

Oadby Trinity, Great Glen and Houghton

Methodist Churches

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

The **Methodist Church** 

22nd March 2021

“This is my story, this is my song, praising me Saviour, all the day long.”

Dear Friends,

I was privileged to be in the congregation yesterday. I found it really uplifting to hear Biruntha leading us in our worship, and hearing Douglas preach for us. They are both trainees: Biruntha as a Worship Leader and Douglas as a Local Preacher. Each of them has been given unique gifts by God and we will continue to pray for them as they develop these gifts to the glory of Jesus, our Saviour. We were blessed that they are already using those talents in the service of God.

I “attended” Presbyteral Synod last week. Like everything else at present, our meeting was virtual and online. Nevertheless, there was lots of important storytelling happening there. We always hear from those who are Candidating for Ministry; those who are Probationers in the first two years in circuit and headed towards Ordination; those seeking to “sit down” telling us about their time in ministry; and we hear obituaries of ministers who have died.

We also had a session about looking after ourselves in Ministry. This included contributions from three ministers: one who had been seriously ill with Covid, a second who had moved to a new circuit in September 2020 and has still met very few of her congregation, and a third who has undertaken extensive work on ministerial well-being.

Revd Helen Cameron’s uplifting preaching, each of us renewing our Ordination promises, and this story-telling, combined to make a powerful day. It lifts us and renews us to continue in our work.

These moments of joy reinforce the messages we have been looking at in the *Methodist Way of Life* resources: the way in which our Worship, our Learning and Caring, our acts of Service and our Evangelism are not separate actions, they are part of an integrated whole – they work together. They show the love of God lived out in human flourishing.

God bless you all – and stay safe

Rev Derek

Great Glen and Oadby Church Councils also both met last week and confirmed the next steps in our **journey to reopening**:

- Glen and Oadby are now open for prayer on Saturday morning
- Worship remains predominantly online
- Those who can’t join online will be able to attend in person with the usual restrictions, from this Sunday at Oadby, and Good Friday at Glen
- We are aiming for one in-person service each month
- Communion will be available at Oadby on Maundy Thursday and Easter Day and at both Great Glen and Houghton on the 11th April.
- Houghton has a service at 2:30pm each Wednesday

Remembrance Vigil: COVID19 One Year On 23rd March 5pm - On Zoom

One year from the start of the first national lockdown, Faith leaders, the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire Mr Mike Kapoor, the Lord Mayor Cllr Annette Bryne, and the Bishop of Leicester Rev Martyn Snow will all join to remember for those lost to COVID-19 and their loved ones.

A minute silence will be held at five past five (5.05pm) Join via zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/ygzq3ptv>
Meeting ID: 825 4728 3024 Passcode: LCOFCOVID

Israel-Palestine: Solutions not Sides Tuesday 30th March 6:30pm to 8pm

The St Philips Centre are promoting a session about the Israel-Palestine conflict. Please contact Rev Derek for joining details. There will be an introductory video sent out in advance which will last approximately 75mins.

Affinity Magazine: The April-May edition is now available

A Methodist Way of Life

This continues to be the focus of our morning worship and our Circuit Bible Studies during Lent. More resources available on the Methodist website here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/life-and-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/>

Easter Celebration CD

The Methodist Church has produced a CD for Easter. Our Pastoral Visitors have distributed most of these. We've got a few spare if you need them, or you can download it from here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/easter-celebration-cd-2021/>

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

Revd Derek McLean will lead Palm Sunday worship on the 28th and also on Easter Day (4th)

Sunday Evening Circuit Services every week **6pm**.

Miriam Stevenson will lead the service this week.

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.

Sharing Good News

- We congratulate E on a milestone birthday
- D&P send greetings having just celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary
- The World Day of Prayer Committee in Great Glen would like to thank everyone who made donations totalling £155 despite the fact that we were unable to hold our annual service.
- Tablets: this work continues. Our friends at St Pauls have contributed £650 which has purchased two laptops for Woodland Grange Primary School, supporters of our Foodbank.

Leicester in the Guardian Newspaper

Well worth a read, the impact of Covid on the city including the work done at the Wesley Hall Community Centre gets good coverage here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/21/whys-my-life-like-this-leicesters-struggles-with-a-year-of-covid>

Good Friday In addition to our Churches Together Service, Leicester at the Cross will be at 6^{pm}

on www.youtube.com/PrayingForLeicestershire and at 10^{am} Bishop Street MC host 'Into the Night:

Mark's Passion in words and images.' Book via: office@bishopstreetchurch.org.uk