

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

18th January 2021

Dear Friends

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.'
Exodus 24:12 (NRSVA)

I admit that it is a slightly corny choice of Scripture verse this week.

Those of you receiving the Oadby version of this letter will know that last week I put out a plea for contributions to support the work that KnightsBridge Estate Agents were doing in order to supply Tablets so that pupils studying at home can access online learning during the pandemic. Each Tablet costs £50.

At that stage, a combination of Zeph's Purse and a generous donor had raised funds to supply five Tablets to be supplied to Manor High School where we have strong links with Liam Powell the Head Teacher.

Since then I've had a number of people getting in touch and we have now committed to pay for a further ten tablets. Once we know which school they are going to, I will let you know.

Let me assure you that they are not made of stone and they are not inscribed with the 10 Commandments, but despite that, there is a continuity between this generous giving and the story of God's gift on Mount Sinai all those thousands of years ago.

God loves people. God has a particular care for the disadvantaged – many of the commandments are especially important in the protection of the weakest. God wants us to learn and wishes us to find instruction.

Perhaps the choice of Scripture is not so corny after all?

Meanwhile, donations are still very welcome – I'm sure we can find ways of extending support to other schools or to support a school in a different area. (And I can now add that I've received funds for four more, which makes 19 in total.)

It is great to report Good News.

God bless you all.

Rev Derek

Churches Together/Week of Prayer 18-25 January

From today, our joint daily prayer and the Sunday evening service (6:30pm) can be accessed here: www.oadbybaptist.church/week-of-prayer

Morning Worship continues online every week at **10:30am**.

I've produced a simplified crib-sheet for anyone joining from a landline telephone. Let me know of anyone who might appreciate one. Preachers:

24/1 Derek McLean

14/2 Colin Smith

31/1 Roger Whittaker

21/2 Neil Richardson

7/2 Matthew Forsyth (All We Can) AAW

28/2 Richard Cawthorn

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.

Sunday Evening Circuit Services

There is a Circuit Service online every Sunday evening at 6pm. The service will last around 40 minutes, and there will be the opportunity after the service to chat to people from around the Circuit.

Revd Debra Chidakwa-Akue will lead the service on the 17th. The CTO service webcast will remain available afterwards so you can "attend" both only if you do the Circuit Service live.

Holocaust Memorial Day I plan to lead a short online reflection at 2:30pm on Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January). Please join via the Sunday morning zoom link.

Prayer

It is good to praise God and rejoice in Good News. It was great to have our friends join us from Cape Town on Sunday and to hear that things are so much better. It has been lovely to have an old friend with us at worship too. There is a real lift to the mood as we start to hear that so many of you have now had your first dose of the vaccine – and that several cathedrals are being used as vaccination centres.

Church Membership

Are you interested in Church Membership / confirmation / adult baptism? Do you know anybody new to church or just wanting to get more involved? Rev Fran is trying to get together a group. The first session will take place on zoom on Tuesday 26th Jan, 7 – 8.45pm. Other timings to be mutually agreed.

Saturday Prayer continues online each week at 10:15, please contact Barry or Derek for joining instructions.