

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Dear Friends

*Then Daniel asked the guard... 'Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal rations, and deal with your servants according to what you observe.' So he agreed to this proposal.*

*Daniel 1:11-14a (NRSVA)*

When I take a week's holiday, I like to return to work on a Monday. This always seems better than spending the week worrying about arrangements for the service I'm leading on the day I get back. My holiday last week fitted this familiar pattern, so on Sunday morning I was able to cycle over to Great Glen to hear Leon Dundas preach.

It certainly helped just be present in worship, and to receive from Leon. The combination of planning, preaching and techy responsibilities means that it is too easy for those of us in ministry to miss opportunities to hear God speak to us.

Leon led us with characteristic Spirit-filled enthusiasm where he drew on the experience of Daniel and the other exiles. He spoke about taking Christ-like risks, but still being responsible in our actions in times of pandemic; being God's faithful witnesses in an alien environment. This is a tough balance: we are called to be a people of faith and not to be fearful when we share the love of Jesus, but that love extends to being careful in the ways we protect the most vulnerable.

Also in Black History Month, it was especially important that I acknowledge the place of privilege I hold and that I need to hear prophetic stories from those who have encountered prejudice in places and ways I cannot comprehend.

Thank you, Leon, and thank you all for allowing me this space to recharge batteries to serve you afresh.

God bless you all – and stay safe.

Rev Derek

### **Sunday Morning 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](mailto:derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk)

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

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

**Far Right/ St Philips** Last chance to book! Two one-hour sessions 7:30pm Mondays 26/10 and 2/11. Let me know if you want to join us.

**Save the dates** Please particularly ensure that our church families are aware of two events:

- Sunday afternoon 6<sup>th</sup> December. A session targeted at our 'Young Families' group
- Sunday morning 13<sup>th</sup> December: our usual All Age Nativity will be as vibrant as ever, but we hope that the Christmas story will be being told remotely online in instalments by as many of our families as possible.

### **Songs of Praise**

Lots of you have been reliant on Songs of Praise during the COVID lockdown. A particular highlight was the episode on the 11<sup>th</sup> October when Christopher Moore (son of one of our Members) appeared on Prisoners Sunday. He spoke about the work of the Christian charity Clink, where he is the CEO, and their work in giving skills to prisoners which has a dramatic effect in reducing reoffending.

Still available here... <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000nh55>

### **Aigburth**

We are delighted to have increased our circulation of this newsletter to more of the residents at Aigburth. They have also been looking at ways of joining our online worship. It has been good to catch up with some of the residents by video-call and are grateful to the Aigburth Chaplain, Emma, for making this possible.

### **Churches Together**

We are blessed to work in an area where churches instinctively work together to share in God's mission. That can be disrupted when some of our normal collective events are disrupted by COVID, but rest assured, we are still coordinating our efforts:

- In Houghton Steve and I are working together on a Remembrance service at the Old Black Horse
- In Glen, Kim has been in touch about using the chapel as part of their Walking Nativity
- In Oadby, there is a similar Walking Nativity event planned and we are also talking to the Council about the possibility of a drive-in carol service. (The AGM is on the 28<sup>th</sup> but that we will be a very short meeting with just the minimum of formal business)

**Saturday Prayer.** We gather for prayer in church at 10:15am each week.

### **Prayer Pointers this week**

- We hold in prayer a number of our friends and families who have been in hospital in the last few weeks.
- We remember those close to death
- We continue to support those who have been bereaved
- We rejoice with those blessed with new life in their families
- In a time where Covid infection rates are again rising rapidly, we pray that we may be a people of Hope, bringing Christ-like love and Compassion AND that we will act sacrificially and speak out to protect those most vulnerable.

**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.

**Bible Society Magazine** We usually have a supply of these in the vestibule for people to pick up. We've had them delivered but can't leave them lying around – let me know if you'd like a copy.

**Affinity** If you need a paper copy of Affinity, please let me know.