

26th April 2021

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked. 'How can I,' he said, 'unless someone explains it to me?'
Acts 8:30-31a (NRSVA)

Dear Friends,

The Bible readings set for the weeks following Easter all include a reading from Acts – they tell us how the excitement of the resurrection led on to the rapid spread of the Gospel in the first few decades of the Christian Church. We sometimes need to be reminded that the Word spread in all directions. The church in India dates from this period, and this week's story tells of the way in which the news of Jesus resurrection spread to Ethiopia.

Our All Age Worship service this Sunday will focus on this passage and the monthly resource pack for the children is also based on it. There is an ingenious chariot designed for the children to make.

As I read the passage, I was struck by these particular words. How can we understand if nobody explains things to us?

Of course, we can make a simple acclamation of faith in Jesus, and that will transform our lives, but our experience of Christian faith is so much richer when it is deepened by wise Christians teaching us new things about faith. I'm reminded of how this ties in to our ongoing commitment to the Methodist Way of Life – both in our own commitment to learning and to our commitment to sharing faith with others.

God bless you all – and stay safe

Rev Derek

Please note that the Food Bank stocks are now significantly reduced.

Stocks were very high as a result of the many generous donations at Christmas, but since then we have continued to see a steady increase in the number of clients attending and a steady decline in the numbers coming along on a Wednesday afternoon to donate.

Thanks to previous generosity, we have funds which will allow us to plug the gap in the short term, but please consider bringing something along on a Wednesday afternoon.

Most urgently we need: long-life milk, biscuits, tinned fruit, tea, tinned tomatoes and pasta sauce.

Rejoicing with those who rejoice...

- We offer our congratulations to Ian and Jane who finally managed to get married at Great Glen Methodist Church last week following frustrating Covid delays.
- Our circuit service on Sunday celebrated James Blackhall and Graham Tennant completing their Local Preachers' Training. I'm sorry that the sound quality was poor for some of you. The whole service can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdLXky3FPnI>

... and mourning with those who mourn.

We continue to mourn the deaths of Sheila Brown (Member at Oadby), Geraldine Chambers (Member at Great Glen), John Parrington (a regular at Great Glen) Sheila Swire (Member at Glen), David Straker (Member at Oadby) and of Alison Hull (fiancée of Jonathan from Oadby)

We hold all of their families and friends in our prayers as we mourn these deaths.

We are aware of the following funeral details:

- Sheila Swire's funeral will be at St Cuthbert's at 2:15pm on the 26th April followed by a Committal at Great Glen. You are invited to support the family by standing in memory as the funeral procession moves from Sheila's house to the church. The service will also be webcast.
- Gerry Chamber's funeral will be on the 29th April. The procession will leave the house at 1:20pm for a service at Great Glen Crematorium at 1:30pm
- Alison Hull's funeral will be at Bretby at 10:15 am on the 30th.
- Sheila Brown's funeral will be at Gilroes at 10:30am on the 30th April. There is likely to be space for a number of her church friends. Please let Barry know if you'd like to attend.
- David Straker's funeral will be at Oadby Trinity 1:30pm on 13th May, followed by a Committal Service at Great Glen Crematorium
- I will let you know funeral details for John Parrington when I have them.

Space at funerals is strictly limited under Covid restrictions so please pray at the times indicated and only attend in person by prior arrangement.

Sunday Worship 2nd May

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

10:30am. We continue in mixed-mode with the majority of the congregation worshipping remotely, but with the Oadby & Glen churches open so that people can also attend in person. The All Age Worship team will lead our service.

6pm Circuit Service Howard Smith 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

Worship on Wednesday each week at Houghton at 2:30pm. Rev Kate will lead on the 28th and Derek on the 5th (both Holy Communion) Please let Derek know if you plan to attend.

Saturday Prayer

Great Glen (10-11) and Oadby (10:15-10:45) are open each week for prayer.