

# **Wigmore Wavelength**



**June/July 2019**

# What's on at Wigmore

WIGMORE CHURCH  
&  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

**TABLE TOP**



Saturday, June 15th

Sellers can book a table (£6 large, £3 small) with Sheila on L 721592 or Aileen on 612964.

Setting up from 9am

10am to 1pm Come along to buy these bargains! . Light refreshments available.

Proceeds to this year's charity, **Home Leone.**

**Strathmore Barbeque and Summer Fair, Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June 12,** noon to 3pm Craft stalls, food, Jazz band.

**God's Blue Planet – South Beds Circuit Celebration -**



**Worship and Picnic for all ages** on Dunstable Downs Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am. Bring a chair and your own picnic and come prepared for all weathers - don't forget water and sun hats! Children's fun nature and art activities. *Venue Postcode:* LU6 ZGY Car Park £3.50; NT members free. If wet, at The Square Methodist Church, Dunstable

**GALA CONCERT at The Square Church Dunstable, in aid of Church Project in Africa.**

Dunstable Town Concert Band, Luton Zimbabwe Fellowship Gospel Choir, Childrens' Choir, Drama Circle. 'One Piano 4 Hands'

*Sat. June 29th at 7.30.* Pay at the door - £5 Child/Student - £1

**Cantata Ladies Choir Charity Concert** at Farley Hill Methodist Church on Saturday 29th June 7.30pm. £3.50 adults, £2.50 chn. Raffle & Refreshments. All proceeds to Mayor's chosen charities.

☺ **What sound do porcupines make when they kiss? Ouch!!**

## Dear friends,

Football has been in the news a lot recently. Some years ago, under the headline 'Football: the new religion?', the Revd. John Boyers, chaplain to Manchester United, said that to many the stadium was like a cathedral, the journey to the match a pilgrimage and the commitment to the cause, the singing and hero-worship, friendship and camaraderie akin to the vitality of a Christian community.

Another headline at the time read 'Clubs are the churches of the new millennium'. Many younger people go 'clubbing' and listen to euphoric tracks, experiencing a sense of another world. Some of those tracks have lyrics which might surprise. Explore a club anthem by Faithless and you will find a creed to challenge any church.

It is a fact that over 7 million people aged 15-35 go to the cinema at least once a month. There they watch films that offer suggested answers to the big questions of life.

The football fans, the clubbers, the cinema goers are all looking for something, a sense of belonging to help them discover their identity, their reason to be, an understanding of what life is about. You and I are looking for the same things but the fact that you are reading this suggests that you have chosen to look to God for some of the answers. Why? What made you choose the church? If you know the answer to that, how often have you shared it with someone else?

Most people today do not look to the church; the majority of people have never heard of Jesus, and sadly many who do look to the church are often put off by our museums to the past. Do we isolate ourselves in ivory towers, impenetrable to the outside world; do we revel in being different from the rest of the world and then wonder why we are unappealing to the rest of the world? The world has changed, hard wooden seats in straight rows, organ music, and didactic teaching are alien concepts to most people today. We who have recognised the presence of God in our lives call those who have not unreligious, but I am not sure Paul would agree with us. In Acts 17 Paul says, ... *'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown God'. What therefore you worship as*

*...unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth does not live in shrines made by human hands....'*

Paul recognised the people's search as he travelled among them and looked at their life, and what they were doing. As he did so he shared his experience with them. That is what we too are challenged to do. The challenge for most churches is to make the church more recognisable to those outside. This may mean changing our building, but it also means changing ourselves, as we are the church. We are called to walk with people and share our experience of God through our compassion, generosity and openness; to walk with them where they are, to listen to them and share their experience also.

In the same survey that found that church attendance had fallen by 20%, 76% of people stated they had had a spiritual experience.

Quotes read, "We want to be more spiritual", "I want my life to mean something"

We believe we have some of the answers: are we ready to share them in a recognisable way with the people of today? I hope and pray we are.

**Love and prayers,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. P. G.', written in a cursive style.

## **Church Family News**

**Congratulations** to Alison and Steve Hamon on the birth of their grandson, Toby Matthew, born to Rachel and James.

Toby has some health problems and is being closely monitored.

Please remember the family in your prayers.

**Congratulations to Simon**, Stephanie's son, who has just landed a job at Dartmouth Naval Training College to do an MSc in connection with his job at Rolls Royce.

**David Gower** has been in hospital for a few days but is now back home.

**Recent Fund Raising:** The Christian Aid Lent actions brought in £121; The beetle drive raised £109 for our new charity Home Leone ...

and the Christian Aid week envelopes contained a fantastic £251.20!  
Many thanks to all who contributed.



**Bob Squires** with Ken Gregory (60 years) and Julie Bradshaw at Bob's '40 years of preaching' Certificate presentation at Trinity Methodist Church, Leighton Buzzard on May 5th.

**Wendy** is going into the L & D Hospital on 21st June (fingers crossed!) for a total knee replacement! Ooh!!



**The theme of May's Messy Church** was *Children Round the World*. We decorated people holding hands to put round a map of the world, did a quiz matching up countries and people and produced thumb-print people –

everyone enjoyed it.

The next Messy Church is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 3-45pm to 5-15, and will follow the theme of 'The Church's Birthday'. We shall be making windmills, flame cakes and bookmarks, wind shakers and flame head dresses – plenty for everyone to do! Children welcome with parents/carers – come along to see what happens and/or to help!



**FACTFULNESS – ten reasons why we’re wrong about the world –and why things are better than you think by *Hans Rosling***

This book is all about facts -measured, accurate and timely. It tells us about our misconceptions, our ignorance, our bias, our negativity, our generalization when it comes to what we know about all sorts of things. The

author has made many presentations to all types of public meetings, bodies and education establishments and has come to compare the knowledge of facts to a Chimpanzee test. He has worked out that chimps have a one in three chance of guessing the right answer to many of the facts and in his experience a great many educated, influential people cannot achieve the chimps’ score! And that appears to go for the rest of us!!

Try two of the thirteen questions in the first chapter: - What is the life expectancy of people in the world today? *50 years; 60 years; 70 yrs*

**In 1996**, tigers, giant pandas, and black rhinos were all listed as endangered. How many of these three species are more critically endangered today? *A Two of them; B One of them; C None of them*

The book is a minefield of all sort of facts that we often get wrong because we rely on a memory that is from the 1970’s or the 1980’s or we have listened to people or charities or businesses who themselves are using out of date facts. Some of our knowledge is based on fear whilst others relate to the blame culture much adopted by the media.

What this book teaches us is that things are not generally bad, in fact they are a lot better in general, but you must not take the occasional incident out of perspective. Slums do exist in many cities in Africa, Asia and South America –poverty is rampant in a number of countries, but it is not everywhere. You must not judge everything as the same.

**And the answers** to the two questions are both C - did you really know that?

***Lawrence***

## Annual Reports

### Wigmore Church Minister's Report 2019

It has been a fairly steady year for the church. We have loved and supported one another, especially those members who have faced personal challenges in the past year. Our hall users continue to add variety to the activities taking place in the building and the Elders have begun to explore ways in which we might deepen the relationship with our hall users. It was a delight, therefore, that so many joined us in celebrating Christmas Carols during our special weekend at Christmas. There were some very creative and some quite baffling displays in our exhibition which taxed many as they tried to identify the carols. We learnt from the experience, and it was lovely to worship together singing favourite carols and hearing the familiar story that is at the heart of our Christmas celebration.

There have been a number of well supported fundraising events which concluded our support of the Friends of Sawbridgeworth on a high, and began building funds for our new charity of the year, *Home Leone*. We are very grateful to the group who come up with these events and for the work they put in to organise and make them a success. We are particularly grateful to Sheila Marsden for co-ordinating this group, her enthusiasm is an example to us all.

Messy Church has continued to attract families for crafts, celebration and tea and once again we thank all who play a part in this, we could not do it without you. There are many different roles in supporting Messy Church and we can always use more hands so if you have not yet experienced it come along and see what happens, you might discover a new role in serving the church and the community.

We are delighted that there are young people in the building almost every day, with the pre-school meeting Monday to Friday, Guides on a Thursday and the Boys Brigade on a Friday. Whilst these are all run as user groups, they are an important part of the community life of the building and we as church value them enormously. We are also very grateful to those who volunteer to run our Junior Church, this is such an important facet of our Sunday church life.

The elders have been reflecting on how we might develop Holy Habits, using a series of books which have been produced jointly ...

... the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. It is early days in our exploration, but we are hoping to create a display in the foyer including a Prayer of the Month to share with users of the building and show the things which are important to us as church. There will be copies of the prayer to take away. Often the walls of churches are filled with notices: they are a vital communication tool in our outreach to others, and the elders hope to explore how we can be more creative.

We have taken part in a number of Cluster and Group events: the Heartland Day in Harpenden, the Cluster Autumn Study Groups and Lent Groups, a cluster Quiet Day at Bricket Wood, and the Agape at Edward Street. We also took part in the Synod training event here at Wigmore last July. It is really important that we continue to play a part in the wider church and I am grateful to all those who take on responsibilities within the wider church to allow this to happen.

To all those who volunteer to take on responsibility for one or more aspects of Church life thank you; but this report would not be complete without special thanks to some key people – to Valerie Alderman our church secretary, who keeps our meetings organised, to Ian Alderman for co-ordinating the property issues, to Lawrence Patterson for keeping us financially aware and responsible, to Sheila for acting as Bookings Secretary and to Neil whose service to the church Sunday by Sunday makes all the difference in the world to our worship life together. Thank you.

*Heather Whyte May 2019*

## **Secretary's Report**

Our fellowship at Wigmore Church is part of a wider community of Christians. We are in the Heartland group of twelve churches, and pledged to support a part-time Minister. A candidate has now come forward and will be visiting the Heartland churches over the weekend 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> July, and preaching here at Wigmore on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

We are also part of the Pastorate (or Cluster) of five churches in Luton and Dunstable. We have shared worship, workshops, Bible studies, and meals together.

We have a Pastorate service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June at Wigmore. The friendships, support and sharing concerns with each other is very important. Thank you to Heather for her leadership and guidance and new ideas she has brought to the Pastorate.

We are also a member of the South Beds Methodist Circuit, and are looking at the Methodist initiative **Next Steps** to encourage us to think about our life at Church. The Elders will study it and share ideas with you. We sometimes feel our resources and manpower are scarce. Maybe we should take a step of faith and see what we can achieve with God's grace. We are grateful for Jacqueline's encouragement and inspiration, and for the support we receive from our friends in the Circuit.

Thank you to all the Elders who faithfully carry out their duties and look after our friends in the church. Also thank you to everyone for playing your part in whatever way, small or great, to keep this church going in the community here. May our goal be to remain faithful and trust in God for whatever the future may hold.

**Valerie Alderman May 2019**

### **Property Report for Wigmore Church – AGM 2019**

The last 12 months have seen a a lot of work on property repairs and improvements. The building is still in good shape after 28 years and continues to be well-equipped, clean, warm and dry! This year we had the Main Hall painted which was a big expense but this was long overdue considering the water damage that had disfigured the ceiling for so long. This was the first time that the hall had been painted completely since the building was opened. A particular issue this last 12 months was dealing with waste disposal which has meant the church negotiating for its own recycle bin which users need encouragement to use and also a new method of properly disposing of nappies from the playgroup and other users.

The church building is in operation seven days a week and we have many regular and one-off users hiring the premises. As a result there is always a certain amount of wear and tear to be dealt with, but there

will also need to be furniture and furnishings replacements. Items which will need attention in the future are: the entrance porch carpet, the carpets in Hall 3 and the church lounge all need cleaning/ replacement; the window in the main hall has mould growth inside the double-glazed unit; and some of the chairs in Hall 3.

### **Carbon Reduction**

We haven't made much progress in reducing our CO2 emissions (apart from the on-going program of changing the CFL lamps to LEDs.) This needs some concentrated, urgent effort to assess our impact on the environment and reduce our energy costs.

**Thanks and much appreciation** must go to Neil for his diligent care and record keeping of the fire alarm and emergency lighting systems, and also to Alan for keeping the grounds clean, trimming the hedges and all the other maintenance jobs he helps with.

**Ian Alderman May 2019**

### **Social and Fundraising Committee Report- May 2019**

Our fundraising for the Friends of Sawbridgeworth Neurological Centre continued throughout the year and raised £2400. Events included a "posh tea" and a Beetle Drive. We had a bring and share Harvest lunch. Christmas came, and we were able to raise more money with our Christmas Post Box and a good turnout for carol singing at Asda. Our Christmas Carols weekend saw some wonderful arrangements by our own members, several user groups of our building and some beyond our walls contributing to an impressive display of twenty-one carols. Harvest and Christmas gifts were so graciously received once again by Luton Women's Aid.

Our building and car parking have attracted events, especially at weekends: Services for local preachers and café-style worship at Sunday Night Live, a Synod Training Event for using music in worship, and parties for children and other community celebrations. We look forward now to supporting our new charity **Home Leone**. Our first event was the beetle drive and coming up is our Table Top Sale. We thank all our members who support us in charitable giving. I would like to thank the committee for all their ideas and enthusiasm. We thank God for his continuing blessings.

**Sheila Marsden**

## 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

## June

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Family Worship led by Geoff Best  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.45am URC cluster service at Wigmore led  
by Rev Heather Whyte -buffet lunch  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 3.45pm Messy Church at Wigmore  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am to 1.00pm Table Top Sale at Wigmore  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship inc. Holy Communion  
- local arrangement  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.00am Methodist Circuit Celebration on  
Dunstable Downs  
No service at Wigmore  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Elders meeting at 107 Manton Drive  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Deacon  
Jacqueline Esama-John  
12 Noon Poverty Lunch

## July

- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm Joint Heartland URC service at Wigmore  
followed by a shared supper and meeting.  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Parade Service led by Heartland preacher  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Richard Armiger  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 3.45pm Messy Church at Wigmore  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Morning Service inc. Holy Communion –  
local arrangement  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Service led by Rev Heather  
Whyte

## August

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Family Worship - local arrangement

**The next *Wavelength*** will cover August and September and will be published on Sunday 4th August. Please give any items for inclusion to Lawrence or Wendy by Sunday 28th July at the latest. Photos, jokes, brief holiday stories, book reviews etc., welcome, preferably typed.