

Issue 40

# Affinity



February / March 2022

**OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH**

## **Oadby Trinity Methodist Church**

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### **Office holders**

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**Senior Steward:** Barry Wilford

**Safeguarding Officer:** Michael Elliott. [078834 952263]

## **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.

### **Editorial Team:**

Rev Derek McLean [Minister]

Heather Corlett [Editor]

Diane Price

Lesley Green.

Jon Wilford [Webmaster]



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## **Midweek services and Saturday prayers**

### **Oadby Trinity:**

Midweek worship on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 11.30 am

Saturday Prayers @ 10.15-10.45 am with various leaders. We meet either in the new meeting room or in the worship area.

### **Houghton on the Hill Methodist Chapel:**

Midweek service [weekly] on Wednesdays @ 2.30pm, with ordained and lay leaders. Some of these services will include the celebration of Holy Communion.

### **Great Glen –the Church at the Cross:**

Saturday prayers [not led] @ 10-11am each week.

Everyone is welcome to attend these worship events.



## **FEBRUARY 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 Liam Dacre-Davis [on-line circuit service]

### **Sunday 13th**

9.00 Family Breakfast Worship

10.30 Anne Reddecliffe

6.30 Rev Paula Hunt –Holy Communion

### **Sunday 20th**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Baptism service

6.00 Rev Derek McLean [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 27th**

10.30 Rev Luke Briggs\*

6.00 Rev Daniel Yovan [online service]

\*Rev Luke Briggs is the Anglican Chaplain at the University of Leicester.

The 1030 am morning service and the weekly Circuit evening service at 6 pm are available online. Please email the Minister for the link to access these services.

## **MARCH SERVICES AT OADBY**

### **Sunday 6th –Lent 1**

- 8.30 Rev Derek McLean - Holy Communion
- 10.30 Service led by our all-age Worship Team
- 6.00 Rev Paula Hunt [online circuit service]\*

### **Sunday 13th –Lent 2**

- 9.00 Family Breakfast Worship
- 10.30 Oscar Fortune
- 6.30 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis –Holy Communion

### **Sunday 20th –Lent 3**

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean - Holy Communion
- 6.00 Rev Paula Hunt [online circuit service]\*

### **Sunday 27th –Lent 4/Mothering Sunday**

- 10.30 Graham Tennant
- 6.00 Rev Paula Hunt [online circuit service]\*

\*All the evening online circuit services in March will be part of a Lent series, all led by Rev Paula Hunt, on “Trees in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation”

## Editorial



Heather Corlett: Editor

Welcome to the February/March issue of Affinity –the first issue of 2022. Let us hope and pray that this year will see the end of the pandemic .

We shall soon see signs of Spring arriving and it is already staying lighter later into the evening. I always like to visit the church at Newton Harcourt in February when the churchyard is covered with a carpet of beautiful snowdrops—a gift from God to show us that Spring and new life is coming.

The deadline for the April / May issue of Affinity is **Sunday March 13th 2022**. All contributions to Heather Corlett [Editor], Email: [telroc@talktalk.net](mailto: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

As we approach Lent 2022, we start to reflect on how we might mark it.

Rev Derek McLean    As I write, the number of omicron infections is falling rapidly; and the symptoms appear to have been much less severe, at least amongst those who have been vaccinated. There seems to be a real possibility that things may be a little more ‘normal’ in the coming weeks and months.

(I recognise that we’ve been in a position of false hope before, and we cannot be confident of what lies ahead.)

I hope that many of you will join the Oadby Lent groups (outlined in this magazine) or join the ‘Talking of God’ group we have planned in Glen. Or perhaps instead you might choose committing each Wednesday afternoon to worshipping in Houghton?

Whether you join a local group, join one of the many online alternatives which we’ve discovered, or mark it on your own, I hope that Lent will be a helpful time to take a spiritual health-check. To pause and reflect.

Yes, I know, in some ways we’ve had Lent-like restrictions and abstinence for the last two years. That might prompt us to “take something up” rather than “give something up” but we’ve certainly had an experience where we’ve been forced to re-examine priorities.

However we spend the time, may you find comfort and hope, knowing that you journey with Jesus and that he has travelled this path before.

God bless you.

**Rev Derek**

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[David Holgate's statue of Julian of Norwich which stands outside Norwich Cathedral and which was completed in the year 2000]

## **JULIAN MEETINGS**

“Relax your body  
and quieten your mind  
Be open to God in the silence  
God is with you – here, now  
Do not strive or be anxious  
Be silent, be still  
and let God reach you  
Let God love you”

Those words, from the Julian Meeting prayer card, point to the essence of contemplative prayer which Julian Meetings look to encourage and foster.

The meetings are for people of all denominations – or none - who find themselves drawn to such prayer in the Christian tradition.

Usually, a half-an-hour of silent prayer is led into by a brief reading and/or a piece of music. The silence is followed is followed by tea and coffee and whatever conversation arises.

The Oadby and Wigston Julian Meeting began in 2015.  
Its meetings have been in abeyance since lockdown.

Using the attractive, and appropriate, venue of the New Meeting Room in Trinity we hope to restart them soon. Further details will be published in Affinity, or please contact Rev. Vincent Price: tel 0116 2718948

**Rev Vincent Price**

**Action for Children**  
***The Children's Charity of the Methodist Church***

The past two years have been extremely challenging ones for many charities as normal methods of fund-raising have been seriously disrupted by the pandemic. Many of the folk at Trinity who regularly fill their *League of Light* collecting boxes with small change report that they are now making far fewer cash payments than previously. When the time came round once again for the annual opening of boxes some of our regular subscribers generously wrote a cheque instead of (or as well as) having their box emptied. The result of this collective generosity was **another record total of £1,210.20**. (The comparable figures for 2019 and 2020 were £1,001.36 and £1,167.39 respectively). A further **£167.85** was contributed during December by Trinity Christmas Post and the collection at the service on Christmas Day.

During the past year *Action for Children* has supported more than 600,000 children, young people, and families through 512 different services and projects across the UK. They are also developing a programme of opening several small, modern homes to focus on providing care for children who have experienced neglect, abuse and trauma. The first two of these homes have opened in Newcastle-on-Tyne. The charity is grateful for the unwavering support of Methodist churches such as Trinity. They write: *We want to say **thank you** for sticking by us through this tough year. We truly appreciate your dedication, generosity and kindness, and, of course, your determination to help children, young people and families.*

**Howard Smith**



## **News from Houghton on the Hill**

In spite of rather gloomy news regarding the pandemic, Houghton Chapel managed to celebrate the Christmas season in some style! The Chapel was already decorated when we held a very special Advent carol service in early December, and we were pleased to welcome friends from Oadby Trinity to join us for lessons and carols for the season. Because of the worsening news about the Omicron variant, we were unable to serve refreshments but chocolates handed round at the end of the service seemed to go down remarkably well.

The need for the work of Action for Children has probably never been greater than over the last two years but, like many charities, opportunities for fund raising have been badly curtailed. The Houghton Singers, who rehearse in Houghton Chapel when they are able, decided after an enforced silence in 2021 to resume their annual carol singing round the streets of the village. Approached via Houghton Music Club they happily agreed that AfC would be a very worthwhile cause to support. A warmly wrapped group of about twenty singers accompanied by collectors with big red Action for Children collecting buckets set off to destinations around the village. We were grateful for refreshments provided at some stopping points (but I'm not sure how good mince pies were for our vocal chords!) It was good to receive news after the buckets were emptied to learn that just over £251 had been collected.

To round off our Christmas activities we held a traditional service

of carols and lessons on Christmas Eve. It was with some trepidation that we approached this event as we needed to ensure that all the Covid rules were observed and at some previous Christmas Eve services there has been standing room only! In the event everyone who came was able to participate safely with space between groups and doors and windows open,

The collection at the Christmas Eve service at the Chapel was also designated for AfC and along with some additional donations that we received over the Christmas period, Houghton Chapel was delighted to be able to send an amazing £515 to the charity.

**Mary Moore.**



## Oadby Church Council Report

The December meeting of Church Council was held in the Worship Area, commencing with opening devotions led by Revd Derek McLean appropriate for the Feast Day of St Nicholas (6<sup>th</sup> December). The meeting agreed to appoint Diane Price to the vacant post of Pastoral Secretary and noted the retirement of Barbara Sansom from membership of the Council. The Secretary reported that he had written on behalf of the Church Family to Sue Beuzeval, following the death in October of the Revd Philip Beuzeval (Minister of Trinity, 1972-79). It was agreed to send letters of thanks to Jim Gannon and David Smith for their service as Directors of *Zak's Café Ltd.*

Council was informed that Trinity's recent application to register with the *Inclusive Church* network had been accepted and it was agreed to make an annual donation of £25. The church website would be updated in due course to incorporate the *Inclusive Church* logo. It was also reported that the registration of Trinity for same sex marriages had been approved. Council approved a further resolution to appoint the Revd Liam Dacre-Davis as an additional authorised person.

A letter of thanks had been received from the charity *After 18* in acknowledgement of the recent donation of £1,000. Council agreed to a proposal from Don Candlin to restore the principle of donating 10% of the church's annual income to benevolent causes. On pastoral matters it was noted that two members of the church had died since the previous meeting: Mary Baines and June Thurston. Council observed a time of silence and prayer in their memory. Annual membership tickets were still awaited from the Circuit Office.

On property matters a report prepared by Revd Vincent Price indicated the extent of work completed and/or in hand since the previous meeting. Special thanks were expressed to Barbara and Ian Bell

for extra work undertaken arising from the Meeting Room project. Penny Lee was congratulated on the success of the application for a grant of £10,000 from LCC Shire Partnership. Council agreed to the appointment (for one year) of Barry Wilford as Company Secretary for *Zak's Café Ltd* and to the appointment of Michael Whitmore as Business Director.

The Treasurer (David Frost) was able to report that the final accounts for 2020/21 had been examined and approved. The draft Annual Report to the Charity Commission was approved by the meeting. Jon Wilford reported on the current state of bookings, confirming that they were in line with the budget for the current financial year. On safeguarding matters Michael Elliott reported that several people would soon need to refresh their training: they would be advised of this early in the New Year.

On Circuit matters the Revd Derek McLean informed the meeting that following the decision of Revd Debra Chidakwa Akue to curtail her appointment from late February 2022, the Circuit would probably be short of one presbyter for the next year and a half. The Secretary referred to the problem of fewer active local preachers being available to fulfil appointments on the Circuit plan. Closing prayers were led by the Revd Dr Israel Selvanayagam, who was attending his first meeting as Circuit minister appointed to attend our Church Council meetings.

**Howard Smith (Church Council Secretary)**

## Good News to share!

Khavita, a member of our Church fellowship, recently gave birth to a baby boy, Remy. We congratulate Khavita and her family on Remy's safe arrival.



[Photograph used with parental permission]

## LENT GROUPS AT TRINITY 2022

We are planning to journey through Lent together this year using a “home-made resource” which will draw on hymns, prayers, and readings appropriate for the season. All sessions meet in the Worship Area: the same material will be presented in two separate sessions each week:

**2.00pm on Monday afternoons**

**7.30pm on Friday evenings** (timed to allow you to eat in *Zeph's* first on relevant Fridays!)

Each session lasts about one hour and will “stand alone” so all are welcome even if you are not able to attend all five meetings. It will also be possible to “switch” between Monday and Friday sessions at your convenience. The course consists of five meetings. The theme of each meeting follows a key phrase from one of the collects for the preceding Sunday.

**Lent 1** (Mon 7/Fri 11 March):

**Fasted 40 days in the wilderness**

**Lent 2** (Mon 14/Fri 18 March):

**Laid aside the divine glory and learned obedience**

**Lent 3** (Mon 21/Fri 25 March):

**Walking in the way of the Cross**

**Lent 4** (Mon 28 March/Fri 1 April):

**Lifted up from the earth**

**Lent 5** (Mon 4/Fri 8 April):

**The power of his victory**

*Derek McLean / Howard Smith*

**WELCOME ON WEDNESDAY**

**Open to everyone**

**Spring programme 2022**

**2-3.30pm in the Worship area of Church.**

**February 16th**—“Just Magic” with John Constantine

**March 16th** - A Musical afternoon with Beauchamp Students.



## ZEPH'S UPDATE

As we enter 2022, Zeph's continues to make good progress in a challenging environment. Business was going well in the build up to Christmas but unfortunately due to Covid related staff shortages, we had to close for a two week period over Christmas. But since the start of the New Year, we have been back up and running maintaining social distancing and following a range of Covid safety measures. It remains a challenging time but we continue to benefit enormously from the excellent work of Michael and his team.

The work dividing the old meeting room into a refurbished smaller meeting room and a new food preparation and storage room for Zeph's is now finished. This is a very welcome addition for Zeph's. The old kitchen is relatively small and with an increasing demand for buffets both from within the Church and externally, the need for additional space has been very evident. We are grateful to the Church for helping to facilitate this change. Through the good work of Penny Lee, we have been able to secure grants from the Leicestershire County Council's Communities Fund and from the All Churches Fund which contributed significantly to the overall costs of the project.

Regular Affinity readers will know from the last edition that both Jim Gannon and Dave Smith decided to resign as Zeph's Directors with effect from the end of December. I would like to place on record our sincere thanks for all the hard work and commitment that both Jim and Dave have given to Zeph's - they have both been outstanding. Jim for a number of years was our Business Development and Outreach Link Director developing the Zeph's business and our role as a community café. Our standing within the local community is very high which is testament to the excellent work of Jim. Jim has also developed our social media presence and in particular our Twitter account.

Dave has been our Company Secretary dealing with Company business and organising and minuting Board meetings with amazing efficiency and accuracy. He has also been the author of all our Affinity articles which have always been both informative and entertaining!

Church Council decided on 6 December to appoint Barry Wilford as our new Company Secretary on an interim basis for a year and Michael Whitmore as our new Business Director. We are very pleased that they have both agreed to these new roles and we look forward to working with them in the future. We do, however, still have room for another one or even two directors so if anyone is interested in this, then please get in touch with us.

Finally, a reminder of our evening events coming up over the next few weeks. FishFrydays will be on the first Friday of each month and others arranged are:

February 18 – Curry Night

March 18 – Spanish Night

April 8 – Mexican Night

May 20 – Italian Night

June 17 – Turkish Night

July 15 – Greek Night

August 19 – French Night

These events are very popular so you do need to book early to avoid missing out!

**Frazer Robson on behalf of the Directors of Zeph's**

## **Aigburth is recruiting!**

We are looking for an Activities Co-ordinator. Hourly rate up to £9.63

Applicants need to be flexible in their approach and sensitive to the needs of older people, as well as enjoying their company. The ability to work well as part of a team is essential.

Previous experience is desirable but the right attitude and the willingness to undertake full training is more important.

For more details about the role, please visit [www.mha.org.uk/aigburth](http://www.mha.org.uk/aigburth).



## **Cover photos needed for Affinity**

I am renewing my appeal for suitable cover photos to use for Affinity. This issue bears the same front cover photograph as the February/ March 2021 issue.

I do have access to free photo sites on the web, but very few of the photos are really suitable for the front cover of the church newsletter.

So, if you enjoy photography here is your opportunity for free publicity. Photos need to be in jpg format, in portrait format, medium sized, clear resolution, and relevant to the season of the year.

Contributions invited from Oadby, Great Glen and Houghton Churches.

**Heather Corlett –Editor**

## Deadlines for Affinity in 2022

April / May 22 – March 13th

June / July - May 15th

August / September – July 17th

October / November – September 11th

December '22 / January '23 – November 13th

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t: 0116 2833964  
e: [info@steeleelliottschoolofdance.co.uk](mailto:info@steeleelliottschoolofdance.co.uk)  
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To check the prices that we charge for hiring rooms in our church please either contact Eliza or come into the church where we have a leaflet stating the prices that we charge for various rooms including hourly rate. We do have a Safeguarding Policy to protect children and vulnerable adults that we expect you to adhere to and uphold.

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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