

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

7th October 2020

Dear Friends

David left there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. 1 Samuel 22:1a (NRSVA)

I am not about to compare myself to the mighty warrior, and later King, David – especially as this is David who has slain “his tens of thousands” (1 Samuel 21:11b). However, there are times when it would be nice to go and hide in a cave.

Last week should have been “Welcome Week” at the University of Leicester, where I’m a member of the Chaplaincy team. In each of the two prior years it was exhausting as it was our golden opportunity to interact with students. We met huge numbers of them as we enjoyed our privileged position running stalls at welcome events for the arriving throng. Mostly the many conversations are pretty superficial, but they are the opportunity to plant seeds in the hope that we have deeper contacts with these students later. Like everything else in 2020, this year was different. Most welcome events were online, and the few in-person events which took place involved a tiny number of contacts, but many of them deep and significant.

The alternative version turned out to be really important personally. I spent more time with four of my colleagues than I might normally have done. It was particularly valuable to chat at length to our new Catholic Chaplain and with our Assistant Anglican Chaplain who is the team member who I know least well. Spending time in prayer with the Chaplain for International Students was a privilege. But I most want to share something from a conversation with Luke, our Coordinating Chaplain. I told him that I’d been “unhealthily busy” and he helped me unpack that.

1. Spiritually we need space for God to speak. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to move within us. Having a minister who models a hectic rush from one thing to another, may not be good for you. It is unhealthy if your minister tells you to do as I say, not as I do.
2. I thrive on being busy. It is who I am. If I wasn’t dashing from one commitment to another, it would be anathema to me, and much less helpful to my mental and physical health. But I need to know when to stop.
3. When I tell people I’m “unhealthily busy” I’ve probably reached the time that I need to pause. If I’m taking implicit pride in being busy then I’m giving the wrong message to you and to me.
4. Quite aside from “Welcome Week” we are just emerging from the busy round of Church Councils, Circuit Meetings, Synods etc that mark the start of the Methodist year on the 1st September. That means that some of the things that your minister has been busy with are inevitable, but it also means that some pastoral things have been missed. If that has affected you, then I apologise. I will try to catch up.

Next week I’ve got a week’s holiday. Most of the time I will be in Oadby, but I will choose to be in a metaphorical cave. I can’t promise “mighty deeds” when I surface, but I should be rested!

God bless you all – and stay safe.

Rev Derek

Far Right/ St Philips There are still a few spaces left on the Christianity and the Far Right sessions being run by the St Philips Centre for us. I have now sent details across the circuit so I'm expecting this to book up. I've also now finished reading the book about this which Tom Wilson recommended, so if you want to borrow my copy, let me know.

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.

Mixed-mode Worship

We continue to worship at 10:30am 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.**

Forthcoming preachers:

November

October:

1st Circuit Recognition Service

11th Ann Reddecliffe (Inclusive Church)

8th Graham Tennant (Remembrance)

18th Richard Tinley

15th Debra Chidakwa-Akue

25th James Blackhall

22nd Derek McLean (Pastoral Visitors)

29th Miriam Stevenson

Holy Communion. Our next monthly 8:30am Communion will be on 1st November. Please let Barry Wilford know if you plan to attend.

Harvest Gifts

Thank you so much for the generosity of your harvest gifts. The Foodbank was thoroughly re-stocked with gifts of food toiletries etc. In addition to our own contributions and those from Oadby Baptist and Oadby Baptist Church, Rev Kim from St Cuthbert's at Great Glen arrived with a further delivery on Wednesday. Thank you too for those of you who kindly donated cash. We can't thank all of the contributors personally, but as we heard from Lesley on Sunday, it makes a huge difference.

Prayer Pointers this week

- Those in authority. We pray especially for Donald Trump and those around him who have contracted Coronavirus. We pray that all leaders of the world may work together for justice and peace.
- We continue to pray for those working to find a vaccine and those working to make treatments more effective.
- We remember those known to us who are ill, particularly June and Helen.

- We seek God's guidance as we aim to be more Inclusive of others. We seek to include all within our Christian community irrespective of ability or disability, mental health, gender, sexuality, wealth, poverty or ethnicity.