service led by  
Deacon Jacqueline Esama-John  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2.00pm Lent course at Wigmore Church  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Lent course at Wigmore Church  
**April** — Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30 Palm Sunday Worship led by Rev  
Heather Whyte  
**Lent ends** on Thursday 9th April