

Affinity



December 2020 /January 2021

OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

December '20 /January '21

Oadby Trinity Methodist Church

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A memorable occasion

Every local preacher in training looks forward to the service which will recognise and accredit them as a local preacher. It is the fulfilment not only of years of hard work; but it is also a public affirmation of the individual's positive response to God's call upon their life to preach his Word.

Recognition and accreditation services are always circuit services, with a full church, and the preacher's family and friends present to celebrate the milestone occasion. The preacher is presented with a Bible by the Superintendent Minister, as a sign of their authority to preach, and the Superintendent shakes their hand and welcomes them as a fully accredited preacher.

This is the service I dreamed about during my training. Then –bang! Along came Covid-19. with its restrictions on gatherings, social distancing etc. Church

Services had to be conducted very differently to minimise risk of infection from the virus. Hymn singing and hand-shakes were taboo in live services. So my Recognition service was very different from how I had imagined it.

It was however a memorable and very special occasion. Both my sisters attended the live church service along with several of our church members. Many more joined us by zoom. The service was held on 1st November - just four days before the second lockdown started. It was also All Saints Day, an important day in the church year when we remember all those people whose faith has inspired us to follow Christ.

I had invited Rev Kathleen Wood to preach at my service as she and David had stated their intention to attend my service in person. However, because of travel restrictions, Kathleen “zoomed in” from their home in Richmond North Yorkshire to deliver her inspiring sermon. It was great that they and many other friends were able to take part in my special day despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

After the service my sisters and I enjoyed a long, non-socially-distanced lunch at my home. [Don’t tell Boris!!]. It was fantastic to see them again after so many months of lockdown.

Thank you to everyone for your cards and good wishes. Despite Covid-19, I shall always remember 2020 as the year that I fulfilled the call God placed on my life 5 years ago to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Heather Corlett

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 6th –Advent 2

8.30 Rev Derek McLean– Holy Communion

10.30 Rev Tom Wilson [St Philip’s Centre]

Sunday 13th-Advent 3

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Nativity service

Sunday 20th –Advent 4

10.30 Rev Helen Cameron

Sunday 27th –Christmas 1

10.30 Rev Gordon Webb [Zoom]

Christmas services

Christmas Eve :

Oadby @ 4pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Derek McLean

Great Glen @ 7.30 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Derek McLean

Christmas Day:

Oadby @ 10am Christmas service led by Rev Derek.

JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 3rd –Epiphany

8.30 Rev Derek McLean - Holy Communion

10.30 Rev Derek McLean [Zoom]

Sunday 10th

10.30 Rev Helen Cameron –Covenant Service

Sunday 17th

10.30 Mr Richard Tinley [Zoom]

Sunday 24th

10.30 Rev Steve Bailey – Pulpit exchange

Sunday 31st

10.30 Rev Derek McLean

Evening services

It is planned to start Circuit evening services every week from the 10th January. This will be predominantly online but some services will also offer the opportunity to attend in person.

Editorial



Heather Corlett: Editor

Welcome to the December /January issue of Affinity. Once more this will be an electronic copy only; hopefully we shall return to printed copies at some time in the New Year.

As I write this editorial, we are half way through our “second lockdown”, although for those of us living in Oadby, we have scarcely been out of lockdown since March! It has been one very strange year!

Yet we have been gathering to worship over Zoom, and, until this lockdown, also in church on a limited basis. Thanks go to Rev Derek and Michael Elliott as well as to our Stewards for their hard work in making our worship happen. Being able to gather for worship each Sunday –albeit remotely –has been a real blessing over the past 8 months.

Christmas will be celebrated somewhat differently this year, because of the pandemic. However the essential message of Christmas is unchanged. Jesus Christ came into this world to bring hope, love, peace and salvation to his people. For this we offer our heartfelt thanks to God.

The deadline for the February /March issue of Affinity is **Sunday January 17th**. All contributions to Heather Corlett [Editor], Email: telroc@talktalk.net Articles need to be 250 words [1 page], 375 words [1 1/2 pages] and 500 words [2 pages]. **Please** try to keep articles as close as possible to these lengths.

Heather Corlett [Editor]



Greetings from the manse.

Dear friends,

I'm reminded of the expression "be careful what you wish for".

Rev Derek McLean For those of us who plan worship in Advent, there is often a tension between properly exploring the advent themes and rushing headlong into Christmas.

There is no point in pretending: we can't make Advent like Lent. We can't recreate it as a penitential season, looking forward to the return of Christ and defer all of our celebrations until the "season" of Christmas – the twelve days which commence with Midnight Mass on the 24th.

The reality is that in most years, choirs start practicing for Christmas months before, the shops are selling Christmas goodies long before the Halloween section has been cleared and school nativity plays need to take place before the end of term.

In effect, Christmas for most people finishes first thing on the morning of the 25th, and then the partying begins. There is plenty of revelry still to be enjoyed but decorations will soon be removed, and carols forgotten.

This is the background in which we have a relatively empty magazine. Most of the usual seasonal activities are cancelled. Meanwhile, the Government is being urged to "save" Christmas. "Christmas" for this purpose roughly translates to the need to see family – which many will choose to do

regardless of the restrictions – and to make sure that businesses are open for this bumper time.

Quite rightly the shout goes up that they didn't save Diwali or Hannukah or Eid or... so why should they save Christmas? Except that I'd want to say that the Christmas that I want to save will happen anyway.

At his birth, Jesus didn't come to join the party in the palace. He was born in poverty, the child of an unmarried woman. He was visited by outcasts who lived outside in the cold. He came to and for those most in need. This is the Christmas which we shall mark, whether or not we can gather in the building.

So as we prepare for Christmas, I do hope you will find time to think of the bigger Advent themes: the wide diversity of humanity who form God's people, the prophets who have led and guided us, the voice of John the Baptist crying out against the cronyism of those with power and authority, and Mary, meekly saying yes.

God bless you, and stay safe.

Rev Derek

Good news despite lockdown

Many of you will know [Keith](#).

He is an Oadby resident and has been a volunteer in Zeph's during the period in which we were able to reopen. He has also kept himself busy supporting lonely people in need.

Sadly, this time of isolation and Covid-restrictions on travel has kept him from his great passion: despite having long since retired, Keith normally spends much of his time volunteering overseas, using his skills as an ophthalmologist to perform surgery in a project which is based primarily in Uganda but also works in Rwanda.

Of course he is disappointed that he has been unable to do this hugely important work. However Keith says that there have also been great benefits. Through the wonders of the technology, that we are all learning to appreciate, he has been able to keep in touch with his team on the ground. This meant that he has still been able to offer his skills to guide the work.

More importantly, it has been a time at which the local team in the field have really stepped up. They've developed their skills as they've carried on the work and it is now far easier to envisage the project continuing after Keith is no longer able to travel there in person.

Good things *can* come out of adversity.

Celebrate a love that builds hope this Advent

It's rare for us to live through a phenomenon which affects us in the UK at the same time as people right across the world. Not often in our lives have we experienced a threat that is shared by our global neighbours in countries as wide-ranging as Ethiopia, Lebanon and Nicaragua.

Covid-19 and measures to curb its spread have held much of the world in its thrall throughout 2020 destroying lives, instilling fear, devastating livelihoods and forcing vulnerable people into more desperate poverty.

As we approach Christmas though we are reminded of a person who turned the world upside down for good, whose life in a time of oppression and fear introduced a hope that transformed the globe as it spread across it.

Looking to Emmanuel, God with us, this Christmas, we are reminded that God walks with us through deeply difficult times and works through us in all circumstances to show love to this world. A love that never fails. A love that unites. A love that builds hope.

Inspired by Jesus, Christian Aid supporters walk alongside those for whom coronavirus is yet another threat on top of existing ones, including the climate crisis, conflict and in 2020 the impact of locust swarms.

Your gifts and actions help people like Mekonnen Sofar in Ethiopia's South Omo region, who digs a metre deep in dry river beds to try to find a water source to keep his livestock alive as the climate crisis pushes his family into hunger and threatens his whole way of life.

Friends, fellow herdsmen and children have died through digging so Christian Aid is working with families like Mekonnen's to provide community water sources and explore alternative means of raising income such as through making soap from aloe vera and planting drought

The new restrictions placed on how we meet and interact have caused us to rethink what it is to be community, but our supporters know that we are bound together by much more than a virus and have shown a deep determination to continue to reach out to others.

This Christmas churches are being invited to join **in a moment of solidarity and hope on Advent Sunday, 29 November** by using the carol '*When out of poverty is born*' in their worship and taking a collection for Christian Aid.

The hymn, which is freely available to use to use from caid.org.uk/Christmas resources celebrates Mary's faith in the Magnificat and begins with the words '*When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die*'. This Christmas we can celebrate the incredible truth that we are bound together globally by a love that builds resilience in the face of disease, drought and darkness, that builds up hope for all our neighbours.

To find out more about Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal, including how to act for climate justice, visit caid.org.uk/hope. This Advent, £15 could train one woman to make aloe Vera soap, £80 could provide two goats to help a family build a better future and £290 could pay for the materials and tools to build a pond, providing life-saving, reliable water for a whole community



[1]



[2]



Photo credit Christian Aid/Elizabeth Dalziel. Captions:

1. Low rainfall leaves herdsman Mekonnen Sofar struggling to find water for his cattle in Ethiopia

2. Mekonnen Sofar digs in a dry river bed to find water for his livestock



**Bethlehem 'Big Give' Christmas Event - Monday 7th December
at 7pm on Zoom**

We had the privilege of hosting a Carol Service for Amos Trust at Trinity in 2019. This year they are unable to tour the country with the usual carol services, but will instead have an online event.

Once again, the preacher will be Sami Awad, from the Holy Land Trust in Bethlehem, who inspired us with his message.

There will also be Christmas messages from Amos Trusts' partners in Palestine and include the premier of two new films from Gaza. We'll also be hearing poetry from Harry Baker and Zena Kazeme, music from Beth Rowley and thought-provoking contributions from Amos' friends around the world.

To register for this event, go to: <https://www.amostrust.org/diary/bethlehem-big-give-christmas-event/>



Walking Nativity – Churches Together in Oadby 19th – 27th December.

With so many Christmas events cancelled, and the importance of social distancing, Churches Together in Oadby are putting together a Walking Nativity.

The idea is that there will be a set route which families, or people of whatever age, can follow. They will encounter the Christmas story along the way.

The story will be told in five scenes at Trinity Methodist, Oadby Library, Oadby Baptist, St Peter's, and St Peter's Church Hall.

Displays will be in place from the 19-27th December, staffed on the 19th and 20th if possible.

There will be an accompanying series of videos to watch on the phone as you walk round, or to watch at home.

Look out for the publicity nearer the time as the planning of the event is subject to change.



**Walking Nativity – Great Glen 23rd and 24th December
10am – 4pm.**

With so many Christmas events cancelled, and the importance of social distancing, the team at St Cuthbert's are putting together a Walking Nativity.

The idea is that there will be a set route which families, or people of whatever age, can follow. They will encounter the Christmas story along the way.

The planning is intended to be as flexible as possible.

Realistically there seems a high likelihood that it will be impossible for there to be any interaction with the walkers. At the very least, they may be able to pick up a map online, walk round as part of their exercise, and encounter the story.

Ideally there would be people at each of the "stations" to whatever extent can be managed safely at the time. They hope to give out a book and chocolates up at St Cuthbert's to those completing it.

Great Glen Methodists are taking part and the church will host one of the stations. If possible, we may be giving out maps and directions. We definitely plan to have some kind of display in place.

Christmas Appeal by Action for Children

Be a Secret Santa

for a vulnerable child

Action for
Children

Thousands of children and young people face Christmas without a hot meal, a present or a safe place to sleep.

With your help, we could change this.

Donate at:
iamsanta.org.uk/methodist



Registered charity nos. 1097940/SC038092.
Company no. 4764232. © Action for Children 2020. 1534.



We're delighted to invite you to

Action for Children's
Starry Night

Tuesday 8 December 2020

6.30pm – 7.30pm

Hosted by Channel 4 News' Jon Snow, our virtual concert brings the magic of Christmas into your home. Featuring live musical performances, classic carols and appearances from some very special guests including Angellica Bell and Call the Midwife's Jenny Agutter.

Vulnerable children all over the UK face a Christmas without food, warmth or love. They need your help.

Tickets: £10 per household
starry-night.co.uk





ZEPH'S CAFE - RIDING THE ROLLERCOASTER

Dave Smith

In the previous edition we were able to report on our reopening in August. The re-emergence of high transmission rates of Covid - the feared second wave - brought about closure once again in early November. If the Government's plans are to be believed then we might just be able to reopen once more in early December, but things remain uncertain as the effects of the so-called circuit breaker have yet to kick in by the time of writing.

If you have ever visited the Pleasure Beach at Blackpool, or one of the numerous theme parks around England, and ridden the rollercoaster then you might have an idea of what life is like for staff and director's at Zeph's at the moment.

Michael and the staff have all worked tirelessly to make a success of reopening under the most trying of circumstances; Penny, and all of those working behind the scenes are doing whatever they can to drive the business forward; while yourselves, the public, have been heroic in supporting the café.

There have, as the title implies, been ups and downs along the way. The Government's "Eat Out to Help Out" scheme boosted the numbers during August; the "rule of six" in September led to further adjustments, but then an instruction in October that households should not mix in hospitality venues clearly had an adverse effect on trade. Through all of this, the staff have worked so hard and, ironically, the last few days before the latest lockdown saw sales pick up again significantly.

In particular, your support for special events to date has been magnificent. This has encouraged us to retain our plans for a number of further special events for the rest of the year

Pre-booking, with advance payment, is essential as this helps us to lay the café out properly in preparation. Throughout the rest of the year please consider the following:

Events Nights -

Friday 4 December - Fish Fryday, £8.50 including tea/coffee, bread and butter (bookings for November will be carried over where possible).

Friday 18 December - Christmas Dinner Night, £9.95

21 – 23 December – Christmas Family Breakfast, £8.50

We are currently still negotiating with Santa Claus and are hopeful that he will be able to make an appearance at breakfast time, while we are also investigating whether we can find some imaginative ways of being able to offer some limited activities for the children.

Supporting these special events really does make a huge difference to our business so please take a look and see if there is anything on offer to, literally, whet your appetite. We are looking to include further events early in the new year. Despite all these ups and downs, we promise that some things will never change: superb home-made cakes and scones in a safe and friendly atmosphere are still the trade mark at Zeph's.

Please come and give us a try as soon as you can.

Keep safe everyone!

Dave Smith





The Methodist Church

Saturday Prayer: 10:15am

Please join us in prayer. We are led in prayer for approximately 30 minutes with various members of the church leading this time together.

Please attend only if you are free of coronavirus symptoms, arrive in good time, wear a mask, leave contact details for Test & Trace, and sit as directed. We are following Government guidance to ensure Social Distancing can be maintained.

If you have a particular concern you would like to be held in prayer, please contact the minister, Rev. Derek McLean on 0116 271 2404 or derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk



The Methodist Church

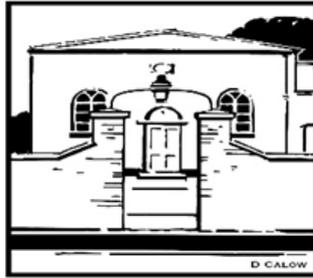
Sunday worship: 10:30am

Joining online - please contact the minister, Rev. Derek McLean on 0116 271 2404 or email derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk for joining instructions.

Joining in person:

Please arrive in good time, wear a mask, leave contact details for Test & Trace, and sit as directed. We will be following Government guidance to ensure Social Distancing can be maintained.

Please attend only if you are free of coronavirus symptoms.



HOUGHTON ON THE HILL

The November edition of our village magazine 'Houghton News' showed promise of several things beginning to start afresh, albeit under careful restrictions, groups meeting at the Village Hall, sports teams looked forward to meeting again, and village events such as the Remembrance commemorations were to take place albeit in modified ways. Weekly Wednesday afternoon services at the chapel began to take place in September (with all the relevant Covid-19 Risk Assessments in place) and our first monthly Sunday morning service happened at the end of October. Those who for various reasons are not able to attend in person have been joining on-line for services each Sunday. Then, alas, Lockdown 2 happened, everything had to be cancelled and we have all had to revert to on-line meetings for the time being.

Our little Chapel continues to be cared for by members of the congregation, the garden is being tidied for the winter (before the last garden waste bin for 2020 is collected!) and some extra cleaning and polishing has been happening in readiness for the day when we can re-open

As I write, Lockdown 2 looks as if it may have a slightly more definite end, but some restrictions are sure to remain and it is very unlikely indeed that we will have the traditional carol service on Christmas Eve which is usually well attended by friends from the village and others from further afield. We do however have some ideas for something much more low key (no singing, but there are other ways of enjoying Christmas music) just before Christmas when, if regulations permit and it is safe to do so, we hope our regular Wednesday afternoon services can resumed. With news of a vaccine in the media we must hope that things can get back to more of a resemblance of normality as soon as possibly in 2021.

Finally, no doubt to the amusement of the residents of Main Street we are hoping, as last year, to move my potted Christmas tree (outgrown as a house tree) to the Chapel on a trolley to provide a bit of Christmas Seasonal cheer with pretty lights at the front of the Chapel. reminding passers-by that the village will be in our prayers and we will get back to normal (and some singing) before too long.

Mary Moore

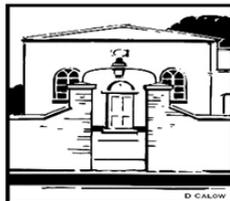
Houghton's updated entry on Circuit website

Houghton on the Hill Methodist Chapel have recently updated their entry on the Circuit website as follows:

Houghton-on-the-Hill Methodist Church stands in the heart of the village and has been a centre of Christian witness since 1852. It is a modest yet charming building that is greatly loved and cared-for by its small but active congregation. Membership is increasing at present and a very warm welcome is given to all who come through our doors. Our main Sunday service is at 10.30am but services are sometimes held during the week and for special occasions.

The church plays an important part in village life with many local organisations using it as their base. It is also a popular venue for concerts and lectures as its warm and welcoming interior is blessed with excellent acoustics.

Surprisingly, Houghton's little Chapel played a significant part in 20th century Methodism, as it was where, at the age of seventeen, Dr. Leslie D. Weatherhead gave his first sermon. Dr. Weatherhead, who grew up in Leicester, became one of Methodism's most charismatic preachers and the author of many influential books. He was so nervous that day, (September 3rd 1911), that as he preached he "picked at the cord sewn round the cushion on which the Bible rested, until inch by inch I had it all off."



“God is with us” -Poster Campaign

Houghton Methodists are using the ‘God is With Us’ resources from the Methodist Church as a window decoration for Christmas.

It contains the text, “It’s been a tough year but God is with you at Christmas and always.”

It is hoped that if people see lots of these posters in windows and on notice boards, it will encourage questions and give us opportunities to talk about what Christmas means to us.

Friends at Glen and Oadby are encouraged to join them by printing off copies of these (as large as they are able) and use them wherever we can.

Copies of the poster are available here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/christmas/>

If you need help getting copies printed or enlarged we can produce these in the office at Trinity.



Zoom, Zoom!

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders News

During recent local and national ‘lockdowns’ normal patterns of worship have been seriously disrupted. Even when some of us have been able to meet together in worship we have felt keenly the current ban on corporate singing: how strange it seems for Methodists not to sing their faith! Many of us have had to learn new skills and adapt to leading or taking part in worship via **Zoom**. Despite its limitations, ‘virtual worship’ has been a blessing, particularly to folk who are isolated. *Zoom* has also enabled preachers and worship leaders to ‘meet’ together for fellowship and to transact the necessary business of the LPWL Meeting. Our preachers in training have been able to continue with their studies and several have conducted their ‘trial’ services through this medium. It is a particular cause for joy that **Heather Corlett**, a member here at Oadby, was able to complete her period of training. Heather’s Admission Service as a fully accredited local preacher was held on All Saints Day at Oadby. A small, socially distanced congregation was present in the church, joined via *Zoom* by a large number of others from the Circuit and beyond. The service was conducted by our Superintendent Minister, the Revd Paula Hunt. The preacher was the Revd Kathleen Wood who ‘zoomed in’ from Richmond, North Yorkshire. We pray God’s blessing on Heather’s future preaching ministry in this Circuit. At the September LPWL meeting **Richard Cawthorn** was appointed to fill the vacant role of Local Preachers Secretary.

Howard Smith

CHRISTMAS POST

As promised in the last Affinity, a notice regarding the Christmas post.

If, by chance, you have not seen Derek's letter of the 12th November where he outlines the procedure for this year, then please see below.

Derek aims to deliver cards to Members living in Oadby if they are brought to church on the 6th or 13th December or dropped in to the Manse by the 15th.

Every blessing this Christmas and in the New Year to you all.

Philip Sutcliffe



Leicester Trinity Circuit Reflections for Advent 2020



Each Sunday evening from 6pm

Zoom Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85215398709?
pwd=RTU4dHFKZWlreWJlbkMzNU9seHFXUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85215398709?pwd=RTU4dHFKZWlreWJlbkMzNU9seHFXUT09)

Meeting ID: 852 1539 8709

Passcode: 360820

Or join us by telephone: 0203 051 2874

Join us for thoughtful and thought-provoking explorations of Mary's Song through music, reflection and prayer, led by trainee local preachers and worship leaders. Each will conclude with a time for fellowship.

Advent 1: Sunday 29th November

God who saves (Luke 1 vv. 46-47)

Leader: Dr Douglas Beoku-Betts

Advent 2: Sunday 6th December

God who notices (Luke 1 vv. 48-50)

Leader: Moleen Chikumba

Advent 3: Sunday 13th December

God who turns the tables (Luke 1 vv. 51-53)

Leader: James Blackhall

Advent 4: Sunday 20th December

God who remains faithful (Luke 1 vv. 54-55)

Leader: Graham Tennant



Magnificat

Thoughts on... ‘ Guidance for the clinically extremely vulnerable’

My husband received a letter recently. Did you get one? It was from ‘Matt’. A bit over friendly I thought. Must consider himself so well known that we are on first name terms. He’s probably right. We hear from him a lot. He’s the one who doesn’t sleep too well because he reads the latest statistics just before bed and then spends most of the night in ‘tiers’ ! (sorry).

He sent us a 6 page spectacular covering all aspects of how to avoid ‘the bug’. Nothing really new – we have heard it all before – but one or two points struck me as being a little tricky to follow. Apparently when we go out we must not only socially distance but ‘wash our hands regularly’. (Page 3 para. 5) Now this would be O.K. but for the fact that in our local park the only water available is in muddy puddles and there is no way that my husband can bend down to ground level anyway. We could take some with us but it can weigh rather heavy. Sorry ‘Matt’ but we will have to give that one a miss.

Then there is the 2 metre rule (page 3 para. 6). ‘Try to stay 2 metres away from other people in your household’. I have been racking my brains on this one. I need to put my husband’s shoes and socks on as I am his carer. Try as I might I cannot see how to do this from 2 metres away. Any ideas? The same applies to our double bed. We did buy a king size some time back so that helps but it’s not going to give enough space even with a pillow down the middle. Think again ‘Matt’.

Bless him, he's trying his best, but I wish he wasn't so obsessed with being 'on line'. Apparently you can register your needs if you have no-one to support you. Of course you need a broadband connection. No information about a telephone number. You are on your own there – try the Council.

We should not complain. How many Secretaries of State for Health and Social Care have been faced with a global pandemic. The training course was far too limiting.

Just like the rest of us he may well need the intervention of the Almighty.

Dear Matt

Thank you for your letter
It makes us all feel better
The vulnerable are at risk
I'm sure you can assist
Social distancing in the home
With family members all alone

Tell me Matt, how do I dress
the person if no social access?
Socks and shoes from a distance
Long lines of tape and persistence?

Do I put food under the door?
But can they reach the floor?

How do we sleep?
Only one bed to keep
The fun we had reading
Made us all reeling
We had a laugh
Oh! so daft

The imagination and rumour
Ignited our humour
Thanks for cheering us up
The recycle bin is shut.

Thank you for your letter
It really makes us feel better.

Submitted by Stella Orbell



The meaning of the Twelve Days of Christmas

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music, but it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith – a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in writing indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head – or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practised anywhere else.

The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person.

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In

the

song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation

7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments

8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

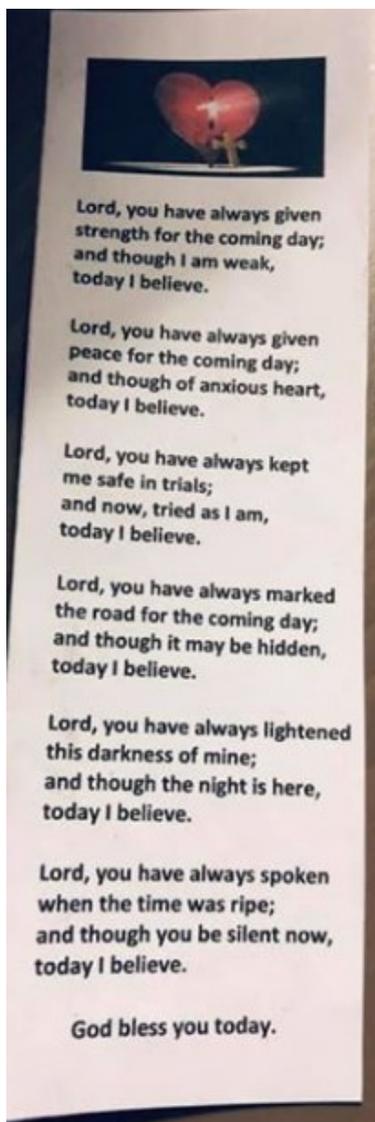
10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments

11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles

12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

[This article was submitted to me in January this year, but I am unsure who sent it. –Ed]

I found this prayer bookmark in a folder on my computer labelled "Inspirational pictures". I think the words of the prayer are fitting for the difficult times that many people are facing as a result of this pandemic.-Ed.



TRINITY WEEKLY DIARY

Tuesday

"The Tuesday afternoon group" is a well-established group that has met regularly on alternate weeks for over 2 years now. We meet in the church at around 2 pm and conclude our meeting with refreshments in Zeph's.

The Tuesday evening House group meet at each other's homes on alternate Tuesday evenings from 7.30 pm throughout most of the year. Numbers attending vary from 7 to 12; some 5 of whom act in turn as leaders of our discussions.

Wednesday

The Wives Group started in 1959 (approx.) has evolved as circumstances have changed. There are currently around 60 members and we meet fortnightly on Wednesday's at 2pm. The group is now entitled "***Welcome on Wednesday***"

Ladies Badminton in the church hall 2-4 pm

The Guides meet in the church hall on Wednesday evening.

Thursday

Thursday Fellowship meets at 2.30 pm every fortnight in the Meeting Room. Approximately 25 ladies and gentlemen attend and enjoy a selection of interesting meetings. Rev Derek McLean is our President and we have a committee of six who meet and plan forthcoming events and speakers.

The Julian Meeting is every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. This is a time for contemplative prayer and fellowship.

Friday

The Friday Evening House Group meets for much of the year on alternate Friday evenings at 7.30pm, usually at 3 Tynedale Close (off Hunters Way on the Grange Estate). Over the course of each year the group makes use of a variety of study material including the well established *York Courses*. When the formal part of the meeting is over fellowship continues over light refreshments. New members are always welcome.

Saturday

On Saturday morning we have an open prayer group. We meet from 10.15am until approx. 10.45am in the Worship area, where we are 'led' in our prayers which cover personal, family, church, community, and world-wide issues. The power of prayer cannot be underestimated, the more there are the more topics we can cover, and thus not miss any important issues or people.

Sunday

On the first Sunday of the month we have a Holy Communion Service at 8.30am. Our Young Families group meet at 9.00 am on the second Sunday of the month

Our Junior Church is available on 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month



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February / March—January 17th

April /May -March 14th

June /July –May 16th

August September—July 11th

October /November –September 12th

December '21 /January '22 –November 14th

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