

(Almost) Minister's Musings – October 2018

*This month I have asked Sarah Lamb to write Ministers Musings. We are delighted that Oakham Methodist has been asked to become Sarah's link church and I know you will give her all the prayerful support and encouragement you can. It will be a joy for me personally to have some part in her training as a student minister which Sarah tells us about below. Leo*

In June 2018 I was accepted by the Methodist Church to begin formation as a student Presbyterian (minister), after a long period of discernment and Candidating. This formation takes place through academic theological education and study, alongside practical involvement, ministry and reflection through placements and connection with a local "link church". I am delighted that Oakham Methodist church is to be my link church through this period of formation.

*How long is formation training?* I will train part time for three years. This means I can continue to work as a circuit children and family worker, alongside my study and placements. Much of the study takes place from home, engaging in independent online study and regular online seminars. I will travel to Queens Theological foundation in Birmingham for 7 residential weekends and a full week of teaching each year.

*What is the role of the link church?* The link church offers the opportunity to explore and reflect on ministry alongside a Presbyterian. I hope to develop my experience in leading worship and preaching and will be asking for regular feedback in this area. I am also looking forward to engaging in opportunities for community engagement and exploring the churches response to issues of social justice. An important aspect of the link church is to shadow the minister through the daily activities and mechanics of circuit ministry, so don't be surprised if I appear at church councils, pastoral visits or general church activities.

The period of formation is a time of continued discernment and reflection. Therefore, I greatly value your support, insight and most importantly prayer. I look forward to getting to know you all and thank you for agreeing to be part of this journey. I pray it will be a time of blessing for us all.

Blessings

Sarah Lamb