

27th August 2021

As Jesus approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.'

Luke 7:12-13 (NRSVA)

Dear Friends,

The two verses which I've quoted here, form part of the reading which I used in the Communion service which I led at Aigburth this week.

It is the story of the widow at Nain. I chose this passage because it is the one traditionally read on the Feast of Saint Monica (27th Aug). It was one of Monica's favourite readings and formed part of her devotions as she prayed for her sons. Monica is best remembered as the mother of St Augustine. I was reminded of the way in which her quiet prayers may have seemed insignificant at the time, but which had a profound and lasting effect. So when we pray and it seems not to make a difference...

It was good to use the visit as an opportunity to catch up with somebody from Houghton and somebody from Glen, both of whom have gone there relatively recently.

The tone of the Aigburth service was quite different from the informality of our midweek service at Oadby. Our theme was Zacchaeus. Whilst we had a children's version of the reading and the obvious children's song, that service too gave us pause for thought about our own use of money and whether our actions deprive others, as well as about those excluded.

The diversity of mood feels especially important at this time. We are just preparing the letters which will go out to the bereaved, inviting them to the Memorial Service on the 31st October. (Whilst it will be at Oadby, it is emphatically for those bereaved, connected with all three of our churches.)

We are also looking forward to some really exciting events in September. We've got the two baptism services and a wedding at Oadby and a welcome into Membership at Houghton.

Whatever the highs and lows of life, we seek to underpin it with worship and prayer.

God bless you all – and stay safe.

Rev Derek

Sunday Worship Revd Helen Cameron, our Chair of District will lead the service this Sunday (29th August) at 10:30am when we welcome three new ministers to the circuit: Liam Dacre-Davis, Sharon Dilley and Israel Selvanayagam. The service is at Christchurch, Clarendon Park and also online. Priority is given to those from the churches which they will serve, so please only attend in person if you've had an invitation.

The service will be broadcast into the Glen and Oadby churches where we will join in and sing along with the hymns.

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

11:30am at Oadby, on the 2nd & 4th Weds meeting 8th and 22nd September.

2:30pm at Houghton. Weekly. Includes Holy Communion on 4th, 11th and 25th August.

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

We Pray for:

- All those who are marking new milestones in their lives, particularly those going to new Universities, Colleges and Schools.
- Our new circuit ministers, Israel, Liam and Sharon and their families
- Artwell Mahembe and Talent Nindi who are preparing to be married at OTMC
- The children and their families preparing for their Baptisms.
- Those preparing for Membership at Houghton
- Those mourning: a number of our members have lost significant members of their families.

Dates for your diaries

8/9 and 22/9 (11:30) Oadby midweek worship

2/10 Heighton's are having an Open Day and will be supporting OTMC.

30/11 Amos Trust are returning to Oadby

LWPT Diary and Lectionary 2022-2023: Howard Smith is taking orders for next year's diary which is pocket size/week to view and costs £6.00 each. Please order by 13th September: delivery is expected at the end of September.

Oadby 90th Anniversary

- Please invite people to join the commemoration service, and stay to share celebration cake
- If you have a photo of Rev Trevor Payne (Minister here in the late 60s early 70s) please contact Stella
- September 12th is the deadline for the next issue of Affinity which will have a particular focus on the Anniversary, so contributions about memories of Trinity such as special events or articles about how the building itself has changed over the years are particularly encouraged. Photos are also very welcome. As ever, all contributions welcome.

Food Bank

We are resuming a system where donations can be dropped off whenever the church is open, so the Wednesday afternoon Food Bank donation sessions have finished. Stocks remain pretty low so all donations welcome.

Oadby Church Flowers Please sign up on the notice board in the Hall if you wish to donate the cost of flowers for any particular week. As always, you are welcome to 'do' your own arranging or Barbara and/or Barry will be happy to do them for you.