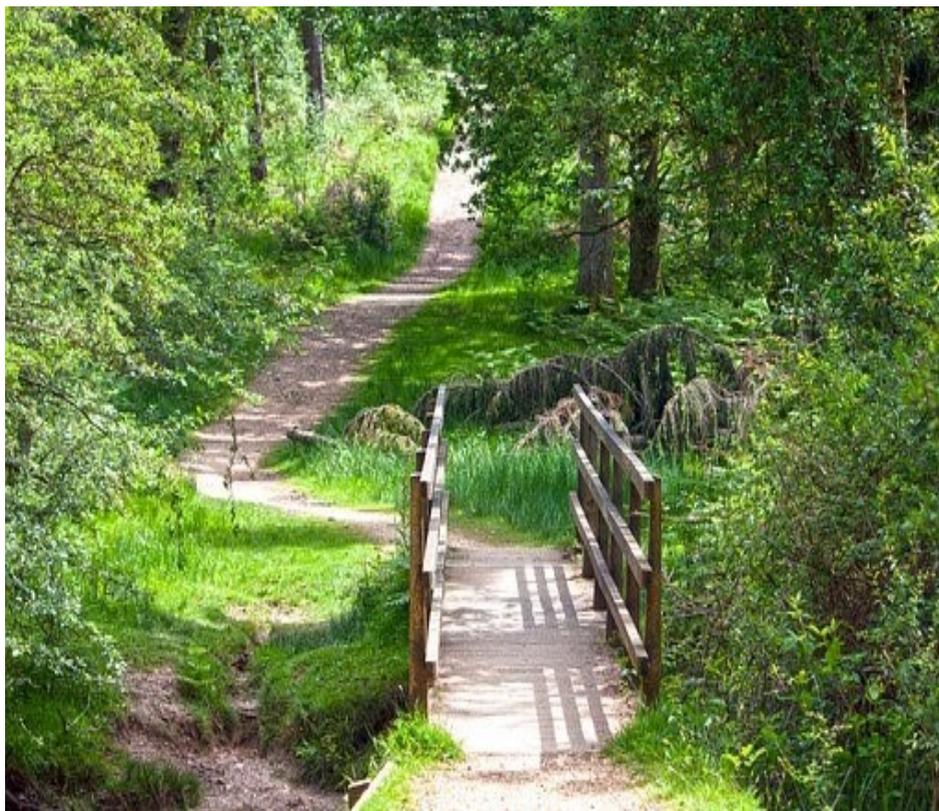


Issue 36

Affinity



June / July 2021

OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

June / July 2021

Oadby Trinity Methodist Church

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Associated Methodist Churches

Affinity magazine is also distributed to Members and Friends at Great Glen Methodist Church;

<https://churchatthecross.info>

and Houghton on the Hill Methodist Church.

<https://leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk/circuit-churches/houghton.html>

Rev Derek McLean is Minister for all three churches which work closely together.

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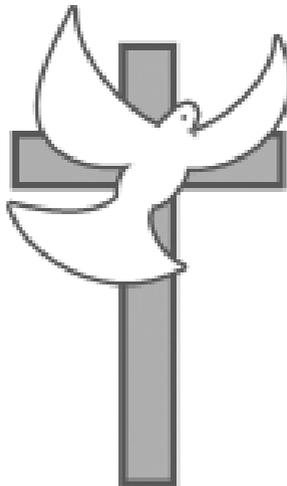


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JUNE SERVICES AT OADBY

Sunday 6th

8.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our All Age Worship team

6.00 Rev Debra Chidakwa-Akue – on line Circuit service

Sunday 13th

9.00 Young Families at Trinity

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Paula Hunt - on line Circuit service

Sunday 20th

10.30 Mr Howard Smith

6.00 Dr Miriam Stevenson -on line Circuit service

Sunday 27th

10.30 Methodist Conference Worship live on screen

6.00 Rev Fran Rhys -on line Circuit service

The evening circuit services in June will follow the Bible Month themes from Mark's Gospel.

Sunday Worship in June

Please let Barry Wilford know if you wish to attend the 8.30am Communion service on Sunday 6th June.

Our Young Families group meet for the first time on June 13th @ 9.00am.

10.30 am Morning Worship - We are gradually returning to the church building, but with many of the congregation continuing to worship remotely.

Services at Glen and Houghton in June

6th—Join with Oadby for all age worship [available on line]

13th Gordon Webb is preaching at Glen and Sue Moore is the preacher at Houghton. Both services include Holy Communion

20th

Glen: Rev Derek McLean

Houghton: Dorothy Hutchinson

27th

Join with Oadby for the Methodist Conference Worship live on screen.

The Oadby service is also projected into the MHA Aigburth lounge and it is only the Oadby service that is available on line.

Wednesday Worship 2.30 pm weekly at Houghton.

Saturday Prayers in Church: Oadby 10.15-10.45 [led]

Glen 10-11am [Private prayer]

JULY SERVICES AT OADBY

Sunday 4th

8.30 Rev Fran Rhys–Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our All age worship team

6.00 Rev Ivan Bennett - Online circuit service

Sunday 11th

10.30 Mr Andy Benbow

6.00 Rev Saidu Kanu -Online circuit service

Sunday 18th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Jenny Impey -Online circuit service

Sunday 25th

10.30 Circuit Farewell service at Mayflower for Revs Jenny Impey, Saidu Kanu and Fran Rhys. “Live” service in Church also available online.

No evening circuit service on 25th July.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JULY

Please let Barry Wilford know if you wish to attend the 8.30am Communion service on Sunday 4th July, which will be led by Rev Fran Rhys.

10.30 am Morning Worship –Our services will continue to be available remotely, but increasingly our focus will be a return to worshipping in the Church buildings.

July services & preachers at Glen

4th July: Join the All age worship service at Oadby

11th July: Rev Derek McLean

18th July: Mrs Audrey Baker

25th July: Circuit farewell service at Mayflower.

July services & preachers at Houghton

4th July: All age worship service at Oadby

11th July: Rev Peter Brookes –Holy Communion

18th July: Local arrangement

25th July: Circuit farewell service at Mayflower

Saturday Prayers in Church: Oadby 10.15-1045 [led]

Glen 10-11am [Private prayer]

Editorial



Heather Corlett: Editor

Welcome to the June / July issue of Affinity. As I prepare this edition of the newsletter it is wonderful to see life returning to something resembling normality. Yes, we still have to be careful, but we can hug our friends and family, meet people inside for meals [at Zeph's of course!!] and hopefully it won't be long before we can start singing hymns in

Church. A big thank you once more to our NHS staff and volunteers for working so hard on the vaccination programme, to keep us all safe and to enable the lockdown rules to be steadily relaxed.

The deadline for the August / September issue of Affinity is **Sunday July 11th**. 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]



Rev Derek McLean

Greetings from the manse.

Dear friends,

I'm just finishing reading "Candles in the Dark: Faith, hope and love in a time of pandemic". It

is a collection of the weekly reflections which Rowan Williams wrote over the six months from March to September 2020.

I've taken my time reading it: each reflection warrants a pause to reflect after it. The material is Rowan Williams at his most accessible and most inspiring. It is certainly well worth a read. Those who know me well will be able to immediately spot at least one of the two reflections where my response was to profoundly disagree with what he said – but in both instances I learned from it by wrestling with his argument.

I especially liked the way in which each reflection sits in a specific time as the pandemic evolved, yet speaks eternal truth – and in many instances also acknowledges the way in which those things are bound together in the feasts and festivals of the liturgical year.

Even a year on, some of these reflections have dated a little in the sense in which they were written when it was hoped that the worst was passed, yet before the pandemic returned with yet greater lethal intensity. I will not judge them harshly for that: I don't doubt that many of my own weekly letters will look naïve with hindsight.

I have found them especially helpful as we start to think about what comes next.

In some ways we are approaching the 21st June with a confidence that normality will be fully restored. Perhaps it will be a little later, and perhaps further steps will be required, but it undoubtedly feels as though we are headed in the right direction.

In other respects, we know that there is no return to the world which existed at the beginning of 2020.

That is most obviously true for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, especially when they have been unable to mourn in the way in which they would wish. It is true of others traumatised by what they have experienced, of long-Covid sufferers, and of those whose delayed medical treatment will cause lasting and irretrievable harm.

We hope that we have learnt some positive things about community, about who we depend on for the basics of life, and about holding on to our faith in adversity. We have been surprisingly successful at keeping in touch, and who knew that online worship could work as well as it has.

There are some things where we need to do some catching up: in October we will have a Memorial/ Thanksgiving Service for us to remember those who have died. This will be especially significant for those who were only able to have a restricted funeral for their loved ones.

I hope that we've also got some baptism services to catch up on!

We look ahead holding fast to our faith in Jesus. We focus on the values of “Our Calling”: we return to Worship, to Learning and Caring, to Service, and to Evangelism.

... and it will be wonderful to do that whilst seeing each other face to face.

God bless you all

Rev Derek

What a Year!

We are all familiar with the events of the past year and the effects they have had on our church life. Being unable to meet physically for services or other events has left something of a hole in our lives. I believe it has also made us realise just how much we really do value our contacts with each other in the church. Meetings on zoom have enabled us to keep in touch to a limited extent, but won't it be great to walk into church again and just give each other a heartfelt hug?!

The issue I want to raise now concerns the effects that the past year of lockdown have had on our spiritual lives. As we gradually got used to living without meetings in our churches, what impact did that have on you? What –if anything—has replaced the times that we would otherwise have spent in our church services? Have we simply allowed other things to absorb those periods, or have we learned how to spend them in fellowship with our Lord: Has it drawn you closer to Christ in personal worship? Are you spending a lot more time than usual reading the scriptures? Do you find that during each day, you now find yourself thinking about God more than ever before? Or have you simply drifted away from him?

Has the hour or more that would usually be spent in a service been spent instead tucked away in a bedroom, with the door firmly closed, and in personal fellowship with Jesus?

“When you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father. And when you pray, do not keep babbling like the pagans, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him” [Matthew 6:6-7]

Since early in the present lockdown state, every day I have been spending more time simply being alone with Jesus, enjoying fellowship with Him. It has been immensely rewarding being on

The receiving end of His love. When you start out on that approach it may take time to quieten the buzz of your mind as it continually tries to remind you of the things you need to do that day; but as you persist with this type of prayer fellowship, you will find it increasingly easy to draw closer and closer into God's presence ,and it is greatly rewarding.

Yes or course there are times when we need to bring our prayer requests to God, but if our prayer times consist largely of us talking, we are missing out on one-to-one fellowship with Jesus that He himself longs for with each of us.

If you have not done so before, try spending time sitting quietly simply worshipping; not letting your mind drift, but keeping up a gentle flow of the expression of your love for the God of Love. You will be blessed! I am looking forward to our being back together in church, free of face masks and social distancing, because I believe that our worship together could really take off, bringing us into levels of fellowship with God, such as we have rarely experienced before. Be blessed!

David Adams

Longing for Spiritual refreshment and fellowship

I am really looking forward to us all being able to join together for worship in the church building.

The Zoom services over the last year have been great and kept us all in touch. The preachers have given us some very good services with a variety of style and music which has been appreciated. Understandably, sometimes the technology has caused problems; which can be distracting.

What I have been missing most is the Spiritual feeling and the sense of 'Awe' that I frequently encounter when in the church building. People around you, being able to sing, even though I can't sing anything in tune! I love to hear the lifting of the spirit that the sound evokes.

I'm not one for much pomp and ceremony, vestments and icons!, but I do need spiritual refreshment in a service plus more insight into the message that the Gospels tell us about Jesus and the love that God gives, unconditionally to us all.

I am hoping that when we are able to meet again we will not be afraid to congregate and meet our friends in person.

I feel that I have become somewhat lazy! It, in a way, is so much easier to stay at home, not to have to get organised to go out, (I don't have to worry about putting on make up, etc!).

God Bless you all and I hope to be able to shake your hand or give you a hug in the near future.

Anne Dodge

OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

Financial Update Oadby Trinity (May 2021)

Once again the Church must thank you all for your continued giving and particularly for the donations of £12,500 from Church members and friends of families who have lost loved ones since September 2020 last year. As a result of this generous giving we hope to break even in the current financial year despite the loss of lettings.

DM Frost (Treasurer)



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A Perfect Church?

I think that I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be.
A church where members never stray
Whose pastor always has time to pray.
Where all are meek and none is proud
Whose choir sings well but not too loud.
Such perfect churches there may be
But none of them are known to me.
But still we'll pray and work and plan
To make our church the best we can !

I've reached the 'Wonder' years !!
Wonder where I parked the car ?
Wonder where I left my phone ?
Wonder where my glasses are ?
Wonder what day it is ?

A saying by H.E.Luccock -- "No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it". or "None of us is as smart as all of us".

Barry Wilford



ZEPH'S CAFÉ

BACK IN BUSINESS

Right on time, on 17 May 2021, Zeph's Café reopened for business. We are pleased to report that the first week saw a roaring trade as our regular customers poured in to show their support – thank you all so much! It had been a long winter indeed. That first week was capped by a special welcome back edition of our popular Fish Fryday and, once again, our clientele responded in spectacular fashion, ensuring a sell out for the evening and an abundance of happy smiling faces (at least once face masks were removed for eating!).

Dave Smith

After such a hiatus, it was perhaps not surprising that the odd teething issue arose. So full were we on Fish Fryday that the rules on social distancing were pushed to the limit. This arose due to a number of factors. Notably, the Church has now taken a regular booking for the use of the hall every Friday, so Zeph's can no longer overflow into that area nor the newly refurbished lobby. Once some proper summer weather returns we will, of course, be able to make use of the garden area to increase distancing. However, to avoid over-crowding in the immediate future, slightly stricter limits will have to be set on numbers for the next event, so please book early to avoid disappointment. And, a gentle reminder, please continue to don your masks when moving between tables to socialise: we do take our responsibility for your safety very seriously of course.

Talking of the garden area, the construction of our new pergola is now underway. We suffered some delays to the project due to an unprecedented nationwide demand for

wood and the inclement May weather but the impressive new covered structure should be in place, all being well, by the time that the next lifting of restrictions comes into force, which is still planned for midsummer – let us hope that is more than a dream!

In accordance with our, and the Church's, commitment to eco-friendly solutions, any rainwater that falls on the roof of the new structure will be channelled into a water butt and reused to water the garden area, where we hope to install decorative new planters in due course. The new pergola will cover a wider area than the current sail and will be less affected on windy days. It will offer shade on the sunniest summer days while there will also be tables set out on the lawn for those who wish to take full advantage of our summer weather once it finally arrives. - remember to dig out your sun cream.

In the meantime, here are our upcoming events:

June 4 – Fish Fryday, with social distancing remaining in place.

June 18 – Italian Night – details to be confirmed.

June 21 - Café to open as normal without social distancing but (provisionally) with enhanced outdoor facilities in place.

June 23 – Zeph's Get Together afternoon (from 2:00pm)

July 2 – Fish Fryday, without social distancing.

July 16 – Greek Night – details to be confirmed.

August 6 – Fish Fryday, without social distancing.

August 9 – Children's Special – details to be confirmed.

August 25 - Zeph's Get Together afternoon (from 2:00pm)

These plans are, of course, subject to the Government being able to keep to it's proposed roadmap.

In the meantime, we encourage you all to take up the offer of having a vaccination as soon as possible as we would like to think that all of our customers will feel completely safe when visiting Zeph's Café.

We look forward to seeing you all again very soon!

Dave Smith



Cover photographs needed

I usually find photos for the front cover of Affinity from free sites on the internet. However, I cannot always find suitable ones, and copyright restrictions may limit what I can use. Therefore it would be great to use photos taken by our church members for the front cover of our magazine.

I know we have one or two gifted photographers in our midst. Photos appropriate to the season of the church and /or calendar year are acceptable and very welcome.

They need to be in jpeg format and portrait orientation.

All contributions that are used will be acknowledged in the magazine.

Heather Corlett [Editor]

Manse Garden Bring and Share Lunch

You are invited to a Bring & Share lunch in the manse garden.

Houghton and Great Glen Methodists are invited to join us at
12:30 on Saturday 3rd July

Oadby Methodists are invited to join us after the All Age service
on Sunday 4th July.

No need to sign up for lunch, just turn up on the day with a plate of food: whether it is sweet or savoury there is sure to be plenty of variety.

If you are more comfortable just bringing your own picnic, please feel free to do so. Some of you will prefer that post-Covid, others need it for dietary reasons. Depending on lockdown restrictions we may need to ask everyone to do so. There will be plenty of hand gel available.

Teas & coffees will be provided. Feel free to bring soft drinks to share.

If you are able to bring a chair from home or from the church that will also help.

(If it is wet on the Sunday, we've got the church hall booked on standby so it will go ahead whatever the weather. Glen and Houghton Methodists can pray for fine weather.)

Chris & Derek McLean



Climate Justice for All: Have Your Say

You are invited to join us for our 'Have Your Say' events on either June 9th, June 12th or July 13th.

These events consist of a 45-minute consultation hosted by CJ4A (worldmethodistcouncil.org/cj4a) in partnership with Green Agents of Change (methodist.org.uk/greenagentsofchange).

As part of the CJ4A campaign, we want to send a 'call to action' from Methodists to the UK government's COP Ambassadors. Local Methodist churches and groups will be asked to add their names to this call to action but, before taking that step, we want to hear from Methodists across Britain.

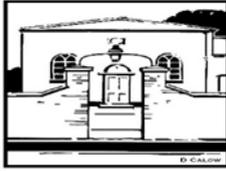
What does climate justice look like for you? What should Britain be doing to ensure climate justice for all?

If you attend a Methodist Church or group and would like to have your voice heard then please do join us for one of these events, which are open to people of all ages (those under 18 will need a parent to book their ticket and give permission).

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-justice-for-all-have-your-saytickets-152826206297>

For any further information, please email:

pugmirem@methodistchurch.org



HOUGHTON ON THE HILL MOVEABLE FEASTS!

Now that we are beginning to move to some degree of 'normality' it has been interesting to reflect just what has happened since the Chapel was able to reopen last September and 'Moveable Feasts' was about the most appropriate title I could come up with. Whilst a number of us were sensibly, shielding (and it was great to 'zoom' with them on Sunday mornings) a number of us have been pleased to continue with services in a Covid-secure Chapel. In the main services have been on a Wednesday afternoon (attracting the title 'Wednesday Worship' somewhere along the line) with, more recently, some Sunday morning services. We've been delighted to welcome a number of guests, some old friends some new, to lead our worship and there have been some special occasions.

In September in glorious sunshine we had a 'dry' harvest festival and were able to send a respectable donation to the Oadby Foodbank; with organs interludes we were also able to hum favourite harvest hymns very quietly behind our masks.

December saw Advent, carol service and Christmas Day all rolled into one service on the Wednesday before Christmas. Organ music, one solo Christmas song (in accordance with regulations at the time), and some masked Christmas carols to hum made the time in Chapel very special but the highlight afterwards was singing two Christmas carols in the chilly Chapel garden afterwards, suitably socially distanced, to a congregation of jackdaws in

the big tree opposite. Although by that stage we knew that newly imposed restrictions to curb the pandemic meant we wouldn't be able to get together with friends and family for the Festive season, it began to feel just a little bit better.

By the time Easter came we'd been locked down again and it was wonderful to celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter all at once on the Wednesday in Holy Week, with some well-loved Passiontide and Easter hymns (humming behind the masks getting louder) and looking at the carefully displayed Lenten Cross, it felt as if some semblance of how things used to be was perhaps returning.

Mary Moore



Harvest

Christmas



Holy Week

Houghton Mid-Week Worship

The lovely chapel at Houghton is open for a short service every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30pm

It is a quiet reflective service and we share Holy Communion most weeks. Everybody is welcome to join us.

The services in June & July will be as follows:

2/6 Peter Brookes HC

9/6 Derek McLean HC

16/6 Suzanne Kelly

23/6 Howard Smith

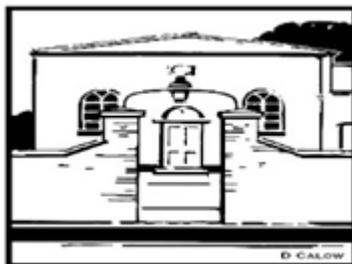
30/6 Kate Cook HC

7/7 Peter Brookes HC

14/7 Derek McLean HC

21/7 Kate Cook HC

28/7 Derek McLean HC



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Solemnity of Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of “God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God’s revelation of himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.

God’s Spirit is always and everywhere “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation being transformed into the glorious liberty of God’s children.’ In this liberty, as God’s children, we call on the Spirit to ‘renew the face of the Earth’, and to help us to use this liberty for the good of creation and for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God’s creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. But how have we used that glorious liberty? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are acutely aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. The Church teaches that everything in creation is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth. The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred the Church to speak out together in England, Wales and Scotland, about its role that and our faith must play in our shared care for God’s gift of creation to us all.

For too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the systematic exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable

consumption of its resources. While accepting the crucial need and demand for energy for the benefit of the poorest of our brothers and sisters, the provision of our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which radically reduce the use of carbon-based fuels. In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods.

As people baptised into Christ we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to a response from industry and governments. We all have a part to play, each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals have a significant impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources available, to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-use. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change. Effort to help us to deepen our commitment to be stewards of creation and so make it a lived reality in our homes, parishes and schools'. We live in a selfish, materialistic, society and culture which blocks and obstructs our understanding that the reality of our existence and the realisation that all of creation is interconnected i.e. human, animal, vegetable, material, are inter connected as one by God.

This Pentecost comes at a time of remarkable challenge and opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the tragedies and restrictions of the pandemic. We have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two most important meetings this year, the G7 in June and COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have

the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us build back better, provide for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our human endeavours, we need the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with the enduring hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve, and ‘renew the face of the earth’. **AMEN**

Father Vince Kelly

RC Church of the Immaculate Conception.

This is a letter which Father Vince Kelly has shared with the congregation at Immaculate Conception, Oadby. It focuses on climate change, a subject which concerns us all as people of God.



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Deadlines for Affinity in 2021

August September—July 11th

October /November –September 12th

December '21 /January '22 –November 14th

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If you wish to advertise your business in our magazine our rates are £42 for a quarter page advert, £72 for a half page and £144 for a whole page. We have 6 issues a year and our distribution covers houses in Oadby, Wigston, Knighton, Great Glen and Houghton on the Hill.

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