SINFIN MOOR CHURCH





Sinfin Moor Church

We are a Christian Fellowship
committed to serving God
and sharing the good news of Jesus with everyone

October Newsletter

(Published Sunday 4th October 2026)

Editors' Comments

Any articles that you would like to be considered for the November issue please let me have them by **Thursday 29th October,** either to **newsletter@sinfinmoorchurch.com**, **jehughes5@hotmail.com** or if you don't have access to send it by email, please hand it to me.

Joy

Dear Lovely readers,

As you are probably aware, this is not Paul writing to you this month. You are left with a much funnier person (don't tell him I said that). Ok so this month I would love to share with you a story……

When I was younger, I had a very vivid imagination. I would come up with all sorts of stories when I played with friends and toys. As I grew up, probably like most of us, that began to slow down. Only a little but it did.

At the start of our new small groups, I was pretty confident that I knew a lot. I was already a mature Christian so nothing would shock me. HOW…..WRONG…..WAS I!!

Since going to the small groups I have learnt that not only did I have a lot of pride, but that I hadn't even touched the surface of what God had yet to teach, show and lead me through.

The last few years have been quite challenging, in all ways. Whether mentally, spiritually or physically, but even throughout it all, I had God.

In March at the start of this year, I was faced with my latest health issue, and it's still a mystery now. All I knew was that I hurt, everywhere. Even down to my little toe and right up to the hairs on my head, all of it hurt and it stopped me from doing anything. In one particular study, we were talking about angels. You know that big, shining brightly winged thing that almost always starts its sentence in the bible with "Do not be afraid". Yeah those are the angels we were learning about. What I found fascinating is that we have such a variety of ages in my group that, that meant we had such a variety of stories. I love a good story me!

Ok so one of the wonderful women of God in my group was sharing with us that actually, we have a lot of power. A lot of authority being a Christian, being a follower of Christ. Now I didn't really understand how, because I am certainly not a body builder type strength, but as she continued to share, the more I started to get what she meant.

We have the authority, when we pray to ask God for protection from these mighty angels. We have the power through our words to say "ok God I need your mighty angels to surround me today. To stand guard around me and keep me safe".

So what does my health have to do with angels? Ok so I had by that time been off work for nearly 3 months! I felt mentally ready to go back but something in my heart just wasn't happy. I prayed for about a week or so and felt that God was saying to me, just because YOU are ready, doesn't mean I am. It was a further 2 more months before I eventually went back to work, and in those two months I have grown in such a stronger relationship with God and finally understood that I couldn't go back yet because spiritually I wasn't ready.

Now after being back at work for almost 2 months, I, in a very excited way am happy to say that before every single shift, before every time that I walk onto the shopfloor or begin my day. I take a moment and pray, I pray to our incredible God who is ready to listen and ask for his protection of angels around me. For me to be the light in the darkness and for people to see just a little something different about me. But all for his glory!

So there you have it, my story in a story.

A very massive thank you to my home group! I can't wait to see where we go with God next.

It's amazing what God is ready to tell us, but are we ready to listen?

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this, if there is something wrong with it, then my name is Paul. If not then,

Yours in Christ

Your Church Warden Lauren

Tell

When Sinfin Moor Church was first formed, a mission statement was written to describe who we are and what we are here for. We still have it and it gives us a good foundation today. It reminds us that our life as a church begins with God's love, and that this love is something we are called to share generously with others.

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The mission statement is rooted in the two great commandments: to love God, and to love our neighbour. These words from Jesus help us keep our focus simple and clear. They remind us that faith is not only about what we believe, but also about how we live, welcome, serve and care for the people around us.

> *"You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."*
>
> *"A second is equally important: Love your neighbour as yourself."*

In simple terms, the mission statement tells us that **we are** called to be **a Christian** presence in this community: **serving God**, sharing **the good news of Jesus**, **and** offering **welcome, care and hope** to our neighbours.

Gift Day Appeal: Supporting Our Growing Church Community



Our church community is growing, and so is the work needed to support it. Good administration helps communication, rotas, bookings, records and day-to-day organisation run smoothly, freeing volunteers and leaders to focus on ministry and people. We hope to raise £5,000 towards employing a paid administrator. This role would provide reliable support for our shared life, helping us respond well to new opportunities and care for our community more effectively. Please prayerfully

consider making a special gift. Every contribution, large or small, will help strengthen the mission and ministry we share together.

Teach



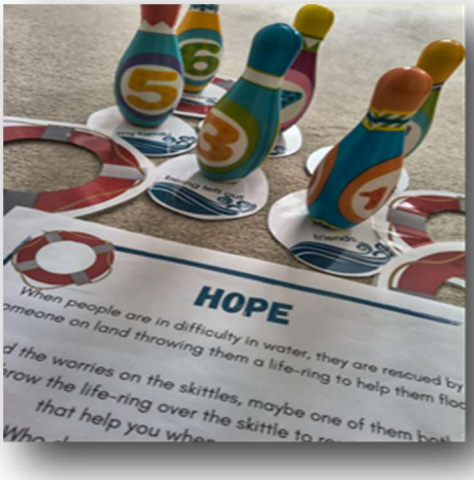
Gather

Rev Fiona's October Update

As the new school year starts it is so wonderful to be welcomed once again through the doors of Ash Croft Primary School. It is not something I take for granted or assume so it is always with great joy and gratitude when it happens!

I like to start a new school year in our reflective space with a firm foundation - not dissimilar to the man who built his house upon the rock! This year, what better place to start than with the Beatitudes! In what came to be called 'The Sermon on the Mount', Jesus talked to his followers about what life in the kingdom of God looks like - full of blessings for the weak and humble. For those who maybe don't expect God's blessing but were unexpectedly blessed. These kingdom values - this blessing of those on the edges - aren't just for those of us who already follow Jesus but for everyone.

We began our series last week with an activity about "Hope". It involved skittles and life rings - that are used to rescue people in trouble in water. Each skittle had a worry next to it and the children had to throw the life ring onto the skittle of something worrying them - such as friends; being left out; family; school work; the climate; the future. As they did so we talked about who they turn to for help when they are worried. I told them that as a Christian I go to God and it was so wonderful to hear many children agree with me - and also for those children of other faiths who said - I would go to God too Fiona.



When you face a challenge - who do you turn to for help? Who is your hope in?

With every blessing,

Fiona

Talking Faith

BOOK NOW

The United Reformed Church East Midlands Synod

Talking Faith Zoom Session

An opportunity for us to gather online from across the Synod, to have conversations with one another and to help encourage us in **Talking Faith**.

With The Rt Reverend Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough

We are delighted that Bishop Saju will be joining us again, having been a part of our Talking Faith launch event.

Monday 19 October 2026, 7.30pm

When the World Is in the Room: Hospitality, Belonging and Mission in a Diverse Britain

Many churches today serve communities shaped by different cultures, languages, generations and life experiences. In a rapidly changing society, how can churches become places where people not only attend, but truly belong?

Drawing on his experience of intercultural ministry in Leicester, Bishop Saju will explore how ordinary acts of welcome can become powerful expressions of Christian mission. Through stories, theological reflection and practical examples, he will show how churches can build genuine relationships across difference and grow as communities of friendship, belonging and witness.

Together we will explore:

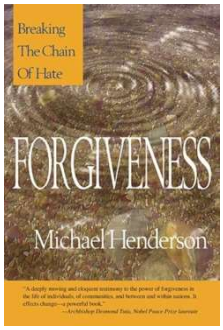
- Why hospitality lies at the heart of the gospel.
- How churches can create spaces where people from different backgrounds flourish together.
- What it means to listen, learn and build relationships across cultures and generations.
- How diversity can enrich the Church's life, deepen discipleship and strengthen mission.
- Simple practices that help congregations become more welcoming, outward-looking and Christ-centred.



To book your place on any of the sessions email: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

HOLY HABITS

Book Recommendations for the Gladness & Generosity Holy Habit:



A poetic, beautifully written book encouraging readers to find joy in everyday things. Potentially life-changing and perfect for the list-lovers amongst us!

- Do you find it easy to 'find' joy and gladness? Either way, this book might be for you.

Holy Habit Bible Reflections Available!

When we launched in January with our first habit of 'Eating Together', some of you will remember that we had the accompanying Bible Reflections booklets available for purchase. Since then, I (Gael) have repeatedly missed ordering them in time for the next habit. (Apologies!!)

However, I have made sure there are a few available for the next habit, starting on the 13th September. They are available to purchase at £3 each, so please do let me know if you'd like one, as there are only a few copies available. If you are not in a small group, they can be a very helpful resource to help you stay connected during the week, and each day there is a short bible reflection and passage to ponder.

Many thanks,
Gael

Gladness & Generosity: The Elements of Holy Communion



Jacques Iselin (1933-2003): oil, 1963, 180 x 105 cm.
From the Methodist Modern Art Collection

This is a large, portrait-style canvas, somewhat reminiscent of a stained-glass window. It portrays the 'elements' of bread and wine, used in the ceremony of Holy Communion, but they are semi-abstract, sometimes suggested, sometimes amplified.

The artist, a Frenchman, was active after World War II in a French association restoring churches in France. In this painting, and the three studies which prefigured it, he uses predominantly tones of red (associated with love and giving) and yellow (often described as the colour of generosity).

Why do you think a fish has been added to the elements? You may find that John 21:1-17 helps aid your understanding.

Holy Habit prayers themed around Gladness & Generosity to inspire and help begin and end your day:

In the morning…

Joyful God, I thank you
for this morning and for the gift of life in it,
for this moment that you have given me to spend with you,
for the opportunity of this very day to share with you
through the people I meet and the places I shall be…

Generous God, I share with you my hopes and concerns
for my friends and family,
for the diversity and business of my church and my community,
for those struggling for a living wage for all,
for our villages, towns, and cities to become places of sanctuary,
for the work of our organisations striving for the good of all…

I offer all to you for transformation through your grace and love.
Amen.

In the evening…

Joyful God, I thank you
for one wonderful moment today.
I live it again and savour your gift of love to me in it,
for people I care about that I have seen or heard or thought about,
for the challenges that haven't overwhelmed,
and the good news that is gospel for me…

Generous God, I share with you more of my hopes and concerns
for my friends and family,
for those who are lonely or scared tonight,
for those who will be awake, at work or caring for loved ones,
for those staying with all who will be born or who will die this night,
for those who find this time of year hard…
I offer all to you for transformation through your grace and love.
Amen.

Heath Court Services



You are invited to a time of worship at Heath Court at 2.00 pm (note the start time is now 2.00 pm) on the **first Friday** of every month.
You can be certain of a warm welcome, and there are always some lovely refreshments afterwards.

Wednesday evening Holy Habits group



For our last Holy Habits at the end of summer we all enjoyed a fish and chip (or sausage) supper with a craft evening flowed by crumble and custard.

Thank-you to Gael and Adam for their hospitality, and it was lovely that the girls joined us.

We all created cards with our favourite bible verses using stickers, chalk printouts etc. Closing with thankful prayers for each other and the coming week.

Looking forward to meeting again to start the new theme.

Julie

Tend

Younger Voices

"THE GOSPEL TRUTH"

Name: Oliver

Q. Have you done anything new in the church that you haven't done before?

A. Yes! A few weeks ago Fiona and Gael put oil on our foreheads!

Q. What made you want to get the oil on your forehead?

A. Because I wanted to show everybody that I believe in Jesus, which is super important to me!

Q. Have you made anything fun, in the activities in church?

A. We made some kindness jars. We had to decorate the boring jars and then fill it with acts of kindness that we want to do ooooor ones that we see others do. Was really fun to do!

Church Community Prayer Meetings

Tending to prayer is about encouraging and developing our love for God, ourselves and our neighbours.

You are warmly invited to join us each Thursday at 9.00am at the Church Centre for a short time of prayer together. We meet for around 30 minutes to pray for our church, our local community, and the needs of the people around us. Everyone is welcome, whether you are used to praying with others or simply want to come and listen. There is no pressure to pray aloud. We use Celtic Daily Morning Prayer, which includes prayers we say together, short Bible readings, a brief reflection or meditation, and time for open prayer for current needs, concerns, church activities and life in the surrounding area. It is a simple, peaceful and encouraging way to begin the day together.



"God never gives us discernment

in order that we may criticize,

but that we may intercede."

Oswald Chambers

Other opportunities to share together in prayer are through:

- the Prayer List in this newsletter – Contact Glen roeglennard@gmail.com with any requests
- at Heath Court on Thursdays 10:00am in the Quiet Room
- In one of our small groups
- and with the CoDA (School) prayer group – if you are interested in joining the group please talk to either Gael or Fiona

Eileen writes

HELP! This is aimed at God and you, reader! There has been a Prayer Group meeting weekly at Heath Court for nearly as long as Heath Court has been. Loyally, week in and week out at 10 a.m. on a Thursday, they have met and prayed for the residents, staff, Church and the world.

Just as with Care Homes, 20 years ago ministers could go in and lead worship and a good proportion of residents knew what it was about, nowadays, that is often not the case.

Every week here, we particularly pray for new residents to move in who are regular church goers and will be happy to join us and whilst we know God hears, we are, since Ellen left us, sadly reduced in numbers. Christine, Sylvia (who lives a street away), Jean([when she can), and myself are left.

So, until God answers our prayers and brings new churchgoers in, we desperately need one or two of our Sunday regulars to give God less than an hour on a Thursday morning to join us. I am sure God knows what plans he has for the future of our prayer group but it may be that you are included in those plans.

Mind you, if you don't think God's children at Heath Court need praying for, then ignore this plea, but if you do care enough ……HELP.

Monthly Prayer List for October



Father God
Thank you for always loving and caring for each one of us. Help us to love and care for others with the same unconditional love You show to us.
We pray for all the different roles within our Church that are vacant currently,
Secretary
Property Steward
More members of the Church Council
Just to enable each one of us to search our hearts and minds as to whether we are able to honour You in any of these roles..
We prayer for the increasing relationships with the local school. Thank you for the progress that is being made within Ashcroft, Redwood and CODA.
We pray for all our Ministers and their families. Be with them every day helping them to feel Your love peace and guidance in all they do.
Let us pray for each of our members who are no longer able to attend our church service. Father God let them know how much they are loved and missed.
May the Lord Bless you and watch over each one of you.

Amen

Please remember to get in touch for any prayer requests names won't be mentioned but situations will be, give us the privilege of praying for you. My contact for any prayer requests is, Glenn Roe Mobile 07949654286 email, roeglennard@gmail.com or wendy.roe1@hotmail.com

SMC Information

Thank You for Your Support



Dear Friends,
We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the cards, messages, prayers, and expressions of love and support following the death of Paul's mother. Your kindness, compassion, and prayers have been a great comfort to us during this time.

We have been deeply encouraged by the care shown by so many people, and we are truly grateful for your support.

Paul will not be available during the beginning of October. If you require pastoral support or have any urgent enquiries during this time, please contact:
- Rev Fiona Barber – fiona@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk
- Rev Gael Browne – gael@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk
- Or one of the Church Stewards - Lauren Foster, Melanie Sant or Joy Hughes.

Thank you again for your prayers and love. We are deeply grateful for the support of our church family.

With every blessing,
Paul and Jean Desborough

Treasurer's Update – October



Threequarters of the year is over, Autumn has begun, and at the risk of sounding similar to last month, our financial situation is still satisfactory as we head into our more expensive time of year. We are past the leaner months of August and September, so everything is looking much better than last year.

Thank you to you all who actually give money in our Offering, whether it be weekly or monthly in the Sunday offering basket, or directly through your bank account. It is all gratefully received in order to further our work for God in this area.

We launched our **Gift Day Appeal** on our Anniversary Sunday which was the 13th September. To date we have received £870 from the seven envelopes given so far (to save you working it out, that's an average of almost £125 per envelope). These gifts can be added to as well, because some of those who have given are part of our Gift Aid Scheme, where we can add a further £161.25 to the £870 making a total so far of £1,031.25. Thank you to those of you have given and we look forward to receiving more over the coming weeks. If you need an envelope to give, they can be found on the Coffee Bar Counter on Sunday Morning, put yours in the offering basket, ensuring you put your name on it if you are registered for Gift Aid. If there are no envelopes on the counter, speak to me or one of the Stewards. Do remember, you can also give using the electronic giving machine in the Welcome Area (when it is working!), by cheque or cash in the aforementioned envelopes. Finally, you can give through your bank account, ask me for the Church bank details.

I will keep you advised on the Gift Day progress each month in the Newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions about what I write, or maybe just want to know more, come and have a word with me.

Ian Sant



SMC Contact Details

Arleston Lane, Sinfin Moor, Derby DE24 3DH

Enabling Minister*	Rev'd Paul Desborough	01332 756336 07958 618507	paul@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk
Assistant Curate*	Rev'd Fiona Barber	07966 520390	fiona@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk
Assistant Curate*	Rev'd Gael Browne	07405 922557	gael@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk
Lay Minister*	Jean Desborough	07415 671004	reader-jean@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk
Secretary*			
Stewards*	Lauren Foster Joy Hughes Melanie Sant	Ian Sant **(Treasurer)**	finance@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk
Church Council	Pam Burrows	Christopher Froggatt	
	Joy Hughes	Glenn Roe	
	Wendy Roe		

***** *Are also members of the Church Council*

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Rev Paul Desborough (interim)		safeguarding@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk
Room Bookings	Melanie Sant	01332 721927	bookings@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk
Webmaster	Rev'd Paul Desborough		
Connect Group	Wendy Roe	01332 762664	
	Jean Desborough	01332 756336	

Prayer Diary	Glenn Roe	07949 654286	roeglennard@gmail.com
Property Steward			
Newsletter Editor	Joy Hughes	07428 132799	jehughes5@hotmail.com



The Church is fitted with an inductive loop system.

Hearing aid users should switch to the 'T' position (if so fitted) or adjust your hearing aid as required.

Diary Dates – October

Sunday 4th	10.00 am	Sunday Morning Communion
Monday 5th	10.00 am	Connect Group
Sunday 11th	10.00am	Sunday Morning Worship
Monday 12th	10.00 am	Connect Group
Sunday 18th	10.00 am	Sunday Morning Communion
Monday 19th	10.00am	Connect Group
Sunday 25th	10.00am	Sunday Morning Worship
Monday 26th	10.00am	Connect Group/Community Meal (all welcome)

Community Information

Church Centre Groups

Monday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Connect Coffee Morning
	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	5.30 - 6.45 pm	Beavers (Term time)
Tuesday	9.15 - 10.00 am	Yoga Group
	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	1.30 - 2.30 pm	Seated Exercise Group
	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cubs (Term time)
	8.15 - 9.15 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
	6.30 - 7.00 pm	Brownies (Term Time)
Thursday	8.00 am and 9.30 am	Slimming World
	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	5.30 - 6.30 pm	Squirrels (Term Time) in Middle Bay
	5.30 - 6.45 pm	Beavers (Term time)
	7.00 - 8-30 pm	Scouts (Term time)
Friday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Footlights Stage School - Ballet

Please advise the Editor when there are changes to ANY of the above



Donations for the raffle can be given to Julia West, books and jigsaws can be given either to Melanie Sant or Christine Corbett. Pam Burrows will be in charge of the cake stall and would like donations on the day please. Rita and John Archer are having a bric a brac stall if you have any heirlooms to dispose of.

See you all on the 31st

Melanie

A request for help

Does anyone have any storage space- maybe in a garage - for a few boxes for one of our congregation. Please speak to Fiona if you do.

Scam emails and texts

Please remember: the church will never ask for money by email or text message. If you receive a message that seems suspicious, please check carefully that it has come from a known and trusted church email address before replying.

The Government gives the following advice about reporting scams and phishing:

Report internet scams and phishing
You can report misleading websites, emails, phone numbers, phone calls or text messages that you think may be suspicious.

Do not give out private information, such as bank details or passwords. Do not reply to suspicious text messages, download attachments, or click links in emails unless you are sure they are genuine.

Emails
Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk
The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) will investigate it.

Text messages
Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 - it's free.
This will report the message to your mobile phone provider.

If you are ever unsure about a message claiming to be from the church,

please contact us another way before taking any action.

Smile Time (or grimace)

Lying

The preacher told his congregation, "Next Sunday my sermon will be on the sin of lying. To prepare yourselves please read the seventeenth chapter of Mark."

The following Sunday arrived and he asked, "How many of you read the seventeenth chapter of Mark?"

Most of the congregation raised their hands.

"Good," he replied. "There are only 16 chapters in Mark. Now for the sermon of lying.

True questions asked of witnesses by barristers during trials

"The youngest son, the 20 year old, how old is he?"

"Were you alone or by yourself?"

"You were there until the time you left, is that true?"

Q: "All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?"

A: "Oral"