

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Dear Friends

*In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.*  
*Judges 17:6 (NRSVA)*

Last week at our Circuit staff meeting, Rev Jenny quoted these words from Judges. She paired them with the quote from Professor Chris Whitty, 'The problem is, if I increase my risk, I increase everyone's risk'

These are again difficult times. Two of our local Oadby restaurants have been closed because of their failure to follow the rules. The comments from some people carry implicit racist attitudes: 'they' would do that wouldn't they? Yet others defend them: 35 sober people enjoying a curry, well spread out in a well-ventilated building is surely less risky than far more people crowded into Wetherspoons? Yes, I'm sure there are other pubs, some following the rules more closely than others. I name that one in particular because it was the one which I saw most aggressively accused, and also because it is the brand whose name generates its own set of prejudices.

Anecdotally, I'm aware of at least one other local place linked to infections, but I choose not to name it; not least because we can all inadvertently infect others irrespective of how well we follow rules – if indeed that is what happened.

We venture to our nearest shop and find that there are still people who aren't wearing masks. Yes I know – for some people that is right and vital. We are all experts in this and in the stresses of these times we not only want to do our own thing but we have no patience with those who aren't following our interpretation of the rules.

Even the Government acknowledge that setting different rules in different areas is leading to confusion. Worse, that confusion undermines confidence, and without confidence, compliance will be low.

This is the nature of the times we live in. How do we find patience and love in these times?

How can we be Christ-like when we are fearful and confused?

God bless you all – and stay safe.

Rev Derek

**Saturday Prayer.** We will continue to be producing pray at home resources, but we also gather for prayer in church at 10:15am each week.

**Harvest Gifts** can be brought to church on Saturday (3<sup>rd</sup>) from 10:45. Gifts for the Food Bank will make up our decorations. We would especially appreciate: Breakfast cereals, packets of rice, instant coffee, tea bags, and sweet and savoury biscuits. Household cleaning materials also welcome. No fresh or chilled food, thank you.

**Holy Communion.** Our monthly 8:30am Communion service resumes from the 4<sup>th</sup> October. Please let Barry Wilford know if you plan to attend.

**Harvest Worship** This **Sunday (4<sup>th</sup>) at 10:30am.**

We continue to worship Sunday by Sunday. Some of us gather in the church whilst others join us online from homes far and wide. Please let me know if you would like to join online, and I can send you a link, and also talk you through setting this up. Email for information: derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk

Don't forget that it is possible to phone in, even if you haven't got a computer.

Sadly, whilst we maintain social distancing, those in church must wear masks, sanitise their hands on arrival, sit where they are directed, and cannot sing. **We have limited capacity for worshippers to attend in person, so we are grateful that a substantial majority of the congregation continue to participate remotely.**

We are really grateful to all who will make this happen, particularly Dorothy Williams for providing the flowers and to our friends at Oadby Evangelical Church and Oadby Baptist Church whose harvest services are also on the same day and who will be bringing their gifts to the Food Bank.

**11<sup>th</sup> October Ann Reddecliffe** (Inclusive Church) will be our preacher. This service will be in church at both Oadby and Glen as well as on zoom.

**Preaching Plan** Details of October & November services will appear in Affinity, but particularly note the 1<sup>st</sup> November when we host a Circuit Service in which Heather Corlett will be recognised as a Local Preacher, and the 15<sup>th</sup> when we will welcome Revd Debra Chidakwa-Akue to our section for the first time.

**Letter Delivery** I continue to delivery a number of copies of this letter by bike. For those of you on the delivery round, I apologise for the slightly tatty look of the envelopes when the letters reached you last week following a minor mishap. I did sing the rest of the way round: "my chain's fell off, my wheels spun free, I rode, went forth and delivered to thee." The link to the theme of the All We Can Harvest Appeal is all too obvious.

**IBRA Bible Reading Notes**

We need to put the order in now for the new IBRA Bible Reading Notes. Sheila is happy to order these once again. Please let me know if you want to continue to receive these. Also please let me know if you normally receive them but don't wish to this year. Thanks, Derek.

**Prayer Pointers this week**

- Those making rules, and those of us seeking to follow them to keep people safe
- The work of All We Can and particularly the harvest appeal.
- The ongoing work of the Food Bank
- We particularly pray for Andy this week.

**Church Council** Thank you for all those whose tireless work for the Church was celebrated at Church Council. Your efficiency ensured a short and simple meeting!

**Amazon Recommends...** I was prompted to look at a particular edition of the Bible on Amazon.

Once I did so, I couldn't help smiling that like all books available on Amazon, it offers you the opportunity to click a further link marked "follow the author". Now that is the best idea that I've yet seen on Amazon!