

29th March 2021

³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

John 13:3-6 (NRSVA)

Dear Friends,

The manse study contains lots of books. It also contains lots of props, reserved for specific occasions when I put them to good use. This includes a small pile of black plastic bowls which are reserved for Maundy Thursday. They are all ready for washing feet.

We try to embody Jesus' teaching by acting it out. Like many liturgical things, we sometimes tie ourselves in knots by the way in which we do it. I like the idea that it is the bishop/ priest/ presbyter – the person 'presiding' at the service who washes people's feet. However, I laugh when we mess up the symbolism by effectively saying that you need to be really important to do it. Only people who implicitly claim to be superior are allowed to be humble.

If you think that lets you off foot-washing duty, I'm amused to remind you that Methodists believe in the 'Priesthood of All Believers' so we all need to be on our knees with bowl and towel.

Of course, there will be no actual foot-washing happening in our churches this year. There are some things which work online but virtual lathering between the toes doesn't quite achieve the desired effect, and it is definitely not possible to do it in a socially-distanced way. (Only people with two-metre long arms need apply!)

This is ironic given that the power of Jesus' action is underlined by the fact that the feet he was washing will have walked along streets which contained excrement as well as dirt and dust.

Despite that, symbolically (and literally) there has been a lot of foot-washing over the last twelve months. We have clapped on our doorsteps and we have prayed for those who do the foot-washing in our society. Of course we've also prayed for those in authority, those making decisions for us, but it has been a year in which we've been all too aware of the importance and need of simple acts of humility.

God bless you all – and stay safe

Rev Derek

Please note that we meet at 7pm on Maundy Thursday and 10am on Good Friday.

Easter Trail

We are grateful to Revd. Mohammed from St Paul's who has put together a Churches Together in Oadby Easter Trail following the same route as the one we followed at Christmas. I.e. Oadby Trinity – Oadby Library – Oadby Baptist – St Peter's – St Peter's Centre. Accompanying videos are available via the QR codes or at: www.stpaulsoadby.org/spo/easter-trail



Holy Week Communion

There will be a Communion Service at Houghton at 2:30pm on Wednesday. Let me know if you'd like to attend.

Maundy Thursday Please note the service time **7pm**

We will meet in Oadby Trinity Methodist Church to share Communion. The usual Covid restrictions apply. Please let Barry Wilford know if you plan to attend.

I will also share a Communion service at Aigburth, their first Communion service for a year, please hold the residents in prayer.

Good Friday Please note the service time **10am**

We will join online in the Churches Together in Oadby Service which will be broadcast from Oadby Baptist Church, available on this link: www.oadbybaptist.church/ctogoodfriday

The service will be on the screen in both the Glen and Oadby Churches.

Easter Saturday

Great Glen (10-11) and Oadby (10:15-10:45) will be open as usual for prayer.

Easter Reflection

Dai Wooldridge of the Bible Society has produced this highly recommended reflection on Peter's story: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1CJ0gb_pwl

Easter Sunday

8:30am Communion at Oadby. Please let Barry Wilford know if you plan to attend.

10:30am Easter Day Worship will be predominantly online but will be projected on the screen in both the Glen and Oadby Churches.

We have distributed the booklet "All About Easter: A Resurrection Rhyme" to most of our families. We will use this during the service so if you've got a copy, you might want it handy.

If you want to practice some Makaton sign language to use, there is a lesson available here: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/easter/makaton-all-about-easter-a-resurrection-rhyme/>

Thank you to Margaret who has provided the flowers to adorn the Oadby church this Easter Sunday.

6pm Circuit Service

Revd Saidu Kanu will lead the service this week.

Please let me know if you would like to join either service online, 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.

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/>

Easter Offering.

Glen & Houghton: the usual Easter Offering envelopes have been distributed. Let me know if you need one.

Oadby: For those in church at next Sunday, envelopes will be available. However, for those 'zooming in' from home, if you wish to contribute to this collection which is organised by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund, please send your donation to our Treasurer clearly marked 'for the Easter Offering'.

Held in Prayer

The funeral services for Paul and Janet were on the 23rd, and that for Ray was on the 24th. We continue to hold their families and friends in prayer as they mourn.

Morning Worship at 10:30am.

We continue in mixed-mode with the majority of the congregation worshipping remotely, but with the church open so that people can also attend in person.

To join in person: please arrive in good time, wear a mask, leave contact details for Test & Trace, and sit as directed. We will be following Government guidance to ensure Social Distancing can be maintained. Please attend only if you are free of coronavirus symptoms.

On the **11th April** there will be three services in this section:

- Mr Richard Tinley will lead at Oadby and online
- Rev Derek McLean will lead a Communion Service in the Great Glen Chapel
- Rev Kate Cook will lead a Communion Service in the Houghton Chapel

Sunday Evening Circuit Services every week 6pm.

Rev Derek will lead the service on the 11th.

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

A Methodist Way of Life

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

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

Affinity Magazine: The April-May edition is now available