

Oadby Trinity, Great Glen and Houghton

Methodist Churches

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

The **Methodist Church** 

27th May 2021

After this, the Lord appointed 72 others. He sent them out two by two ahead of him.
They went to every town and place where he was about to go. *Luke 10:1 (NIRV)*

Dear Friends,

I am grateful to have had a couple of weeks off, and I return refreshed. Like many of you, I've had the experience of meeting family in-person for the first time in a very long while and that direct human contact was wonderful.

Inevitably that means that there is lots to catch up on, and I will work my way through the list as quickly as I can. Please be patient with me, and make sure that I'm aware of anything particularly urgent.

I was on holiday at Pentecost, but I returned to work on Wesley Day. The verse from Luke is the opening verse of one of the readings set for Wesley Day and which marks the way in which Jesus moved to the next stage of his work: using the gifts and skills of his followers to spread the Good News.

Charles Wesley's legacy is often seen solely in terms of hymnody. That is unsurprising, and it remains the case for many of us that our hearts may be "strangely warmed" as we lift our voices together in one of his great hymns. (Soon, we hope!) However, we should be reminded of his wider influence including his ultimately failed efforts to keep the new movement within the Church of England.

John Wesley's influence was in so many different areas: a passionate evangelist, someone who prioritised Eucharistic worship, an advocate for the poor and marginalised, an anti-slavery campaigner, an organiser – prioritising the small group to encourage learning and discipleship, trainer of preachers – particularly as a promoter of women preachers, social reformer, someone who championed education, a preacher who moved beyond the building... He was an advocate of a Christianity based in holiness, one which transformed lives.

Sometimes we contest his legacy by emphasising those aspects of his influence which are closest to our own interests or experience. (I've probably offended somebody by omitting your own favourite from my list!)

Instead, I urge us to draw on this inheritance to continue to make a difference through our worship, our lives and our vision for a better world as we journey to holiness.

God bless you all – and stay safe

Rev Derek

Returning to worship...

Please continue to be careful and observe Government guidance as the risks from Coronavirus have not been eliminated. Nevertheless, with precautions in place, and with many of you vaccinated, it does feel as though we can make further steps toward in-person worship. Do come along we have space in each of the three churches to welcome many more of you whilst maintaining social distance.

For those of you still not ready or able to join in-person, the online facility continues. As we can now gather in small groups in homes, please consider how we can involve more people in this way.

Please remember that we've been using 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.

Church Council

Church Council is due to meet at 7:30pm on 9th June (Oadby) and 10th June (Glen). These meetings will once again be on zoom. All Church Council members will receive the link with the meeting papers; other church members and friends are most welcome to attend - please let us know and we can let you have details.

Although we can't hold the meeting in person, we can now gather in small groups in people's homes. Please consider inviting those who can't join via zoom to join you at home.

Please ensure that the Secretary (Howard and Jane respectively) have papers by Friday 4th

COLIN WALKS FOR CHRISTIAN AID: This weekend, May 28th- 31st, I am walking the 75 kilometres of the Limestone Way for Christian Aid. I used to be minister at Trinity and Great Glen and this year, because it has been difficult for our village to organise a Christian Aid Collection, due to Covid restrictions, a group of us are celebrating Christian Aid's 75th Anniversary by walking the Limestone Way in Derbyshire. I believe Christian Aid is an effective way of being alongside some of the world's financially poor and helping them to help themselves as well as campaigning with them for a more just way of living together. If you would like to support us in our fund-raising then you can either give online by going to:

[Colin Smith is fundraising for Christian Aid \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/colin-smith) - just tap on the blue line - or by sending a cheque made out to Christian Aid to the Oadby Church for us to pass on.

Thank you - and I'll let you know how our walking goes! Colin

Israel-Palestine

There have been a number of demonstrations in our local area triggered by the recent escalation of hostilities in Israel-Palestine. We pray for an end to the violence and condemn all those seeking to exploit violence for political ends. It is painful to see the way in which this has triggered anti-Semitic incidents here, and some of the demeaning statements we've seen in relation to the Palestinian people.

We pray for peace founded on justice and respect for Human Rights.

Letters from the Minister

I'm amused to hear that I caused some confusion when I wrote to say that I was no longer going to send a letter each week. Some concluded that the letters would stop altogether, others understood that I'd simply write less often. The latter is correct. Sorry about the confusion. As they say in Dibley, "no, no, no, parking in the top field"

... Talking of Parking

You may have seen that Oadby and Wigston Borough Council are undertaking a Consultation exercise which proposes the introduction of charges for the car parks in the Borough. We are concerned about the effect this may have on the local shops as well as on the impact on the community work which is based at the church. Of course, this would also adversely affect Zeph's and our worshipping community, but I hope that the concerns which we raise will emphasise these wider concerns.

Those being Ordained

The Northampton District Ordinand's Testimony Service took place on Sunday evening. It was good to hear the stories of Georgina and Jason and the way in which God is calling, guiding and equipping them for Presbyterian Ministry. We hold them in prayer, as we pray for all those expecting to be Ordained this year, especially for Daniel Yovan as well as the others whose Ordinations were delayed from last year.

Manse Picnic

A date for your diary. We will be holding a Bring and Share lunch in the manse garden.

- Houghton and Great Glen Methodists are invited to join us at 12:30 on Saturday 3rd July
- Oadby Methodists are invited to join us after the All Age service on Sunday 4th July.

No need to sign up for lunch, just turn up on the day with a plate of food: whether it is sweet or savoury there is sure to be plenty of variety.

Thy Kingdom Come

The Churches Together in Oadby daily reflections for the season from Ascension to Pentecost (13th – 23rd May) used the resources from 'Thy Kingdom Come'. The series of short readings, reflections and prayers were posted each day on: <https://www.facebook.com/CTOadby>
These are still available if you want to use them again.

Zeph's

We are relieved that Zeph's has reopened as part of the wider emergence from lockdown restrictions. It has been good to see it so busy. Thank you for your support for this aspect of our mission to be "A Church for All, at the Heart of our Community."

Sunday Worship

8:30am 6th June Communion service at Oadby

9:00am 13th June Young Families at Trinity

10:30am Morning Worship.

Services continue to be a mixture between presence in our church buildings and worshipping online. Gradually we are expecting more of us to gather in person.

Where more than one preacher is shown, it is the Oadby service which will be available online.

The **Oadby & Glen churches are open every week** so that people can also attend in person.

The service is also projected into the MHA Aigburth lounge.

| | Oadby | Glen | Houghton |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 30 th May | Sheila McGowan | | |
| 6 th June | All Age Worship Team | | |
| 13 th June | Derek McLean (Holy Communion) | Gordon Webb (Holy Communion) | Sue Moore (Holy Communion) |
| 20 th June | Howard Smith | Derek McLean | Dorothy Hutchinson |
| 27 th June | Methodist Conference Worship – live on screen | | |

If you aren't able to join in person and want Communion brought to you following the service on the 13th please let Derek know.

6pm Circuit Service

30th May – Fran Rhys will lead a service for World Church Sunday.

During June the Circuit Services will work through the **Bible Month** themes from Mark's Gospel. 6/6 Debra Akue; 13/6 Paula Hunt; 20/6 Richard Gill; 27/6 Fran Rhys

Joining details for the morning and evening services can be obtained by emailing me at derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk

Worship on Wednesday each week at Houghton at 2:30pm.

2/6 Peter Brooks HC

23/6 Howard Smith

9/6 Derek McLean HC

30/6 Kate Cook HC

16/6 Suzanne Kelly

Saturday Prayer

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