

Wigmore Wavelength



**October/
November 2018**

What's on ...

The landline number for Wigmore Church will cease to operate from 13 October 2018 and be replaced by a Vodafone Dora 5030 mobile phone - it will be located in the desk in the vestry (top right-hand drawer). It is for church use only and it should be available for calls from the opening of the vestry to the end of the service or church event. It is a top-up phone so will need to be checked regularly to ensure that it has sufficient funds to be operational - that can be done at no cost by ringing 2345. Any top-ups required will be repaid by the Treasurer on a self-receipt.

Most people today have their own mobiles but we will notify all the groups that use the church that the phone is available should there be an emergency and no other phone available.

The new mobile telephone number is **07553 073 865** and will be in the vestry from this coming Sunday.

Lawrence



**Thinking Lunches At Marlborough Road
Methodist Church, St Albans Thursdays 12-30
to 1-30pm**

4th October Revd Ermal Kirby, Superintendent,
Barking Dagenham and Ilford Circuit, Susanna

Wesley Foundation, University of Roehampton: ***One World:
Transforming Communities***

1st November Nicolas Small, NHS Herts Valleys Clinical
Commissioning Group ***The NHS: 70 years old. What is its
future?***

6th December Paul Morrison, Joint Public Issues Team of the
Methodist Church ***'The effect of Universal Credit on
women'*** (To mark 100 years since women's suffrage).



LUTON CHORAL SOCIETY will be singing *Mozart's
Mass in C Minor* and the accompanying orchestra will be
playing *Mozart's Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"* at the Priory
Church Dunstable at 7-30pm on Sat 8th December.

Dear Friends,

As we enter the Harvest season I was reminded of the many childhood memories of this time of year. In Scotland, September is Brambling time (collecting Blackberries) and there were many weekends spent in Argyll raiding the redundant railway tracks for the fruits of Autumn. I also remember scrambling up banks to collect rosehips, in the hope of being the one to take the most into school on the Monday and earn the right to wear the 'Delrosa' badge for the week. Then there were the chestnuts collected, and roasted in front of the fire, and later Turnip lanterns at Halloween, baked potatoes watching the fireworks, and then tackling a pomegranate with a pin as we watched the Festival of Remembrance. It is a time of year rich in memories, and Harvest Festival is at the heart of those memories.

Harvest is a special time as we celebrate and give thanks for the rich variety of the food available. These days, with modern freight methods, we can buy things out of season and in some ways that has lessened our appreciation of harvest. In the Old Testament Harvest is about offering the first fruits to God, and this is the root of our Harvest Festivals. For Jesus, any mention of Harvest was in relation to awakening people to their relationship and oneness with God the creator, and often linked to stories of planting, growing and reaping. As we celebrate Harvest we may still decorate with the fruits of our gardens but the offering we make is very often tied in to sharing our good fortune with others by donating food to a Foodbank or similar charity. I believe Jesus would have approved of this, sharing is at the heart of the message of Jesus and something the early church appears to have seen as very important. The challenge may be that the Old Testament notion of Harvest was about giving to God the first fruits of our harvest, the best we can offer, do we manage to do this in our current day Harvest? As we celebrate Harvest time why not spend time harvesting your memories and sharing ideas of how we can offer the best of what we have to God.

Love & prayers,

Heather

Foodbank Poem

The foodbank's getting low on food
But need and hunger are still there
Poor families still scrimp and scrape
Whilst most of us eat without care

The foodbank's getting low on food
"Well buy some more" I hear you cry
It's not as easy as it sounds
And involves gifts from you and I

The foodbank's getting low on food
We need more juice, more milk, more tins
More packets cereals and beans
Whilst needless waste still fills our bins

The foodbank's getting low on food
And carrier bags and money too
The situation will not change
Because you know it's up to you

The foodbank's getting low on food
So help us Lord to do our share
To save some bags, donate some food
So hunger in Our Town is RARE

Carole Stevens

Currently needed: tinned fruit; rice pudding; custard; pasta sauce.
Tea bags, instant coffee, long-life milk also welcome, as well as
carrier bags and donations..

THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN, by Mitch Albom, is about what Heaven may be like and considers what it's for. It centres round a man called Eddie, an elderly amusement park maintenance worker, what he learned about the things that happened to him and what Heaven may be like.

It begins with his death and introduces five people who had been involved in key events in his life and who were helping him to learn their meaning and value. There are flashbacks to his troubled childhood, his years in the army in the Philippines jungle, and with his wife Marguerite.

This Autumn's Pastorate Bible Study is based on it and will meet weekly for five sessions, on Monday afternoons at 2 pm from 8th October at Wigmore Church, and Wednesday evenings from 10th October (*time and venue to be announced*). There is a sign-up sheet on the noticeboard in the foyer. You can get second hand copies of the book via the web from Amazon or Abe Books for about £2-50.

Luton's Annual Peace Walk 2018 took place on Saturday 22nd September from 1:30pm - 5:30pm. There was also a Young Persons Event from 12-30pm in St George's Square where the Peace Walk began.

It stopped at Luton Salvation Army (1 Vicarage Street , Luton; the University Chaplaincy Tree House Vicarage St; The Quaker Meeting House (28 Crawley Green Rd,) and the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (39 Crescent Rd, Luton)..

The Peace Walk is an annual public demonstration of community solidarity to build a stronger Luton by fostering better understanding.

David Jonathan (Johny) GRASSROOTS
& LUTON COUNCIL OF FAITHS 47 High Town Road 01582 416946

The Poverty Lunch on Sunday 30th September was well attended . Johny spoke about Grassroots' work since the London bombings of 2007, the image of Luton as a dreadful place to live, in the news for all the wrong reasons, and how Grassroots and the Luton Council of Faiths work to publicise the more positive aspects of life in Luton that rarely make the national news.

Newsletter from Sizanani



Sizanani, Wigmore's charity for 2015, continues to raise funds to support students to pay for fees materials and equipment. The picture shows one of this year's completed dresses, finished after only 2 terms' work. Finance is currently at a difficult stage, with appeals not yielding much success.

Sizanani is reliant on raising funds to meet its financial needs, through fees paid by students; selling Sizanani designed Ladies' and Men's clerical and casual shirts and selling donated household goods. They are helping students to find paid work in domestic piecework, garment repairs and making up new garments for sale from donated domestic and factory offcuts — working

hard to remain viable. Please remember Sharon and Mpume and the students at Sizanani in your prayers.

There will be a Beetle Drive on Saturday 10th

November at 6pm, including a raffle and a sausage or fish and chips supper. Please book the date—tickets available soon.



Proceeds will go to the garden work at Sawbridgeworth. The proceeds of Carol Singing will also go to

Sawbridgeworth. They are hoping to make a play area and garden for the children of families visiting residents, and to improve woodland walks in the grounds so residents can be taken out.



Hedgehogs are our best loved and most endangered animals. Go to www.change.org / *Hedgehog Highways* to find out how to help protect them.

Messy Church Review, 2017 -18

Helpers: The review covered the drop in numbers from a peak in 2016/7 and a recent recovery. We continue to need more helpers as people drop in and out according to health, holidays and other commitments. The possibility of extra helpers is being explored and we are looking at ways of improving publicity/advertising locally.

Worship is generally lively and goes well but needs more of the helpers to take part to spread the work.

Covering the Cost : We look to cover the cost of food from donations and are just managing this, thanks to the generosity of a few of the participants. We discussed ways of persuading parents to pay a small amount per head but this appears to be a problem in other churches. We don't make a charge to attend Church so don't want to ask for a fixed amount but will try to bring it to attention in other ways.



Bidding is being invited for **Your Say Your Way** funding this month and it was agreed to put in a bid.

October Messy Church will be on Thursday 18th, 3-45 to 5-15pm. Children and their parents, other family members, or carers are welcome. The theme will be '**Love is something if you give it away**' and will be based on the story of Dorcas (*aka* Tabitha) from Acts 9, 36 to 42 . Come and join in or help!!

☺ What do you call a droid that takes the long way around? **R2 detour!**

How does the moon cut his hair? **Eclipse it.**

☺ **Hermes** is the Greek God of 'Leave it with a neighbour'. (*happens frequently in our road – post van, Amazon etc., etc.*)

☺ 'Now Vera Lynn will sing, 'There'll be scallops over the white cliffs of Dover ... following the recent 'Scallop Wars'.

Church Family News

Sadly Joan Poore died peacefully on 17th September at St Mary's. She was a lively lady living at Colwell Court and coming to Sunday service when she was able to. Please pray for her family.

Student News: Jacqueline's daughter Alison got good grades at 'A' level and is now at the University of York, studying Psychology and Sociology.

David Jackson did well in His GCSEs and has started at Luton 6th Form.

Louisa, Anne Smith's grand daughter, has started at Putteridge Secondary School.

Sheila and Wendy are both having leg problems and finding it harder to get about on foot but are trying to carry on regardless!

Christmas at Wigmore

Carols at Colwell Court Day Centre – Friday 14th December and Thursday 20th December, both at 2p.m.

Crafts, Tea and Carols on Sunday 16th December from 3pm

Carol Singing at Asda — Thursday 20th December , 6-30pm

Please book the dates. Details in December/January *Wavelength*.

😊 Children in Church (*from David Gower*)

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?"

"No ma'am," *Johnny replies*, "I don't have to. My mum is a good cook."



"How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy

responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the vicar said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

St Augustine's Parish Church News

Night by *Elie Wiesel*

This is the sad and disturbing story of a young Jewish lad only fifteen years old when he, his family, his neighbours, his community in Transylvania were forced into cattle trucks and taken to a place in southern Poland that they had never heard of – that place was Auschwitz Birkenau. There he lost all but his father whom he had clung to and only by saying he was eighteen, having been told by an inmate not to say fifteen.

This whole story lasts just over a year with the round up and incarceration taking place in the spring of 1944. Up till then there had been stories of Jews being shipped across Europe but those in the small remote community of Sighet had never imagined they would be threatened. They ignored the outside world but those who hated Jews did not ignore them. Even when they were on the way to their doom they did not suspect what was in store or that they would never return.

Elie was to lose his father when with Russians nearing Auschwitz they were transferred to Buchenwald and he lost his last close family member. He was a survivor, and this is his story of hell on earth.

This is a small book of only 127 pages, but it gives the facts around an episode in history that gave meaning to genocide and a Holocaust that will not be forgotten. Probably a truer statement would be the slaughter of the innocent. It is not an easy read but it reflects how evil hatred can be whilst showing humanity can survive if not in numbers then those that persist and struggle and keep their faith.

The last section is the author's Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech in Oslo on 10 December 1986 – he has done much in the world of journalism, writing, teaching and was the founding chairman of the US Holocaust Memorial Council.

Lawrence Patterson

The Flower Rota

The Flower Rota up to the end of 2018 Is on the noticeboard in the foyer. It shows several gaps - if you would like to give the flowers on any of these Sundays please check with Alison Hamon whether any of them have been filled.

Security at Wigmore Church

There has recently been evidence of an attempt to break into the building and a spate of forced entries into garages and sheds in the locality. We have lost keys and one person was found in our kitchen with no good reason to be in the building.

We need to ask all users to be more security conscious and alert to strangers in and around the premises. The door to the office must always be shut and locked when the office is not occupied. The Elders have discussed this matter and we plan to put a number pad entry system on the door to the key cupboard in the office. Only a few groups require access to this cupboard and the pass number will be the same as that for the alarm system for the building. In addition, we plan to survey all areas of access and external security around the building to make the building a safer and more secure environment for all users.

If you notice any irregularity or potential issue in respect of security please do not hesitate to contact Sheila (721592), Ian (659190) or myself (450466).

Lawrence Patterson

Recently the Home Office has been conducting an information campaign, *Operation Limelight*, at UK airports, through the police, Border Force and Charities, to raise awareness in immigrants from countries where **female genital mutilation** is practised that it is illegal in the UK since the FGM Act of 2003. It is widespread in the countries where it's practised - recently 50 girls were hospitalised in Burkina Faso, where the Government is conducting a campaign against the practice. For more information go to www.gov.uk/fgm or read the letter in the Guardian of 29th September from Natalia Kanem, director of UNFPA, which estimates that 68 million girls are at risk. She says, 'It has no medical or religious justification—and no place in the 21st Century'.

UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities) aims to end the practice by 2030.

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* sbcircuit@btconnect.com

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

October

Sunday 14th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Shepherd
Kombo

7.30pm Sunday Night Live at High Town
Methodist Church

Thursday 18th 3.45pm Messy Church at Wigmore

Saturday 20th 9.45am Methodist & Youthscape. Youth &
Children's Meeting at Bute Mills

Sunday 21st 10.30am Morning Worship inc. Holy Communion
led by Rev Heather Whyte

Sunday 28th 10.30am Morning Worship – local arrangement

Tuesday 30th 7.30pm Social & Fundraising committee

November

Sunday 4th 10.30am Family Worship led by Rev Heather Whyte

Thursday 8th 7.30pm Elders Meeting at 16 Horsham Close

Saturday 10th 6.00pm Beetle Drive at Wigmore

Sunday 11th 10.30am Remembrance Service led by Deacon
Jacqueline Esama-John inc. Communion

Thursday 15th 3.45pm Messy Church at Wigmore

Sunday 18th 10.30am Joint Worship with Reformed Church of
Zimbabwe - local arrangement

Sunday 25th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Christina
Salmon

December

1st Sunday in Advent Family Worship – Gift Service — gifts are
requested to give to mothers and children
at Luton Women's Aid.

The next *Wavelength* will be published on Sunday 2nd December,
covering December & January. Please give articles, Jokes, info. etc
to Lawrence or Wendy by Sunday 25th November latest —
preferably in writing.