



in Christ
with Christ
for Christ



We travel through Lent into Easter, to see our Saviour has risen. Hallelujah!

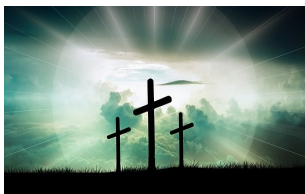
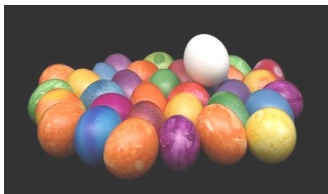


Newsletter March 2024

Reaching Out and Bringing Hope

Dear Friends,

There is a saying that says 'every picture tells a story'. How true this is in a variety of ways. As my thoughts are currently turning towards Holy Week and Easter various pictures come into my mind.



Here are just three for you to ponder on. What thoughts I wonder come to mind as you look at them? The picture in the centre almost tells the whole story of Easter. It draws you to the events of Good Friday as your eyes focus on the three crosses. The story of this picture is of humiliation, pain and suffering, of grief, fear and death. But the picture doesn't allow you to stay there, the crosses are empty and your eyes move from them to the light, a light that seems to have burst out from behind the crosses and then dominates the picture. The story in the picture then includes Easter day, speaking of light coming into the darkness, of new life given, and a new journey to embark on.

The picture of eggs on the left seems to speak about the secular aspect of Easter - eggs, particularly chocolate ones. Unfortunately, you will be unable to see the full effect of the original picture as it was in colour rather than black and white. If you could, you would see a white egg sat on top of a nest of vibrant coloured eggs. For me at one level an egg represents potential, represents new life, represents a story waiting to begin. There is the need to wait, watching for the first signs of life. There is the anticipation and excitement. At another level the picture speaks of the importance of being who you are, everyone celebrating their individuality, their personality, their gifts. A third level may take us to thinking of the egg as representing the tomb where Jesus body was placed and the waiting that took place on the Jewish Sabbath.

Then the picture of the painted stones. Here there is once again the Good Friday story with the crosses and the Easter story with the empty tomb and the stone with a fish invites us to think about the continuing story.

The fish of course is a symbol of being a follower of Jesus. So, as I look at this picture I am challenged to think about where I fit into this story as a follower of Jesus today.

For me, Holy Week through to Easter day is not only about remembering what happened 2000 years ago but reflecting how those events impact on my life today and how they influence and shape what I do, what I say and my relationship with others and with God. The phrase I began with "every picture tells a story", is often said because someone's physical or facial expression tells others of a hidden truth, a 'story' without using any words. So, if we are a picture that tells a story when people look at us, as followers of Jesus, I wonder what 'story' they see? I will leave you to ponder on this question.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again, Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me I am sending you' (John 20:19-20)

May you know the peace of the risen Christ this Easter time and beyond as you are sent in his name to live out the story of his love with those you meet, with friends and with family.

Every blessing, Rev Margaret

We are required to hold a Church AGM each year .

Rev Margaret has written an Order of Service/Agenda for April 14th 2024 at 10.30 am. This will be a combined Act of Worship and Business Meeting.

We invite all Church user groups to submit a brief written report about their group, to be sent to Gwenda Burgin & to be printed in the April Newsletter.

One item on the Agenda is the appointment of Church people to serve on the Church Council. We urgently need more members to meet the required numbers. Please give this matter some thought and prayer before the meeting. Your Church Needs YOU!

Nancy Cartwright, Steward

Prayers for March

Everything in March leads up to a glorious Easter Day on the 31st. Throughout Lent and Holy Week, look ahead to the greatest celebration of all: the triumph of life over death. Let us pray that Easter joy will be the most important feature of our lives and our church.



This prayer was written by the Rev Michaela Youngson.

*When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through.
Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep, for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light.*

Gracious God,

We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day;

and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

Amen. *Chris Rolph*

The Prayer Time of “Churches Without Walls” at St James’ Church House from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

In March the dates are:- Thursday, 14th March but

There will not be a meeting on 28th March as it is Holy Week

All are welcome to attend.

Deacon James Hunter

Church Family News

Sadly, at the end of this month we say goodbye to Priscilla who is retiring and returning to her family in South Africa. We thank Priscilla for worshipping with us for the last twenty years and we wish her Good Health and Happiness in the future.



Jean Cawkwell, a good friend of Shirley's, writes:

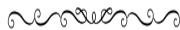
Shirley Margaret Vickers

2nd February 1938 to 26th December 2023



Shirley certainly knew how to fill the Crematorium from many walks of life and I had the pleasure of attending the celebration of Shirley's life. I learned of her early years about which she often spoke and her marriage to George. Visiting Shirley was always a pleasure and I only knew her after she moved to Louth. She loved to have a chat and tell me about her family of whom she was very proud, her grandchildren always figured in the conversation too. Her health deteriorated in recent years and latterly the contact I had with her was by telephone, when we still had a good chat. Shirley died in Stewton House where she had spent her last two weeks, which ironically was just a few doors down the road from where she had spent her early childhood.

Rest in peace, lovely lady.



We, the family of the late Colin Wooding, wish to thank everyone for the love and support shown during our time of bereavement.

Thank you to Nick Adam's for his support and comforting service. Irene Kelsey for playing the organ, and all the stewards for their stewardship. Thank you ALL for your prayers, sympathy cards, messages and letters we have received and for all the kind donations that have been given. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Thank
you 

Thank you all so much from Shirley Wooding, Rachael (daughter) Paul (son) and all the families.

Memories of our dear friend, Colin.

Colin Albert Wooding, 11th Feb 1951 - 13th Jan 2024

“It was wonderful to see so many family members and other supporters at Colin’s funeral service at Nichol Hill. It was not surprising, however, as Colin had done so much dedicated work for our church, other organisations, as well as his “day job”.

My first recollections of Colin are from way back when both of our families attended Monks Dyke School for morning services, whilst the first major alterations were being made at Nichol Hill.

Then a long time after that we worked alongside each other as church treasurers. I was the general church treasurer and Colin was the treasurer for the regeneration fund. I did simple book-keeping with a bit of negotiation over gas and electric contracts and sorting out the payment of one salary. Colin had what I considered the complicated job of finding and applying for available grants, knowing all about when we could reclaim the VAT, as well as controlling the bank accounts and trust funds. Colin’s files showing all correspondence, grant applications, bank and trust statements, all of which were immaculate. Mine were a shambles in comparison. My excuse was that he had had training as an accountant, and I was a control engineer.

Later poor Colin had health problems but still battled on with his church duties. He became our Health and Safety expert and provided risk assessments for all sorts of things.

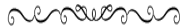
My wife, Hilary, was Colin and Shirley’s pastoral visitor. But when Hilary died, I took over her duties and as such visited Colin. He was always keen and easy to talk to, either at home, at church, after a committee meeting or just out and about. He put me to shame, again, with all the walking that he managed to do during the pandemic shutdown.

He was keen to hear of my holiday exploits and my family. About three years ago he and Shirley took up bowls and as such I was able to talk to them there and about bowling techniques when I visited.

Colin was always so polite and had time for everyone. Even in the last few months when he was so tired, when I rang, he would thank me most profusely for thinking of him and contacting him, even though he was normally too tired for a visit.

I did get to visit just over a month ago when he had one of his better days, and he did see a short video of my last exploit which was snorkelling with humpback whales. It was nice to see him smile then and that's what I will remember a lovely, polite, smiley man who did so much for our church and community."

Robin Barrow, Pastoral Visitor



Colin Wooding

We were all greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Colin, whose funeral it was on 12th February. Colin and Shirley have been faithful members of Louth Methodist Church for many years, living in the town after previously making their home in Saltfleetby, during which time their children were born.

Colin was almost 73 when he passed away, and remarkably had only retired from his senior post with Nunns Motors in Grimsby just three years ago. His first job within the car industry was even more local - at John Pocklingtons - initially working in the body shop, before moving to the accounts department.

Colin's family hale from London, and retain that connection by following Arsenal football club. That must have been both a thrilling and frustrating experience over the years, but provided the family with an interest that brought them together around the television!

Colin, and his brother Andrew were brought up in a Christian household. I am sure many will remember their parents, Phyllis and Ronald from Legbourne and later, South Reston. It is not surprising that Colin and Andrew both found a home in the Methodist family, Colin in Lincolnshire and Andrew in the Midlands. Both have found ways of making a considerable contribution to their churches and circuits, Andrew is a circuit steward, and Colin has been very involved with many aspects of our church life, most particularly during our recent renovation projects.


Colin has been able to bring his financial skills and knowledge of the voluntary and charity sector to support the life of our church. He has been tireless in seeking grant funding to enable our ongoing scheme to renew our premises, and acted as treasurer.

In addition, his work to ensure that our safety equipment and procedures were reliable and effective, as well as introducing risk assessments to many areas of our planning and activities assures all building users that this is a safe place to meet. While all this sounds very dull, and probably taken for granted by most of us, that is testimony to Colin's way of working: diligent, thorough, and with a calm competence that we have been able to rely on.

We have all benefitted from his contribution to the church family. You'd be unlikely to find Colin in the pulpit, though he has spoken movingly about his faith during worship. But his engaging smile, ready laugh and air of confidence has been reassuring. As a church steward, as well as contributing to the many stewards' tasks, his care and attention to Local Preachers and ministers leading worship was very much appreciated.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Shirley, Rachael, Paul and their families as well as the wider family and friends. While we will all miss Colin, we are grateful for all that he has meant, and means to us. We are assured that he is now at peace with the Lord Jesus, whom he served so faithfully.

Nick Adams



Thank you for all you did for Louth Methodist Church, Colin, now
REST IN PEACE

Ministerial Development Review (MDR)

Like many professionals in various workplaces, Methodist ministers (and eventually, all who offer 'ministry', like Local Church Pastors and lay workers) will participate in MDR. However, where many versions of MDR in the secular world are related to performance, and more unnerving, pay, the process undertaken by the Methodist Church with its ministers is essentially about development, and is appreciated by the ministers themselves.

Ministry within the Methodist Church is very diverse, and ordained ministers, or presbyters, are often expected to work across a huge range of situations even within one 'station'. The MDR in this context is therefore to help ministers identify areas where they feel a need to

develop to meet those challenges. They will plan an aspect of training or experience to help, and after a suitable period, usually a year, review how well that process has worked and whether they feel sufficiently more confident when ministering in those situations.

The minister is 'accompanied' in this process by their immediate senior minister (for a circuit minister this will be the superintendent, and for the superintendent, the District Chair) and a trained lay person who is chosen by the minister for this process.

Of course, you'll guess that I'm hoping that there will be folk who feel they could fulfil the lay 'contributor' role. You will receive training and a comprehensive handbook, but essentially you need a desire to help a minister develop their ministry alongside another minister, the ordained contributor. You don't need an in depth knowledge of theology or the Methodist ministry, though you will learn a lot about the breadth of ministry that is expected from our ministers. Essentially your readiness to listen and contribute are the main requirements, and especially as a lay person, as nearly all ministry is exercised among lay people.

If I haven't quite sold it to you, but you're interested to know more, then speak to me or either Revs Margaret or Graham. Michael May from Skegness coordinates this program for the District and arranges training. He will also be very pleased to speak to you!

I have found this to be very rewarding both for myself - I've learnt a lot about 'the ministry' - and principally for the minister who has found the process challenging, affirming and a means to developing ministry within their current context. I look forward to hearing from you!

Nick Adams



Easter Cross

Please bring a spring flower to church to decorate the cross on Easter Sunday, 31st March.

Remember—this is the day that the clocks go forward!

We carry on with our series on “**Our Christian Journey**” by different members of our church. This month it is the turn of Chris Rolph



My Christian journey by Chris Rolph

Louth is a sticky place. Like others we know, we came for a couple of years but, 25 years later, seem to have stuck. Originally we thought we’d live in Lincolnshire for a short time before moving on: I thought I would train for ordained ministry in the Anglican church—but God had other ideas!

I’d been sent to Sunday School, Boys’ Brigade and a church youth group as a child, but did not become a Christian until I went to university in Durham. There I stayed to study for a PhD, and to begin married life with Catherine. We were members of a thriving evangelical church which had strong preaching and supportive house groups; good and Godly friends helped me to explore options when I grew tired of astrophysics and thought about youth work. I ended up teaching.



Young Arsenal fan!



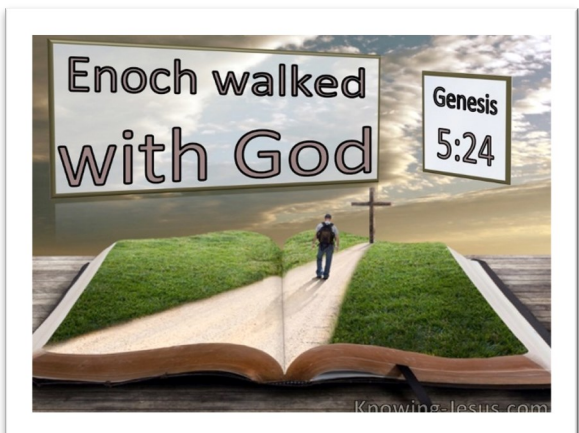
Settling into Louth

Being in the world but not of it is always a challenge, and I’ve often felt some discomfort trying to square my faith with a variety of roles in the secular world: teaching in 5 schools and now in Higher Education; contributing in other ways as a school governor, and as a

trustee of a local charity as well as a Multi-Academy Trust. Not that life in the church is any more comfortable—still feeling like a denominational immigrant in an organisation which seems to hold Wesley in equal regard with Jesus, and where authority is exercised through committees and meetings! But this is the church which welcomed us to Louth, and it is friends in the church who have helped me to discern the path I should take, and to define my particular Christian journey.

God has spoken to me powerfully through the prayers and words of fellow disciples whose friendship is firm and deep. But I've heard God speak quite directly in other ways too: through church teaching, the words of scripture, the occasional sign—even snow on the beach! I've learnt that serving him can include a variety of ways, including 10 years of beach missions, writing for Scripture Union, and supporting ministerial training at the Queen's Foundation as an accompanist. And I mustn't forget more than a decade of Property and Finance at NHMC, plus regular support for Eddie!

So far life has not gone according to plan, with several dead-ends and denials, but I can't help feeling that God knows best. My walk with him has been less a barefoot stroll along a sandy beach than a rocky scramble with a stone in my boot. But as with many trips, the value is in the travelling. One of my Old Testament heroes is Enoch, precisely because we know little about him except that he "walked faithfully with God" (Gen 5:22). I can't claim that for myself, but would hope that it becomes the defining characteristic of my journey.





We are now in the season of Lent. If you would like to receive Lent emails from the Methodist Church please contact Paul Fox on pfox049@gmail.com

Lent Course via Zoom, at 7.30pm on Mondays during Lent.

unanswered
prayer
the prayer course II



We are once again following a course led by Pete Greig—founder of the 24-7 Prayer Movement. This time he looks at unanswered prayer in 5 sessions.

For a Zoom link emallouthmethodists@gmail.com OR eastincs17.6@gmail.com.

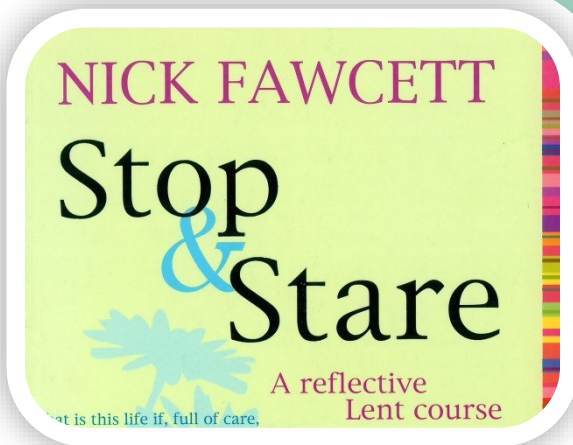
Lent Course *In Person*

**2pm Wednesdays
in the Church**

Lounge for 5 weeks from Ash Wednesday

A Reflective Lent course, led by Elaine Watkinson

ALL WELCOME



Churches Together in Louth and District (CTLD)

It is good to report some positive news about CTLD after a prolonged period commencing with COVID, several committee members moving away and changes of ministers in the town.

Church leaders have begun meeting regularly and we hope, as a way of kick-starting our planning and activity together, to distribute Hot (cold) Cross Buns in the town on Good Friday. We have done this several times in the past, and it has been well-received by the public, and brought together Christians from across the churches.

Good Friday is on 29th March, and the buns will be delivered to Generation Church on Canon Street, from where they will be distributed. While exact timings will be confirmed - watch the notice board, read the emails, listen to the notices - we will need some folk helping with wrapping individual buns in serviettes and packing into trays, and then others (or the same people!) to take them into the town. Prior to distribution, we will have a short act of worship and prayer. We hope that this event will not coincide with any Good Friday services in our churches so as many as possible may be available to help, hence the need to confirm timings later on.

Thinking ahead, after our Easter celebrations we will be organising an AGM for CTLD as we must establish a council and an executive to enable us to continue the vital work in the town, not least the approval of grant funding from the fund that we administer, which has benefitted many groups in the town, and some within the church. More details to follow.

Nick Adams

From 10 Ways of Worshipping without Music:

Building deep relationships with other Christians.

The Bible teaches that God designed us to live in community with other Christians. We bring God pleasure by getting to know others and being known by them, sharing our faith with them and by serving others together.

Rebecca & Alex's adventures on "A Mercy Ship"

February 2024: The voyage to Madagascar

Arrivals and departures

Getting here from its last field service in Senegal has taken 3 voyages, a lot of planning and a long maintenance period, but we finally arrived in Toamasina on 1st February and the ship can now begin its next phase: serving Madagascar for two years. The Africa Mercy finished its last Madagascar field service in 2016 and has been invited back eight years later to continue the good work.

Our week-long voyage (*Voyage #50*) took us 1,500 nautical miles across the Indian Ocean during cyclone season, which is no small feat for a 40 year old ship. Despite being blessed with better weather than expected we still experienced some big seas. Overall the newly overhauled ship fared well, but some quick repairs had to be made to

old steel pipes and structures that were strained by the rolling. The arrival was the biggest challenge because the quay is not long enough to hold us, so we have had to drop our anchor to hold the bow in place whilst the stern is held fast to the quay with mooring ropes. We were welcomed by a party of guests and locals who danced on the quay and waved flags to celebrate our long awaited return to Madagascar.



Worship on deck.

Life in the Engine Room (Alex)

January was the busiest month. The first weeks of January were spent working with contractors as we pushed hard to get through the final maintenance tasks planned for the South Africa maintenance period. Immediately following this work came in-depth Annual Surveys conducted by an independent Surveyor, which are particularly rigorous for a registered passenger ship such as the Africa Mercy. With less than a week between the Annual Surveys and the voyage there was still a lot of work to do. Preparing for a voyage takes more work on the Africa Mercy than it would on a cargo ship, partly because the ship rarely sails and partly because the Main Engines were built in 1979. Finally, on 25th January we set sail and it felt good to be back at sea. The voyage was not without its late night calls and repairs but in general the machinery performed remarkably well, as did the team caring for it. On the 1st February we arrived exhausted but happy. It was a milestone for all of us, the engineers have come to the end of a particularly challenging period, and we are grateful for all that has happened to bring us here.

Life in Hospitality (Rebecca)

January has also been a very busy month for the Hospitality team. We have continued to clean and prepare the ship for new arrivals and have now welcomed 9 of our 10 families and numerous other crew onboard as the ship is being set up to function as a hospital for the first time since the maintenance period. I have enjoyed my time as team leader (apart from all the paperwork) but it has been very demanding, so the sail provided my team with a welcome break from preparing for arrivals and departures and I was able to rest and enjoy the voyage. That said, whilst the daytimes were mostly sunny and so I was able to sit out on deck knitting and looking for dolphins, we experienced rough seas during the night so I was mostly either awake worrying about furniture falling over, or being woken up by phone calls from the Engine Room for Alex.

Since our arrival there have been several staffing changes including the arrival of the team leader and 2 new team members so it has been another busy period training the new arrivals and simultaneously handing over the leadership tasks to the new team lead, and so this coming month I am looking forward to the end of this transition period and getting stuck in to some more practical work instead of paperwork!



Toamasina, Madagascar

We thank God for:

Your generous giving, encouragement and prayers

A good time in Madagascar

For the change that Mercy Ships will be able to bring about in this country

Growing friendships with people on board.

Please pray for:

A safe arrival of the Malagasy day crew this month and for them to settle well into their roles onboard

That we find time to rest during our busy schedules

A positive transition from Rebecca from Hospitality team leader to team member.

Thank you Rebecca for all this. For more info: www.mercyships.org

“YOUNG AT HEART” - Mondays from 1.30pm

This has replaced Darby & Joan Club. All welcome

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Tuesdays at 2.00 - 3.30pm

Our meetings in March will be looking at **Lent** and will be in Hall 2.

5th March, 12th March - Bring and Buy

19th March, 26th March - Easter Celebration

All welcome *Shelagh Whatley*

COME
PRAY
WITH US

**Morning prayers. Wednesdays, 8.30am
to about 8.50am in the lounge.**

A time to be still before God, to listen, to worship and to pray—for yourself, for the church, and for the world around us.



OPEN LITE HOUSE

You are all invited to Open Lite House on
Wednesday, between 10.00 and 1.00pm

Coffee, tea, biscuits, scones and cakes will be available for a small donation.

NICHOL HILL LADIES GROUP on a Wednesday

Wed, 6th March at 7.30pm - Flower Quiz with Chris Waltham

Wed, 20th March at 2.00pm - AGM

321
3 things to do
2nd Friday
1 a month

The next 321 is the **8th March at 9.30am**. Please bring your children and grandchildren to sing, chat, enjoy the puppets and to do craft together.

Toddler Group meets every **Friday morning** in term-time 9.30-11am (but not 2nd Friday).

All welcome.



321 EXTRA

Fridays at 7pm

*Led by Elaine
Watkinson*

The Purple Cow

Prayer, song,
support, chat—and
maybe cake.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SEIZE THE MOO-MENT!

Louth Methodist Church

RECYCLING BLISTER PACKS

Please place all blister packs in the box in the foyer by the pigeon-holes.



Thank you very much.

Gwenda Burgin

Lincolnshire MWiB District Day



WED 6th March 2024
10.30 am - 3.00 pm



Speaker:- Rev. Sandy Osgerby

Climate Change and the Environment

Washingborough Methodist Church,
2 Main Road, Washingborough, Lincoln LN4 1AT
A car park is situated at the rear of the building.

Please bring a packed lunch

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

Generation Church are hosting a series of free Money Coaching Course Workshops, provided by CAP, for people who would like to provide help and support for people having difficulty with their finances, contributing to debt and poverty.

The dates are: **Fridays 1st, 8th and 15th March at 9.30am.**

To book your place you need your postcode, and using the link below, you will be taken to the local course:

capuk.org/trymoneycoaching

Helping people to manage their money has been a concern expressed frequently within the Lighthouse project, and this seems an ideal opportunity to learn more about it.

Please contact Rev Margaret, Elaine or Nick if you want further details.

Nick Adams

EASTER

Coffee, Cake, Craft +

Eddie's Got Talent -

by the All 4 One Puppet Team

Enjoy a drink & a cake while children enjoy some Easter craft.

Then sit back and watch *Eddie's Got Talent* —a show with songs from the All 4 One puppet team.

**Coffee, Cake & Craft from 10am, Puppet show starts at 11.15am
Easter Saturday—30th March**

HELP REQUIRED!

We need help with our Easter Saturday event (above)

Please can you make a cake (or lots of small cakes) or help with refreshments, or come along and help steward, or clear up afterwards.






Please see Catherine, Alison, Paul or Elaine if you can help in any way,
THANK YOU.

Karen Morris Nanny and Babysitter

- NNEB Qualified Nursery Nurse with past experience and current volunteering.
- CV and references available on request.
- All childcare work. Babysitting experience: 6 - 8 yrs old.
- Paediatric First Aid Level 3 and Basic First Aid Certificated.
- Currently volunteering with 321 (preschool group) at Methodist Church.
- Louth and surrounding areas.
- Full driving licence and car.
- Home Tel: (Louth) 01507 607606 and Mobile: 07305 350 470



Sunday Services at Louth Methodist Church in March 2024

	3rd March	10th March	17th March	24th March	31st March
9.50 am	<p>Exalt</p> <p><i>Also by Zoom</i></p> 	 <p>Mothering Sunday</p>	<p>Exalt</p> <p>Also by Zoom</p> 	<p>Exalt</p> <p>Also by Zoom</p> 	 <p>Easter Sunday</p>
11.00 am	<p>Morning Worship</p> <p><i>Preacher:</i></p> <p>Mrs Susan Allread</p>	<p>Family Service at 10.30am</p> <p><i>Preacher:</i></p> <p>Mr Nick Adams</p>	<p>Morning Worship</p> <p><i>Preacher:</i></p> <p>Mrs Elaine Fox</p>	<p>Morning Worship for</p> <p><i>Preacher:</i></p> <p>Rev Graham Miles</p>	<p>Family Service with Holy Communion.</p> <p>10.30am</p> <p><i>Preacher:</i></p> <p>Rev Margaret Asiedu</p>

DEADLINE for the April 2024 Newsletter and Annual Reports is Sunday, 17th March

All information to Gwenda Burgin on 01507 607552 or e-mail gwenda@burginnet.com or deliver to 11, Taylors Garden, Louth

For Circuit and District events please look at the Circuit website on eastlincolnshiremethodistcircuit.org.uk/news

Minister, Rev Margaret Asiedu 07831 119605
Email : magsasiedu@gmail.com Off Duty Day - Monday