

Issue 38

Affinity

Celebrating 90 years of Methodism in Oadby 1931-2021



1931`

2021



October /November 2021

OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

October /November 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,](https://churchatthecross.info)

and Houghton on the Hill Methodist Church.

[https://leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk/circuit-churches/
houghton.html](https://leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk/circuit-churches/houghton.html)

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Information about October evening services at Oadby

The service at 6 pm on Sunday 10th October will be an in-person service of Holy Communion.

The circuit service at 6 pm on Sunday 17th October will be in-person at Oadby, and also online. It will include the Local Preachers long-service presentations. Two of the recipients are our own members John Aldridge (60) and Howard Smith (40). The service will be led by Rev Paula Hunt and Rev Derek McLean will preach.

OCTOBER SERVICES AT OADBY

Sunday 3rd –Church 90th Anniversary Celebration

8.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

10.30 Revs David & Kathleen Wood

Sunday 10th

9.00 Young Families @ Trinity

10.30 Moleen Chikumba and Jo Kay

6.00 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

Sunday 17th

10.30 Rev Kate Cook -Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Paula Hunt & Rev Derek McLean [circuit service]

Sunday 24th

10.30 Sue Moore

Sunday 31st

10.30 Rev Derek McLean -Holy Communion &
Commissioning of Pastoral Visitors

3.00 Rev Derek McLean - Memorial Service

Online circuit services at 6.00 pm

3/10 Rev Gordon Webb ; 10/10 Dr Miriam Stevenson;

17/10; in person at OTMC; 24/10 Rev Daniel Yovan

31/10 Rev Tony Pick

[see page 5 for further information re October services]

NOVEMBER SERVICES AT OADBY

Sunday 7th

8.30 Rev Debra Chidakwa-Akue –Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our All age Worship team

Sunday 14th

9.00 Young Families @ Trinity

10.30 Richard Gill

6.00 Rev Paula Hunt -Holy Communion

Sunday 21st

10.30 Rev Kate Cook -Holy Communion

Sunday 28th

10.30 Oscar Fortune

Online Circuit services at 6.00 pm

7/11 Rev Debra Chidakwa-Akue; 14/11 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis;

21/11 Rev Israel Selvanayagam; 28/11 Rev Paula Hunt

Memorial/ Thanksgiving service – 31st October: Save the Date

There will be a Memorial Service at Oadby Trinity at 3pm on Sunday 31st October. This will be followed by refreshments.

The service will provide an opportunity to remember all those who have died recently, especially those who have died during the period when funerals have been severely limited by Covid restrictions.

This is the traditional time to hold services of this kind as it is the weekend nearest All Saints Day. It will have particular poignancy this year.

There may also be individual Thanksgiving Services to remember those friends who have died when it is not been possible to mourn them as we would wish. One of those services is already booked into the church diary.

We plan to invite the families and friends of all those whose services have been conducted by our minister, or those connected with the Methodist churches at Oadby, Glen and Houghton.

Many others are grieving too, and we want to ensure that as many people as possible should be included in this. Please think about whether other people you know would appreciate being included.

For further information, or to be added to the distribution list for invitations, please contact Derek McLean or Howard Smith.

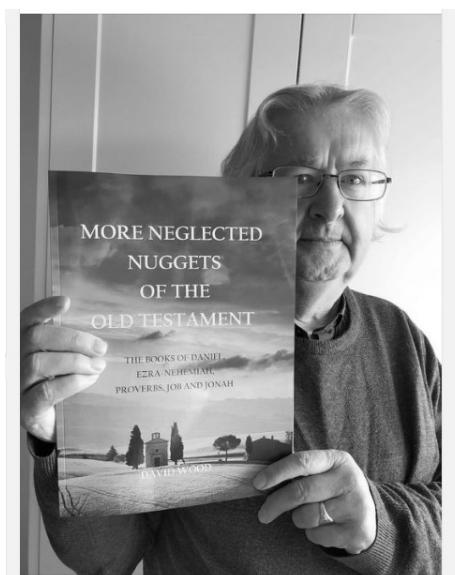
MORE NEGLECTED NUGGETS

As a sequel to his earlier book “Neglected Nuggets of the Old Testament”, David Wood has now written a second volume entitled “More Neglected Nuggets of the Old Testament”. Catchy title! Following the same format as before, this work provides a guide to the five books of Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Proverbs, Job and Jonah. For each book, thoughts are offered about its genre, structure and contents. This leads to a discussion of its major themes and theology, as well as its relevance to today’s issues. The book is designed for both private and group study.

Copies may be had direct from the author. The cost is £10 plus £2 for postage.

His email address is:

david.wood4@btinternet.com





Editorial

Welcome to the October /November issue of Affinity. This is a special issue of the magazine which celebrates the 90th Anniversary of our Church. Methodists have been faithfully worshipping God in these premises since 1931. That is something well worth celebrating! I am enjoying reading the articles people have sent me about their memories of life at Trinity over the years. They rekindle many happy memories for me also.

The deadline for the December /January issue of Affinity is **Sunday November 14th**. 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,

This is an “anniversary” edition of Affinity. Not of course an anniversary of the magazine, but a magazine of the anniversary: Oadby Trinity Methodist Church is 90 years old.

Whilst that seems a lot of years to many of us, it is the baby of the three churches which I serve. Houghton on the Hill and Great Glen chapels were already venerable when the current Oadby building opened.

I’ve not yet spoken to anybody who admits being present when it opened, but quite a number of you have seen a significant part of that history. I’ve spoken to one person who recalls the Membership being so small at one stage that closure seemed a real possibility. Others recall great heydays of the past.

Much has changed in the world around us, much has changed in our understanding of the world. Our worship has changed dramatically: we have more access to far more translations of the Bible, a large part of our hymnody is new, and technology has changed too.

However, I want us to hold fast to that which is constant.

Basic human needs have changed very little. Despite the blessings and curses of technology, we still need physical interaction and relationship with one another, and we all still have spiritual needs.

Our words to speak of God have changed, our understanding of the world has changed which in turn changes our

understanding of God However, God never changes. God wants us to grow into a closer relationship and to bless us. Our need to encounter the story and person of Jesus is constant. Our need for the power of the Holy Spirit remains.

Faith, Hope and Love...

God bless you all

Rev Derek

Mid-week Worship

We recently started a regular Wednesday morning time of worship in church. This is at 11:30am on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month. It is an informal service and will be no longer than half an hour and includes an invitation for people to bring their prayer concerns.

We hope that it continues to grow as an occasion where everyone connected with the church feels able to come along and invite their friends. It might also prompt a visit to Zeph's before or after the service!

Our themes in September were “In the Beginning” and “A sad day”. At the start of a new Methodist year and with this service being new it seemed good to start at the beginning of Genesis.

Our themes from now until Christmas are as follows:

October

27th Saints and Angels

November 10th Remembrance

24th Advent – John the Baptist

December 8th Advent – Mary

22nd Christmas

[Midweek service on October 13th cancelled because of decorating work in the church].

Thanksgiving Service

Sara, John and Hannah would like to invite you to attend the service to celebrate the life of their mother, Dorothy Williams, on Saturday, 9th October at 12.30pm. Light refreshments will be provided by Zeph's Cafe team after the service. Please bring a face covering, in case one is required.

Sabbatical

Please note that Rev Derek will be on Sabbatical for three months from June 2022.

As many of you know, Derek was due to be on a three month Sabbatical from December 2020 and that had been deferred to start in November 2021. That has now been deferred again. It has been agreed that this will be the final deferral and that the Sabbatical will go ahead on the new dates even if it is not possible to travel at that time.

Church Councils

The Church Councils meet Houghton on the 29th September, Oadby on the 6th October, and Great Glen on the 7th October. Please hold all these meetings in your prayers as we will be seeking God's guidance to help us in making important decisions about the Mission and Ministry of our churches post-pandemic.

90th Anniversary of Oadby Trinity Methodist Church

90 years ago the congregation gathered in front of Trinity and processed into the church, children first, singing ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’. It was 3rd October 1931 and they were more than delighted to be holding the first service in their new church building.

It is now 40 years since we brought out our book ‘The Methodists of Oadby’ to mark the Golden Jubilee of Oadby Trinity Methodist Church and a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then. There are many new members of the Church who were not around at that time so it seems a good idea to remind everybody of how the building came to exist.

In 1915, due to poor conditions, the Methodists living in Oadby had moved from their London Road chapel which stood near where Barclays Bank now stands to the Village Hall which stood just to the right of the ‘Black Dog’. 35 members had emigrated to Canada in 1910. Others went to New Zealand & USA. Unemployment was rife and the First World War looming.

On 22nd January 1921 they moved on once again. This time it was to a re-furbished Army Hut which they bought & erected on a piece of land at the London Road end of Sandhurst Street. They had managed to sell the old chapel, which was in very poor condition, for just £250, half of what they required for a new building. They were, however, delighted with their purchase and a public tea took place at the cost of 1/-.

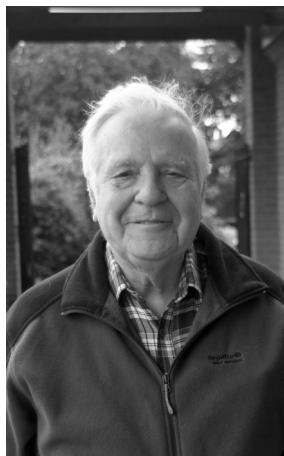
For 10 years the hut was the home of the congregation. We were blessed with the arrival of a much loved minister Pastor Argall and his wife. There followed 5 exciting years when the congregation grew, and enthusiasm for a new building triggered many fund-raising events.

Oadby Methodist Church was part of the Wesleyan Methodist Association as was Hill St Methodist Church in Leicester which was about to be demolished in order to widen Charles St. Oadby Trustees were delighted to receive a gift of £2000 from the sale together with the organ, the pews and the heating system in exchange for caring for their War Memorial in perpetuity. (See back wall of our church building).

Hugely encouraged by this generosity, fund-raising efforts were redoubled, a site obtained and the Foundation Stone Laying took place on 16th May 1931. Arthur Illston, a Sunday School member who was killed during WW2, played his cornet for the hymns at the ceremony.

We remember with gratitude those who brought about this happy result for example Samson Ludlam, John Ward, Alfred Norwell and George Wall, names that crop up many times in the Trustees Minutes.

Eric & Stella Orbell



Happy Memories from Marion and Don Candlin

Marion & Don, Ruth & David Candlin came to live in Oadby in January 1965, and from that time Oadby Trinity Methodist Church has been a large part of our lives. We were welcomed within days by the minister, Rev. Christopher Hughes-Smith, and also by our next door neighbours, Pauline & Gerald Gardiner with Julie. When our daughter, Fiona, was born in 1967 she was christened the following January. At that time our church was having several major alterations and we were holding our Sunday services at Beauchamp College. One of the favourite hymns at the time was (most appropriately) "We are a wandering, travelling people of God"! The building has certainly many changes over the last 50 years. and has certainly hosted a wide variety of events.

We remember many of the activities from Playgroup, Junior Choir, Sunday School, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies & Guides and Youth Clubs. We have enjoyed and appreciated Church Family weekends away at Willersley Castle or Hothorpe Hall, as well as days out with games and picnics at places such as Elvaston Hall.

Of course everyone remembers the amazing pantomimes produced by Gwyneth Sutcliffe, which brought great pleasure to the whole neighbourhood.

For several years we had a New Year's Eve Social Evening, which culminated in the Watchnight Service in church.

Trinity has always been active in "Christians together in Oadby", particularly in raising funds for Christian Aid. Christmas carol singing was a popular way of raising funds for "Action for Children".

Trinity has always welcomed everyone into its various activities, and above all into our Church Fellowship with Sunday services and weekday meetings. We continue to do so, and with God's help, will do this in the future.

P.S. All four of our grand-children have been christened at Trinity.

Trinity was certainly active socially in the 1970's. We ran a successful club for all ages on Saturday evenings, regularly offering badminton, table tennis and even chess. We organised conventional whist drives, "crazy whist" drives, beetle drives and on one special occasion a games drive at which members spent 30 minutes at each of 5 or 6 different tables, playing competitive board games games and accumulating championship points.

Trinity was the initiator and has always been a major participant in the annual Christian Aid walks, organised by the then Oadby Council of Churches. starting in the late 1960's and continuing well into the 21st. century. Initially taking the whole of a Saturday the walks had a target of 25 miles, progressively reduced to 24 and 20 miles. When the time was altered to a Sunday afternoon, the target became a more modest 10 miles (or 16 kilometres). The first 2 walk had few marshals and depended on a "front walker" and a "tail endCharlie", but the walk soon became much better organised with plenty of marshals. It was eventually the shortage of volunteer marshals which led to the institution of walkers moving in fixed groups rather than the free flow system.

Marion & Don Candlin



Memories of Trinity from the 1980's

"What is it with you Ministers' wives?" asked a member of Trinity one day. It seemed that when I agreed to be the wicked witch in the Trinity Pantomime, Sue (whose husband Philip had been the previous minister) had also had that role a couple of years previously! It was an amazing experience, made possible by a couple of faithful babysitters and meeting members being willing to come to the Manse on rehearsal nights.

Some years later, I heard a church member who had been through a difficult time, refer to the members at Trinity as "The Oadby Angels". That was our experience too. We had been in Oadby only a month when our first son (Adam) was born – so many cards, gifts, enquiries, babysitters, care and support. He became a member of the Women's Bright Hour by attending with me, but when he started wanting to crawl round the back room, it became dangerous for him and the ladies, so we left. Although there had been a minister's wife at the helm for many, many, years, and the ladies were anxious about the meeting's future, in fact when I relinquished my role , the meeting flourished under the guidance of a group of 4 of the members!

When our second son (Peter), was born, then the "angels" were in evidence again. It became apparent that Peter wasn't developing as he might have, and when he was 5 months old was diagnosed with a rare brain-condition that meant he grew up with profound and multiple learning difficulties. We could not have felt more supported in prayer and practicality, and were carried through those early years.

I recall going to "WOW" and even sitting on the committee for a while, I think. One thing I do recall is that at Trinity, there was always as much information as possible on the preaching plan. When I was invited back some years later to lead the "WOW" service, one bright spark nearby observed that on the plan it said "K Wood – WOW"!

That's nothing", said someone nearby, "One Christmas the plan read "D Wood- Messiah"!!

A young Mums fellowship group met during the morning, and it was great to be part of a group of committed Christian women, who were also very real about the challenges of parenthood. In and amongst erudite conversations on matters of Biblical understanding (it really was a stimulating group) there were toddlers' potties to be emptied, babies to be fed, and pre-schoolers to be entertained! Multi-tasking? No problem!

It's dangerous to name names, and many of those who were good to us are now singing God's praises in heaven – but we are who we are, because of who you were- "you know who you are" as they say – and we will forever be grateful for the start you gave us in the Methodist Ministry, and the unconditional love you showed us. Thank you and bless you all.

Rev Kathleen Wood

And now some more Trinity Memories from Rev David Wood!

They say that the first is always special. Trinity was my first church as a minister. It has always held a special place in my heart. Mind you, I wasn't supposed to be there! As a probationer minister, I had been stationed to six churches near Lincoln. At the eleventh hour all that changed and to Leicester I was suddenly sent. No disrespect to Lincoln, but Oadby proved to be an ideal church for a raw, young minister to learn his trade. What the congregation felt about the arrival of this long-haired youth is another matter! However, I felt I had "arrived" a few months later when an elderly woman in the congregation said: "When you came, I vowed to take a pair of scissors to your head. But now, I really like your hair. Please don't change it" I still haven't! Indeed, one young person gave me the nickname HTV – Hippy Type Vicar.

In many ways, Trinity was a model church, comprising all ages. It had a varied worship life, catering for different tastes. It afforded the opportunity for a sustained preaching ministry as I was able to preach most Sundays at Trinity, either morning or evening. It had a rich pastoral life where there was genuine care and concern each for the other. We as a family experienced it first hand, not least in the love shown to our two children, both born during our time at Trinity.

We have enjoyed some life-long friendships ever since. There was a vibrant social life, with activities for all ages. But this was coupled with an outward-looking spirit of community and world concern. And it was a most gifted church. I used to joke that, whatever idea anyone had, there were at least ten people in the congregation with the skills to make it happen! One of the joys of my time was seeing the establishment of several house-groups, the bedrock of Christian discipleship and education. And behind all this one sensed a quiet, hidden prayer life which sustained the church – and certainly sustained me.

Of course, not all of my time was spent with Trinity. After ordination, I was privileged to become minister at Great Glen, a highlight being persuading Methodism to allow us to buy a caravan to expand the work! Nothing static there! It was also good, if somewhat daunting, to be invited into the local schools – Sandhurst Street, Langmoor, Manor and Beauchamp especially. I do remember our Trinity young folk at Beauchamp not owning up to knowing me, at least until I had proved myself! The scariest was going to Manor to take part in “any questions” sessions. Kept you on your toes!

The experience at Trinity had a most formative effect upon me and for that I am eternally grateful. At the beginning, I wondered why the change of station. By the end, I knew. God moves in mysterious ways.....

Rev David Wood [Minister at Oadby 1979-1984]

Cover photographs in this issue

The photograph of the interior of the Church [1931] was supplied by Norman Bevan, and was taken prior to his daughter Judith's wedding in July 1989. At this point the only alterations to have been done since 1931 was to remove a pillar from the area of the right hand side transept. Everything else was the same including the pews and the pulpit and the entrance was, of course, from the A6 end.

The 2021 photo of the Church exterior was clipped from the Church website. Eric Orbell has also kindly supplied this photo of the foundation stone for the Church being laid.





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Amos Trust Carol Service

The Amos Trust , who support displaced and disadvantaged people in Palestine, held their carol service at Trinity two years ago and we are pleased to hear that they have asked us to host the service again this year. It will be held on Tuesday November 30th at 7pm, and we expect a good attendance as we had last time.

Refreshments will be served following the service and there will be a stall selling Amos Trust Christmas cards and other gifts.

Please come along and support this event if you are able.



Inclusive Church

Oadby Trinity Methodist Church has done a considerable amount over the last two years to ensure that all aspects of our church life is more Inclusive of everybody. Our website has recently been updated to reflect our current assessment of progress: <http://www.oadbymethodist.co.uk/inclusion/>

At our October Church Council we will be asked to consider whether we are now ready to register with Inclusive Church. More details are here:

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/IC-registering-Churches.pdf>

WELCOME ON WEDNESDAY

Open to everyone

Autumn programme 2021

13th October:

The Air Ambulance Service

10th November:

Flowers for the Season - Speaker is Barry Wilford.

15th December –Entertainment by Graham, Nicky and John

Our fund raising efforts for this year are in aid of the Leicestershire, Derby and Nottingham Air Ambulance Service



THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP

Autumn programme 2021

All meetings are from 2.30-3.30 pm. Venue: the rear meeting room

21st October A Pilgrimage to Iona Howard Smith

15th November King David, Hero or Villain? Rev Derek McLean

9th December Christmas Praise David Adams

What to expect at our meetings:

A warm welcome

Worship and Prayer

An interesting talk

Fellowship

Thursday Fellowship through the years

Thursday Fellowship has held fortnightly meetings throughout the years from its inception in the early 1980's; a "ladies only" group at that time. 2010 heralded a change and gentlemen were invited to attend. A new committee was appointed and an interesting programme of meetings was arranged; including an opportunity to go out for meals, and an excursion was always popular.

Over the years new people took committee positions . The group now met in the new meeting room, instead of the old coffee lounge. Approximately 20-25 people attended, all enjoying the variety of meetings.

Thursday Fellowship has offered prayerful concern and friendship to many people over the years, and it is hoped that it will continue to offer fellowship to all.

Margaret Cartwright

Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby

FRIDAY EVENING HOUSEGROUP

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second and fourth Fridays of the month

at 3 Tynedale Close, Oadby Grange, LE2 4TS

Autumn 2021 Programme

A Methodist Way of Life

We shall be using a (free!) study guide written by Roger Walton
which is entitled

Finding the Way – Getting Started with A Methodist Way of Life

September 24th: What is a Methodist Way of Life?

October 8th: Christian Practices

October 22nd: Worship

November 12th: Learning and Caring

November 26th: Service

December 10th: Evangelism

Meetings end with refreshments before 9.00pm

All welcome

For further information please contact

Howard Smith

0116 2710545 or howardesmith@talktalk.net

**Sermon delivered by Ann Reddecliffe at OTMC on 1/8/21
shortly after the Church Council had voted in favour of Registering
the premises for the conduct of Same- Sex Marriage.**

I have been on a journey of faith. God tends to do that to you, take you from where you know and understand your faith and show you something deeper, sometimes that can be quite a challenge. Sometimes I look back at where I was spiritually and see, now, that I needed to grow.

The Methodist conference took some pretty big decisions recently. Decisions that will have some important effects in Methodist churches and more widely. Decisions that I know the me of 20 years ago would have totally opposed. Twenty years ago I would have been totally against same sex marriages in church and would have believed that churches should be totally free to carry out conversion therapy and things like that. But twenty years ago I didn't have a theology degree, I hadn't seriously studied the Bible history, culture and translation issues. I can see looking back that some of what I thought and believed were only on the surface, but God has taken me on a deeper journey and I want to share some of that journey and the things I learned with you.

I know that this week the church council here voted to register to conduct same sex marriages when the legal paperwork is sorted out. I believe that is not just the Methodist thing to do, the right thing to do as well as the Christian thing to do.

Unusually for me I have not followed the lectionary today, but have chosen three scriptures that speak to the recent decisions.

Inclusion is Biblical. We do not abandon our Bibles to become inclusive, we study them more deeply and prayerfully, letting God break them open for us so that we can follow Christ more deeply.

I used to believe that Biblical questions of marriage were settled by the Genesis story of creation, particularly the second chapter, but God has so much more to say than that. We should not mistake God's first words on a subject with everything the Bible has to say about a subject. Did you know that there are actually eight different types of marriage in the Bible?

There is the nuclear family of one man and one woman; or a man and several wives - polygamy

Forced marriages such as rapist and his victim Genesis 38.6 – 10. If a man raped a woman he was forced to marry her. She could refuse, but if she did, nobody else was likely to marry her, how was she to live?

... or male soldiers and female prisoners of war. Women taken as trophies of war and forced to marry the conquering soldiers.

They did not have the option to refuse.

Arranged marriages, such as Isaac and Rebekah. He sent his servant off to his family to find a suitable bride. She arrived on a camel after a long journey. No 'You must be tired, have a rest' or 'I'll arrange a meal for you'. Not even, 'Hello, I'm Isaac, I'm going to be your husband.' Instead it was straight off the camel and into his dead mother's tent for sex.

Or Levirate marriage, where if a man died without children, his brother had to marry the widow and have children with her in his dead brother's name. And so on.

David and Solomon had hundreds of wives and it seemed that this large number of wives was seen as a sign of God's blessing on them. It seemed like the more wives the better. But having a large household is expensive, so by the time of the New Testament, when the Jewish people lived under Roman occupation,

few could afford to have more than one wife and all the extra children. Times were hard. In 1 Timothy 3 we are told the qualities that are needed for someone to be a bishop in the early church and in verse 2 it includes the condition that he be ‘the husband of but one wife’. Now you know how churches love arguments. If a bishop was only allowed one wife – was it to be understood as one at a time or only one in total?

These were times when many women died in childbirth. If a man’s wife died and he married again, would this rule him out of high office in the church? There was a time when that question was the really hot button topic in church. Eventually seems to have been settled on ‘one at a time only’.

And of course Paul urged everyone to remain single if they could. If they couldn’t then they could get married, but being single was the higher calling.

But let’s start to look at Biblical love and marriage. This is a tiny snapshot of a huge subject. In our first scripture reading we heard:

But Ruth said,
‘Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!’

That is a wedding scripture. In wedding planning books, where they suggest suitable church music, readings, prayers etc, this is one of the scriptures you often find. I have been to a lot of weddings over the years and I have been to weddings where male – female couples have used these words. Words that spoke to them of their commitment to each other. These are words spoken by one woman to another woman, words of lifelong commitment.

None of us know the exact nature of the relationship between Ruth and Naomi. Judging by the sermons I have heard over the decades, it could be the greatest lesbian love story in the Bible or a dutiful daughter having compassion for her mother-in-law or anything in between. But we do know about the culture of the times. If you were a woman and you wanted to eat and have a roof over your head, you had to have a man to provide for you. If you were young enough, you were expected to have children, women could not live independent lives – unless you went into sex work. We know Ruth and Naomi were not that sort of women, but their circumstances were dire. Fortunately there was a convenient male relative willing to take on not just a new wife, but Naomi as well. When Ruth has a child, as Ruth 4.13 says ‘the Lord made her conceive’, the women of the town were in no doubt that this baby was Naomi’s - Ruth 4.17 ‘A son has been born to Naomi’.

The Bible speaks very positively of the love and commitment of these two women for each other.

In the genealogy of Jesus listed in Matthew chapter 1, Ruth is one of only four women mentioned in the list – the others are Tamar, Rahab and Mary. There is not time today to talk about each of them, but they were each regarded as virtuous, by standing against society’s conventions and doing what was right in the sight of God. Let’s just say Tamar had sex with her father-in-law and got pregnant, Rahab was a prostitute and Mary was already pregnant when she married Joseph. They

are important enough to get a mention in Jesus' genealogy, but more conventional paragons of virtue like Rebekah or Sarah or Miriam get left out. Virtue in the sight of God does not always mean following society's conventions.

The second scripture tells us that 'God is love'. It is the only 'God is...' statement in the Bible. In all the mystery of God's nature, the one thing we know for certain is that God is love. And we are commanded to love as well. It is when we love that we are closest to God. 'God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.'

To deny anyone the right to love is to deny them a full place in God's kingdom. Yes, there are many different types of love, whether love for a child or love for your cat or love for nature or love for humanity in general. But we are closer to God when we love.

Same sex marriage seems to evoke high passions in some people. When I hear someone opposing it, in whatever form of language they choose, I listen for the love in their words. If there is no love in their words, then what they are saying is not from God. People will have different views and different opinions, and some can quote the Bible in support of their views, but the Bible also gives us examples of love and commitment between same-sex couples, not just Ruth and Naomi. Whole books have literally been written about David and Jonathan who did say they loved each other and did make a commitment to each other.

The Bible also tells us what love means. 1 Corinthians 13 is probably the most famous Bible passage on love and another favourite wedding scripture. It tells us that: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way;

; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Love is not limited, loving is a gift from the God of infinite love. Jesus gave us the command to love, to love God and to love one another as ourselves. When the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we are called to follow where love takes us.

Many who come to the churches find not love, but judgement and condemnation. An over emphasis on sin and ‘the need to change’ does not bring people to God, but love does. That is where it all starts, ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.’ John 3.16. It starts with love and leads to commitment, in faith as in marriage.

So well done to the Methodist Conference and well done to this church and your church council, for being willing to stand by the inclusive vision of church that you proclaim to all God’s people. Amen.

Anne Reddecliffe

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In support of



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Musicals Unleashed

A Charity concert in support of LOP's and Alex's Wish

We would love you to support our first concert following the lockdown. This will be a light-hearted fun evening of songs and music from well-known shows.

Tickets are £9 to include a soft drink, tea or coffee and a piece of homemade cake.

We will be performing at Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby at 7.30pm on Friday 8th October and again at The Grammar School Hall in Kibworth on Saturday 9th October.

It is well known that Theatres have been hard hit by the Pandemic and amateur theatre equally so. Having missed two show seasons, we are so looking forward to getting back to singing and need our audience to come back and support us too. The costs of continuing to perform and produce shows are ever increasing and even more so following covid. So, 50% of our profits will be to help us to put on our next show 'Titanic, The Musical' at the Little Theatre in April 2022.

We also acknowledge that charities have been struggling over the last 18 months and we will be supporting Alex's Wish, a charity we started supporting prior to lock down and wish to continue to support this season. Alex's Wish is based in Leicestershire and strives to fight to end Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, through raising awareness and funding research. Read about them at www.alexswish.co.uk

The concert will meet all the current Covid guidelines, there is no audience singing, hand sanitiser will be available, and masks must be worn.

Plastic Free Oadby!

In November 2019, members of the Rotary Clubs of Oadby and Oadby Launde joined forces to lead the campaign for Oadby to become a Plastic Free Community, with the Surfers Against Sewage charity based in Cornwall. The aim of the campaign was to make local residents, businesses and organisations aware of the harm our dependence on single-use plastic is causing to us, wildlife and the ecosystem and to encourage them to reduce their plastic waste.

Although the campaign is led by the two Rotary clubs, it has involved working with a number of local stakeholders including, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council who passed a resolution supporting the journey to a Plastic Free Community, Pride of the Borough, Asda, Trinity Methodist Church, St Peter's and St Paul's Churches and Helping Hands.

A plastic free awareness event was planned at the Asda store in Oadby, together with a community litter pick for late March 2020. However, with the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic both had to be cancelled. Not to be deterred, we quickly adapted to online Zoom meetings and set up a Facebook page. Despite the lockdowns, we have managed to carry out two socially distanced litter picks focusing on single-use plastic waste. We also designed, printed and distributed a leaflet to every household in Oadby, highlighting the impact single-use plastic is having on the environment and the simple changes which can be made to reduce consumption.

We are planning an awareness stand at the Botanic Gardens Plant Sale and Family Day in September and later in the year at the Christmas Lights switch on. At the same time, we are talking to local businesses and organisations about removing three single-use plastic items and replacing them with sustainable alternatives. On achieving this, they will become a Plastic Free Champion.

In the new year we intend to hold a Plastic Free month, during which we will ask residents to pledge to reduce their consumption of single-use plastic. But why wait until then? Start making a few simple changes, swap your shower gel for soap, buy loose fruit and vegetables and refills for the kitchen and bathroom from Zero Waste shops. Ekojoe are now in Oadby on Thursday mornings on alternate weeks.

Please, choose to refuse single-use plastic.

Mandy Penfold

'Let all that you do be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

We were recently fortunate to spend a few days staying in the small village of Worstead, North Norfolk.

It has a fascinating history, giving its name to the heavy cloth woven here from the Middle Ages which gave the village its prosperity. Flemish weavers came and settled here at the invitation of Edward 111 who married a Flemish princess. They must have felt at home here in a landscape very much like their native land.

Weaving flourished in the village for over 500 years, the last weaver dying in 1882 aged 91. There are houses with typical Flemish gables still in the village and weavers' houses which held 12-foot-high looms and cellars where wool could be stored at even temperatures. St. Mary's 14th century church is an impressive building, a testament to the wealth of the local weavers who built it.

Outlying hamlets still belong to the civil parish – the roads leading to them ending in 'gate' meaning 'way'. Examples are 'Withergate' – the way of the willows, Bengate' – the way through the beans,

'Briggate' – the way of the bridge, 'Lyngate' – the way through the linseed.

On our last morning we walked to the local primary school, a Church of England school a short way from the village. The old school house and adjoining buildings stood empty in the sunshine, so we were able to peep through windows and get a sense of the life of this lovely place of learning.

There was a new entrance porch and above it were the words from 1Corinthians 16:14

'Let all that you do be done in love.'

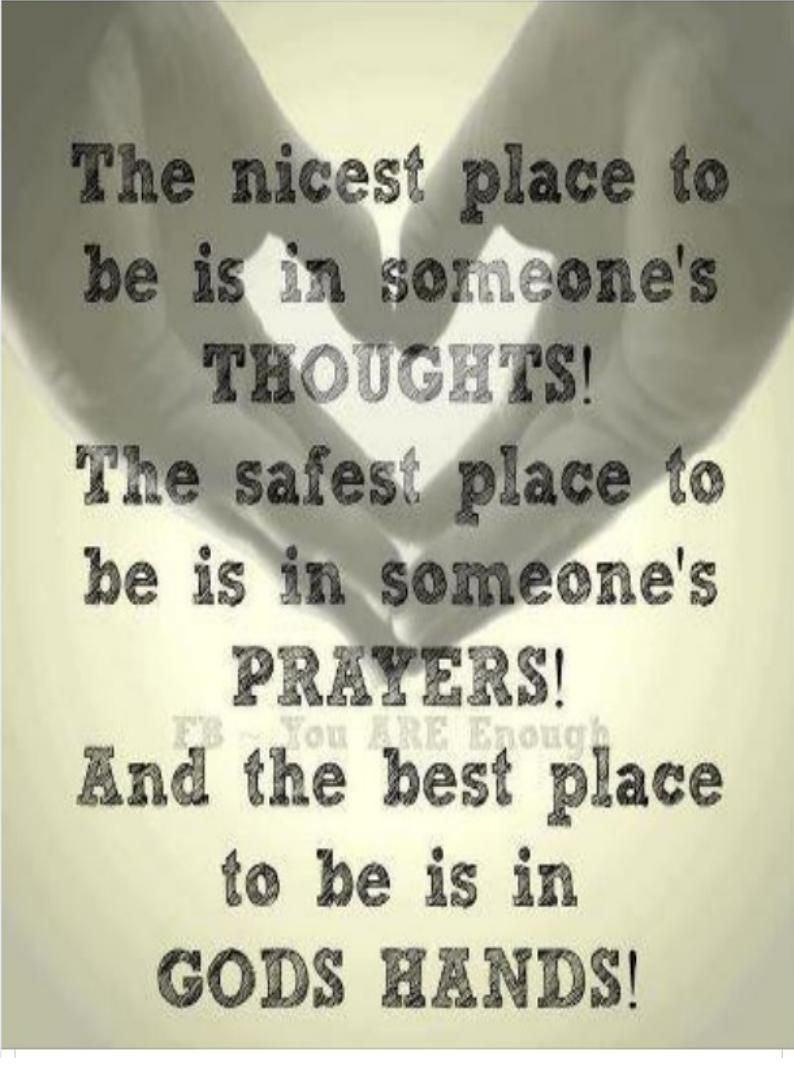
We felt truly blessed to experience these words beneath which hundreds, perhaps thousands of children and their teachers and visitors have entered and left the school over the years.



What a wonderful message to embrace everyone as they arrive and leave this place day by day!

We share this picture and these words with you all.

Diane & Vincent Price



The nicest place to
be is in someone's
THOUGHTS!

The safest place to
be is in someone's
PRAYERS!

FB - You ARE Enough
And the best place
to be is in
GODS HANDS!

Prisons Week 10th –16th October 2021—A week of prayer for those in prison and their families, as well as for those who work in prisons and the justice system.

Consider the RAVENS: they do not sow nor reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! [LUKE 12:24]

WWW.PRISONSWEEK.ORG

@PRISONSWEEK #PRISONSWEEK

10TH–16TH OCT 2021



Trinity Memories and Milestones

I started attending Oadby Trinity Methodist Church in May 1979 when I moved to Leicester after completing my nurse training, to live with my parents and my two sisters.

The Minister at that time was Rev Philip Beuzeval. However, as he left in August 1979 I did not really get to know him. His successor, Rev David Wood with his wife Kathleen, however have become life long friends.

During my recent local preacher studies I was required to create a “timeline” of my life, marking my significant milestones on that timeline. When I had completed this and reflected upon it, I realised that most of my significant milestones were connected to Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby.

I came to faith in Christ whilst attending Trinity, and was received into membership here in April 1984, along with Hugh Davies, Helena Bell and Jane Aldridge.

In the early days my sister Pauline and I attended the “20’s group” who met at Dave and Helen Smith’s house for coffee after Sunday services.

My Christian faith has grown and evolved over the years. I did my Worship leader training in 2005 under the excellent tutelage of Peter Cooper, and served as a Worship leader at Trinity for 10 years.

Most recently it was my local preacher training and studies which occupied my time, and the support and encouragement that I received from the Church Family here at Trinity was second to none. My Local Preacher Recognition service - the most significant service in my life –was conducted under strict Covid regulations on 1st November 2020. It was still special and still very memorable .

I also remember the fun things we have done at Trinity over the years. A visit to Launde Abbey, sponsored Christian Aid Walks in all weathers through the rolling Leicestershire countryside, bring and share meals, a Church weekend spent at Hothorpe Hall, and, oh, those superb pantomimes, produced and directed so ably by Gwyneth Sutcliffe.

I give thanks to God for the worship life of this church, and the way in which my faith has grown and been nurtured through the years. I am especially thankful for the love and support of our Church family, through good times and bad.

A prayer for our Church Anniversary

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate this special anniversary of our church community, we give you heartfelt thanks that you have welcomed us into your house week by week to offer you our praise and prayer. You have offered us unconditional love and have accepted us just as we are.

We give thanks for these church buildings which have evolved over the years, in order to reach out more effectively into the community of Oadby.

Lord, help us to remember that it is not the building, but the people who are your church. We ask for your blessing and the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we go forwards into the future, pledging our lives to your service. **AMEN.**

Heather Corlett

Anniversaries

Anniversaries are occasions not just for looking back at the past, but also looking towards the future.

Our past has been shaped by the people who have been in our lives and the events that we have shared with them. They also shape our future.

As God's people we look to him in faith to guide us through our lives; in good times and bad. We cannot see the future but God can, and he is already there!

This is one of the better posts that I have seen on FB and I thought I would share it with you all.



**I'm not afraid
of tomorrow
because I know
GOD
is already there!**

Deadlines for Affinity in 2022

December '21 /January '22 –November 14th

February /March '22 –January 16th 2022

April / May 22 –March 13th

June /July - May 15th

August /September –July 17th

October /November– September 11th

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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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