

7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. *Acts 10:45 (NLT)*

Dear Friends,

Our Sunday readings continue to journey through the book of Acts – the story of the earliest Christians. Almost all of those early Christians were Jews, just as Jesus had been. They were amazed that people who weren't Jews might be loved by God. The terrible irony is that for the next two-thousand years, we Christians who aren't Jewish have treated Jews as though they weren't loved by God.

Repeatedly Scripture is filled with the message that we worship a God of love, and our God loves people that we would choose to reject because of our prejudices.

The word 'love' is central to the title of the report 'God in Love Unites Us' which was discussed at our District Synod in April. This discussion was part of a consultation which will lead to decisions being made at Methodist Conference in June. The Synod voted by a very substantial majority to support all of the recommendations in the report.

The report is about Marriage and Relationships. Some of the material in it is going to be incredibly important in the weeks and months ahead as we seek to support people whose marriages have been put under intense strain by the effects of lockdown.

It also includes our developing theology of how we support those who choose to cohabit rather than marry – for whatever reason.

The headlines will focus on decisions in relation to Same Sex Marriage. Synod overwhelmingly supported the proposals for a mixed economy: permitting each church and each individual to opt in or out according to their conscience.

In each of these very practical issues of theology we are learning truths which St Peter and his companions discovered all those years ago: God's love is wider than we might think!

God bless you all – and stay safe

**Rev Derek**

**Please note the new zoom link for the Sunday services.** It is probable that the first time you use it, it will ask for permission for the host to unmute your microphone. Please click yes to give that permission if you can.

Now that we are gradually returning to our church buildings I will no longer be sending out a letter every week. I will continue to update you when there is news to share.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY**

Christian Aid week is coming up, and unfortunately we aren't able to put on our usual fundraising events, such as the Churches Together Lent Lunches. This year's theme is: **Together we STOP the Climate Crisis.**

Please consider making a donation in Christian Aid week to support their work to help communities affected by drought and poor harvests. If you are able to donate online, here is the link

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

You can also download a copy of a "River of Prayer" resource linked to Christian Aid week, which may be used individually or in worship, at:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/appeals/river-prayer-resource>

Christian Aid are holding some virtual events that you and your family may be interested in, such as Quizian Aid, hosted by Rev. Kate Bottley. Here's the link if you wish to join in with the Quiz on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/virtual-events>

Not online? If you would find it easier to donate via a Christian Aid week envelope, I have 30 of these, plus 30 copies of the Seven Day Devotional Handbook – a prayer guide for this important week. If you would like a copy of the handbook and/or an envelope, please let me know. Thank you, Lesley Green.

## **Financial Update Oadby Trinity (May 2021)**

Once again the Church must thank you all for your continued giving and particularly for the donations of £12,500 from Church members and friends of families who have lost loved ones since September 2020 last year. As a result of this generous giving we hope to break even in the current financial year despite the loss of lettings.

### **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...**

It was wonderful to see Dusu with us again on Sunday. Welcome back: the children have grown!

### **... 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.

David Straker's funeral will be at Oadby Trinity 13th May, followed by a Committal Service at Great Glen Crematorium.

## **Sunday Worship 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**10:30am.** We have three services this week: Jo Kay will lead at Oadby Trinity, Derek McLean at Great Glen and Richard Cawthorn at Houghton.

**6pm Circuit Service** Rev Paula Hunt will lead the service this week.

**Worship on Wednesday** each week at Houghton at 2:30pm. Tricia Lockley will lead on the 12<sup>th</sup> and Graham Tennant on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Saturday Prayer**

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