



Sinfin Moor Church

A Local Ecumenical Partnership serving Sinfin Moor and Stenson

September Newsletter

(Published on the 6th September 2020)

Find us at: www.sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk

or www.facebook.com/sinfinmoorchurch

Welcome and Introduction

Here we are in September and the meteorologists already call it Autumn, although the equinox is not until the 21st of the month. That said, these past few days have certainly had an autumnal feel to them.

This month was supposed to be when we have our **BIG** 50th Anniversary celebrations, but in the present circumstances, these have largely been cancelled. Never-the-less, we are 50 years old and that cannot be taken away from us.

We shall have a celebration on the 20th September, though it will have to be a much more low key event than we had originally hoped and planned for. We are pleased to tell you that Rev'd Raymond Lunt has agreed to lead our Service on that day.

On page 4 you will find a letter from the Moderator of the URC East Midlands Synod offering us congratulations for our 50th Anniversary.

We have now had three Morning Services since we reopened the Church after the lockdown, they do feel to have been successful in their format and seem to have passed without incident thanks to those who attended following the guidelines published in the August edition of the Newsletter. All three services have had 30 or more people attending each week including a few visitors. Although we are still not permitted to sing out loud, we have had songs on the screen, and most folk sang along quietly. Last Sunday, we had our first Communion Service conducted by Rev'd Eileen Bangay, and that too seemed well received as well. We are still missing some of our regular worshippers who feel they cannot join us yet, but they were in our thoughts and prayers, and we look forward to the day when all our Church family can be together again.

For our Communion Service today we welcome back Rev'd David Kirkwood who is a retired Anglican Minister who normally worships at St Stephen's on Sinfin Lane though he is always welcome here at Sinfin Moor Church. Serving Communion with him today will be **Wendy Roe** who is one of our Stewards

Our readings today are:

Romans 13 v 8 - end and **Matthew 18 v 15 - 20** and are to be read by **Gill Priestley**.

The Communion will be brought to your seats just as we did last week. Please keep the Communion cups after you have consumed the wine, they will be collected after the Service has finished

Church Council Meeting

Council members are asked to note that we plan to have a suitably distanced Church Council Meeting on Monday 14th September in the Front Bay of the Church starting at 7.30 pm.

The Message by Rev'd Eileen Bangay

Some say it could be two years before we are rid of this awful Pandemic but we have shown, yet again, that we are so adaptable - not necessarily happy - but adaptable. We got used to "taking" bags to the shops, and now try and remember to have a mask in our bags or pockets as well.

It was a joy to be able to worship together again and, despite the social distancing, was so good to see so many faces we remember and had missed.

What we believe shows in how we live and I'm reminded of Peter, seeing Jesus walking on the water and, as an experienced fisherman knows it is not possible, still steps out to join Jesus but, like all of us, when the storm comes, panics and sinks. At least he has enough sense to hold out his hand to Jesus. When we are facing storms and challenges to our lives or even our faith, we just need to reach out our hand to Jesus and he will find a way, a person or a word or whatever, to make sure we have the support we need to keep that relationship with him that we so, (or as youngsters will say soooooo need) and can have.

There will be times when we think He is not listening but so often, something will happen to help us see, if we will, what He want us to do.

The other day, on my way home, after a good long walk with Archie my dog, I stopped to dead-head some of the flowers in a pot I was passing. What I didn't realise was that I had, in the process, dropped my keys. Usual checking my pockets made me realise the keys were missing and a young workman, on his way out, let me in.

I realised that I did not have the energy levels to retrace the steps of my walk which should be Plan A, to see where my keys were, so I decided, on having a sit down and asking God for his help, that Plan B was to see the Manager about getting an additional set of keys. Later, on the intercom, came the Manager asking if I had lost my keys, someone had found them by the flower pot! Our way of re-acting to stressful situations will be a sign of what we truly believe. I can panic with the best of them but there are occasions when I have enough sense to put God in the picture and let him get on with it.

Some people waste their lives feeling sorry for themselves and making the rest of us unhappy by our inability to jog them out of it. One of my old neighbours, Dora, used to start every conversation with all the terrible things that were happening. I gave her a jam jar with a slot in the top and a label on the side asking her to put a penny in every time something good happened, a smile from someone, sunshine, good night's sleep etc. She was amazed how many pennies she saw building up and she was a much better neighbour to meet. My father was a great one for saying that it costs nothing to give a smile away and not only was he right, but smiles, like yawns, are catching.

So, here we go, working our way through the known and the unknown, with the plus of not having to face it all alone! There is someone listening if we will only share our questions and our fears! We are survivors not victims and no matter the hurdles in life we face, God has not only given us the legs to get over them but also the forgiveness when we try sneaking around them instead.

Carry on, carrying on and know God's blessing in your everyday.

Eileen

Contact Details

It has become apparent how difficult it can be sometimes to keep in contact. As a Church we are fortunate to have our Church contacts but we have discovered as we prepare to send out this Newsletter, that we only have a relatively small number of email addresses for people.

Those of you who receive an electronic copy of this Newsletter will know that we do have your email address, otherwise you won't be reading this as an electronic copy.

Those of you who have received or picked up a paper copy of the Newsletter will realise we do NOT have your email (assuming you have one). If you want to be on our mailing list, please let Ian Sant (ian.sant@ntlworld.com) have your email address for future reference.

Please do not ignore this request, do it now if you do have an email address. Thank you.

Gift Day 2019 (yes that is the right year)

We now need to bring this appeal to an end, if you still intend to give, please do so by next Sunday so that we can let you know the final figure. At the end of August the figure stands at almost £627. Thank you to all who have given.

Gift Day 2020

We have decided not to have a Gift Day this year. Firstly because we have not completed the 2019 Gift yet and secondly, it was felt, in the current situation with Covid-19, this is probably not a good year to have a Gift Day.

Church Ceiling Lights

In our continuing progress towards reducing our carbon footprint, the lights are being replaced throughout the Church and some of you will see the benefit of them. The work is planned to be complete by early this coming week and when done, 62 lights will have been replaced. The new ones will be of an LED type and should make the rooms a little brighter as well.

Building Works Fund (BWF)

This fund has started growing again following the resumption of Services in August. Money from this fund will pay for the double glazing which we hope to have fitted before the end of the year. These are to replace the remaining external wooden windows and doors on the north and east sides of the building. It is also going to fund the ceiling lights mentioned above.

Both of these works will reduce our carbon footprint which is something that we should all be trying to do.

At the end of August, this fund has reached £12,459.

The new BWF envelopes begin today and many of you will have collected yours over the past couple of weeks. If you normally have a pack and have not got yours, speak to Margaret Platt or Ian Sant about it. Please do be aware that a small number of you have got a pack with a different number (if you were in the 51-60 range). This is a purely administrative matter as we have reduced the number of packs we purchased.

We are delighted to bring you a copy of a letter from the URC Moderator of the East Midlands Synod congratulating us on reaching our 50th Anniversary.



Moderator: Revd Geoffrey S Clarke, B.A.

Synod Office: 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA

Telephone: 0115 9609241 Email: office@urc5.org.uk Website: www.urc5.org.uk

3rd September 2020

Dear Friends at Sinfin Moor Local Ecumenical Partnership,

It gives me great joy to write and convey my personal greetings as you celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your ecumenical partnership at Sinfin Moor.

I am conscious that back in 1970 you were the first single congregation LEP in Derbyshire and one of the first in the country. My own home church – Emmanuel, Bungay (Suffolk) – was formed just six years later (as an LEP between the United Reformed and Methodist. I am among those who can delight in being received as a member of both denominations by confirmation in 1979 and eight years later recognised as a lay/local preacher by both churches. Prior to my appointment as Moderator my entire ministry has been served in LEPs (in Northumberland, Stockport and Worksop). As such my commitment to ecumenism stretches across my years of membership, preaching and ministry.

Back in the 1970s the “P” in “LEP” stood for “Project”. The vision that energised those who formed the LEPs was fresh and new and very “experimental”. From “Project” the title changed in 1995 to “Partnership”. The name change was a welcome one – affirming that church life such as embodied by Sinfin Moor LEP is about mutual commitment and partnership in worship and mission.

It has been my experience that LEPs can sometimes be “a nuisance” to others – both within the congregation and across the participating denominations. We don’t always “fit” neatly into the wider denominational families. Commitment to being a partnership means we are ever being invited and expected to embrace worship styles, convictions and practices that take us beyond a single heritage and emphasis. An LEP is an embodiment of a desire to be inclusive of a range of traditions and, thereby, to be blessed by a treasury that both stretches and blesses us. Few things brought me greater joy as an LEP minister was to hear someone say that they had come to love and appreciate an emphasis of “the other denomination” to the point that they preferred it to what they had been brought up on. For my part I always appreciated that the distribution of Holy Communion was sometimes “in the seats” and sometimes “at the front”. And, for an LEP as mature in years as yours, there is also the joy that whilst individual longstanding members might readily identify with their original denomination there is an overriding and greater commitment to the partnership itself.

Together with all those who embody the conviction that where Christians are united our witness is more credible, I give thanks for your fifty years of partnership and faithfulness to the One who prayed, *As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* (John 17:21)

May God bless you with his grace and fill you with his peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. S. Clarke', with a horizontal line underneath.

Harvest Festival

If you have got this far, you know we are not having a Gift Day this year; we will bring the Harvest Festival into September and hold it on **Sunday 27th September** when our Stewards will be leading our worship. Please do make a note of it!

We shall once again be giving our 'produce' to DRAC (Derby Refugee Advice Centre) and we have asked them to tell us the sorts of things they need and use as they do their work for these destitute people. The list is published below.

Guide to the Food Required for Derby Refugee Advice Centre Food Bank

Please ensure that all goods are long life products.

Tinned goods - Red Kidney Beans, Chick Peas, Tomatoes, Carrots, Peas, Peaches, Pears, Pineapple, Rice Pudding, Fish and Meat.

Dried Goods - Rice, Pasta, Sugar, Tea, Coffee.

Jarred goods - Pasta Sauce, Mayonnaise, Olives, Tomato Sauce.

Other Items - Cooking Oil, Long life Milk, Long Life Orange Juice, Biscuits, Chocolate.

Toiletries - Shower Gel, Deodorant, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Razors, Shaving Gel.

Household - Toilet Rolls, Soap Powder.

Whilst we appreciate these are not necessarily 'Harvest' items in the strict sense of the word, they are what is needed.

PLEASE KEEP THIS LIST IN A SAFE PLACE UNTIL YOU NEED TO REFER TO IT.

Church User Groups

This month (September), a number of our user groups will be resuming their activities but not all.

As we closed for printing, we have not been advised by all the groups who will be starting and who will not.

We do know that Footlights are due to start again though the arrangements will have to be different due to restrictions as a result of Covid-19. If you have not been advised please contact Faye or Anne, their details can be found on pages 7 and 8 of this Newsletter.

The Monday Morning Prayer Group have restarted, please speak Wendy Roe to find out more about this.

Our Asian Men's Group who use the Coffee Bar have enquired about restarting soon too.

What this means is that things are starting to get going again but it will be slow progress but each group has to be very careful and they have to plan the precautions they will be introducing.

Minister Vacancy

There is still no visible progress on this front, but we are certain that the search is still ongoing, though we suspect the Diocese have been very busy dealing with effects that Covid-19 has had in all the Churches. Please continue to pray for the right person to be found to fill the vacancy. Although it now over two years since Rev'd Susan McIvor left, the general consensus is that we are coping well as we try to follow God's will for our Church.

United Reformed Church M & M Fund

We know the M & M Fund as our Assessment i.e. the money we pay to the three denominations to which we belong. We have received a missive from the Treasurer (Ian Hardie) and Deputy Treasurer (John Piper) of the URC which they have asked us to share with the congregation, so here it is.

To: The members and friends of all our 1,400 URC congregations

'THANK YOU' for your unique and vital contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church, and for the work of the kingdom which we are able to do together in God's name

We are living through an extraordinary and challenging time – a very anxious time for everyone; a difficult time for many; and a time of suffering and loss for some. Yet, the main purpose of this letter is to say **'thank you'** to each of you for all that you have done for the Church in the past; for all that you continue to do even in these difficult times; and for what you will do in the future.

As we are treasurers, you will not be surprised that the focus of this letter is on finance. But we recognise that finance is only a means to the end which is our doing of God's work together.

'Thank you' for your giving to your local church. Financially, this giving is the lifeblood of your own church and of the whole United Reformed Church across England, Scotland and Wales. It is this personal giving that enables your local church treasurer to pay your church's bills. Typically, the largest of those 'bills' is the contribution your local church pays to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund. This Fund meets the central costs of the United Reformed Church. The total budget is around £20 million and is approved each year by Mission Council. Over 80% of this money is spent on ministers and church related community workers – their training, stipends and pensions. But the other 20% also achieves an enormous amount on behalf of us all. General Assembly 2020 was severely constrained because of the Covid-19 lockdown, but the reports written for General Assembly are available on the URC website, and they paint pictures of all the work that has been done in our name over the last two years and much of that work is ongoing.

'Thank you' for your giving and the giving of your local church last year. In 2019, over **£19.4 million was given by local churches and synods to the Ministry and Mission Fund.** The total contributions from local churches reduced very slightly but the average giving per member has, once again and remarkably, gone up by more than inflation.

'Thank you' for your continued giving this year. We fully understand that circumstances this year are difficult. Most local churches have been unable to meet for over five months. We have not had the usual opportunities to make our offerings for the work of the Church. But most of the costs of the local church and of the denomination have not reduced and some have increased as a consequence of the pandemic. We are also aware that some have lost income or work this year and are therefore in great financial difficulty. But there are others on fixed incomes who are actually better off than they might otherwise have been. **So, please continue to give what you can in whatever way you can – or save it up until you can hand it over.**

Any giving of ours is a response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nevertheless, **it is important for us to say 'thank you' to each and all of you.**

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter then please speak to your church treasurer, who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ, Ian and John

Church Weekend

This has now been cancelled for 2020 and we have paid to The Hayes the appropriate cancellation which turned out to be 25% of the full cost. Refunds have been made to those who wanted them.

Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group are hoping to resume soon although the feeling is that this is not the right time.



Sinfin Moor Church Prayers

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6 v 18 NIV)*

Please pray for (in no particular order of importance):

- the SMC inter-regnum (vacancy), and the ongoing work to identify a suitable person to provide dynamic ministry to SMC.
- the Church congregation keeping safe, especially those not well and those we know who have upcoming operations and appointments.
- ways to keep our relationship with Jesus alive and functional during these unprecedented times.
- the church as a whole that it will find new ways to reach out to those who don't yet know Jesus.
- for the health and wellbeing of all those living on their own.
- new ideas to bring unity between our churches.
- Mark Winstanley (Linda Martin's brother). awaiting his next appointment about further treatment .
- Melvin Worton as he continues to stabilise, and Jacqueline as she supports him.
- Vincent Martin - entering a highly-intensive treatment phase which is consisting of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. and Linda as she supports him.
- Brian Shaw - who is continues to recover after his heart operation, pray for Wendy at this time.
- Philip Brown (Great Nephew of Ellen Treece) is now stable continues to give thanks for his progress.
- Richard Dockray (David & Verity's son) who is at Bible College continuing his studies and his gardening work.
- Nathan, Michelle, Lily and Ella Sant as they continue in Zimbabwe where there is a lockdown but also water shortages.
- those who have lost a loved one as a result of Covid-19.
- NHS Staff, Carers and others who have performed such heroics during the pandemic.
- all the groups and organisations who use our building that they will be able to continue to meet when the pandemic is over.
- the Monday Morning Prayers, Fellowship and coffee in the Welcome Area now it has resumed.
- the SMC Youth Council when it is able to resume.
- all the churches that have financial problems during this time when worship cannot take place.
- Rev'd Colin Emerson who has started the role as Superintendent Minister for the Circuit.

Normal Weekly Meetings (Contact details below):

Monday	10.00 am - 12.30 pm	Prayer, Fellowship and Coffee Morning.
	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
Tuesday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cubs
	8.30 - 9.30 pm	Footlights Stage School Adult Fun Tap
Wednesday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Sinfin Moor Church Friendship Club
	6.00 - 7.30 pm	Brownies (Term Time)
	7.00 - 9.00 pm	Guides (Term time)
Thursday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	1.15 - 2.45 pm	Parent and Toddler Group (Term time)
	5.30 - 6.45 pm	Beavers (Term time)
	7.15 - 8.45 pm	Scouts (Term time)
Friday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	7.00 - 8.00 pm	Footlights Stage School - Ballet
Saturday	9.00 am - 3.00 pm	Footlights Stage School (various classes)

Contact Details

Asian Men Mr Pabla (07845 891442)
Over 60's Group Monday to Friday from 1.00 ~ 5.00 pm.

Footlights Stage School Faye Elliott (07779 665181)
 Anne George (01332 721108)

Various types of dancing classes, for all ages and abilities in the Middle and Back Bays, all day on Saturday and on Tuesday/Friday evenings. See the bottom of previous page for further details.

SMC Friendship Club Eirlys Smith (TBA)
 Wednesday afternoon in the Middle Bay from 2.00 ~ 4.00 pm

Brownies Helen Chesshire (07763 852278)
 Wednesday in the Back Bay from 6.00 ~ 7.30 pm

Guides Amanda Jenkins (01332 754770)
 Meet on Wednesday in the Middle Bay from 7.00 ~ 9.00 pm

Parent and Toddler Group Sarah Liddle (07468 423807)
 Thursday in the Back and Middle Bays from 1.15 ~ 2.45 pm

Scouts Matt Baker E-mail Scouts119Derby@outlook.com
 Thursday in the Back Bay from 7.15 ~ 8.45 pm

Cubs (Nelson Pack) Sam Reynolds E-mail Cubs119Derby@outlook.com
 Tuesday in the Back Bay from 6.30 ~ 8.00 pm

Beavers Lesley Holmes (01332 768581)
 Thursday in the Back Bay from 5.30 ~ 6.45 pm

Livewell Kellie Townes (01332 641254 or livewell@derby.gov.uk)
 Monday in the Back Bay from 5.00 ~ 7.00 pm.

Free support with losing weight and healthy lifestyle changes for those register with a Derby City GP practice.

Please advise the Editor if there are any changes.

CHURCH MINISTER AND CONTACT DETAILS 2020/21

Minister*	Vacancy	
Secretary*	Julie Froggatt	722222
Stewards*	Julie Froggatt Margaret Platt Ian Sant	Amanda Jenkins Wendy Roe Melanie Sant
Church Council	John Archer Eve Dudden Melvin Worton	Colin Attenborough Ivan Vickerstaff
Safeguarding	Julie Froggatt	722222
Room Bookings	Melanie Sant	721927
Webmaster	Vincent Martin	728295
Welcome Centre Manager	Wendy Roe	762664
Prayer Co-Ordinator	Eileen Bangay (Acting)	
Newsletter Editor	Ian Sant	721927 (ian.sant@ntlworld.com)

- denotes members of the Church Council along with the Treasurer.

Just to cheer you up, we thought we would share these with you. They are Christian one-liners.

Smile Smile Smile Smile

God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

Some minds are like concrete: thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Be ye fishers of men. You catch 'em - He'll clean 'em.

Peace starts with a smile...

Quit griping about your church; if it were perfect, you couldn't belong.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

God loves everyone but probably prefers the 'religious nuts'!

but 'fruits over

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