

Issue 46

# Affinity

**ALLELUIA! THE LORD IS RISEN!**

**HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**



April / May 2023

**OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH**

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## **Associated Methodist Churches**

Affinity magazine is also distributed to Members and Friends at Great Glen Methodist Church;

<https://churchatthecross.info>,

and Houghton on the Hill Methodist Church.

<https://leicestertrinitycircuit.org.uk/circuit-churches/houghton.html>

Rev Derek McLean is Minister for all three churches which work closely together.

## **Editorial Team:**

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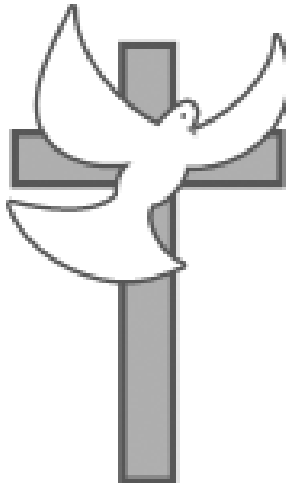
Jon Wilford [Webmaster]



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## **APRIL SERVICES AT OADBY**

### **Sunday 2nd –Palm Sunday**

8.30 Rev Kate Cook –Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by Heather Corlett & Anne Dodge

**3.00** Churches Together Donkey Parade all age worship starting at St Peter's Church

### **Sunday 9th –Easter Sunday**

9.30 –Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

### **Sunday 16th**

10.30 Oscar Fortune

### **Sunday 23rd**

10.30 Rev Paula Hunt

### **Sunday 30th**

10.30 Rev Helen Cameron

**Online Circuit services at 6 .00 pm** [joining details available from Rev Derek]

2/4 & 9/4 Rev Paula Hunt ; 16/4 Rev Daniel Jovan; 23/4 **at 6.30pm in person and online from Oadby.** Easter Offering service; 30/4 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis.

**Every Saturday @ 10.15-10.45 am** - Prayers in meeting room with various leaders.

**Midweek Worship** –2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 11.30 am

## **MAY SERVICES AT OADBY**

Sunday 7th

- 8.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion
- 10.30 Service led by our all-age Worship Team
- 12.00** General Church meeting

Sunday 14th

- 10.30 Howard Smith

Sunday 21st –Aldersgate Sunday

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

Sunday 28th

- 10.30 Douglas Beoku-Betts & Jo Kay

### **Online circuit services:**

7/5 Rev Tony Pick; 14/5 Dr Clive Marsh; 21/5 Rev Derek McLean; 28/5 Rev Daniel Jovan

## **APRIL SERVICES AT GREAT GLEN**

Sunday 2nd –Palm Sunday

10.30 Donkey parade to Burton Overy

Sunday 9th –Easter Sunday

11.00 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

Sunday 16th

10-.30 Rev Gordon Webb

Sunday 23rd

10.30 Gordon Webb

Sunday 30th

10.30 John Aldridge

Every Saturday - Coffee. Church open for prayers 10-11am



## **MAY SERVICES AT GREAT GLEN**

Sunday 7th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean - Café service

Sunday 14th

10.30 Richard Gill

Sunday 21st

10.30 Rev Tony Pick

Sunday 28th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

See pages 6& 7 for details of online evening services.

## **APRIL SERVICES AT HOUGHTON ON THE HILL**

Sunday 2nd –Palm Sunday

10.30 Dr Miriam Stevenson

Sunday 9th –Easter Sunday

10.30 Rev Gordon Webb –Holy Communion

Sunday 16th

10.30 Betty Brooks

Sunday 23rd

10.30 Andy Biggins

Sunday 30th

10.30 Local Arrangement

Midweek service on Wednesdays at 2.30 pm with various leaders

## **MAY SERVICES AT HOUGHTON ON THE HILL**

Sunday 7th

10.30 Betty Brooks

Sunday 14th

10.30 Heather Corlett

Sunday 21st

10.30 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis –Holy Communion

Sunday 28th

10.30 Local Arrangement

See pages 6& 7 for details of online evening services.

## **Holy Week services at Churches in Oadby, Great Glen and Houghton**

**Monday 3rd April @ 7.30pm** Holy Week reflection - Oadby Meeting room.

**Tuesday 4th April @ 7.30pm** Holy Week Reflection –Oadby Meeting room

**Wednesday 5th April @ 2.30 pm** Worship for Holy Week - Houghton Methodist Church

Also @ 7.30 pm Holy Week Reflection - Oadby Meeting room.

**Maundy Thursday @ 7.30 pm** Holy Communion –St Cuthbert’s Church, Great Glen

**Also @ 7.30pm** Reflective Service –Oadby Baptist Church

**Good Friday @ 10 am** –Churches Together in Oadby –St Peter’s Church

**Also @ 2pm** Reflection –St Cuthbert’s, Great Glen

**And @ 8pm** Reflection –Great Glen Methodist Church

Holy Saturday @ 10.15 am Prayers –Oadby Meeting room

**Also @ 11.45 am** Prayers –Great Glen Methodist Church

**And @ 8pm** Easter Fire - Great Glen Methodist Church

**Easter Day @ 6am** –Sunrise Service –St Cuthbert’s Churchyard

**Easter Communion @ 9.30 am** –Oadby Trinity

**Easter Communion @ 10.30 am** - Houghton MC

**Easter Communion @ 11.00 am** –Great Glen MC

**Also at 6.00pm** Easter Worship -Online

[See Minister for joining details]

## **A prayer for Easter**

### **Joseph's Easter**

By W. H. Vanstone

'He's gone,' says Joseph: and, with Pilate's leave,  
Eases the nails and lowers him from the tree.  
Wraps him in reverent and tender thoughts  
And lays him in the cave called Memory.

That cave is deeply hewn in Joseph's heart:  
All that's within will always be his own:  
In Memory's cave the treasure of his past  
Is safe for ever, walled and sealed by stone.

'He's safe,' says Joseph, 'safe in this cool place,  
And no one now can take my Lord away:  
In years to come I'll still see his dear face  
As clearly as I saw it yesterday.'

'He's gone,' cries Joseph later, in despair.  
But Mary says, 'He's left this word for you:  
He cannot rest content to be your past –  
So he has risen, to be your future too.'

**Submitted by Graham & Gillian Austen**



## Editorial

Welcome to the April /May issue of Affinity. As I write my editorial, we look forward to our celebration of Holy Week and Easter with a number of special services at Oadby, Great Glen and Houghton Churches.

Heather Corlett: Editor

In this issue we have an article by Joanna Spiers, who, with her mother Barbara and her sisters, Linda and Susan, was a member at Trinity in the 1990's. They moved to Loughborough in 2004. Joanna works in Leicestershire Records Office and has compiled some of our historic church records into an article for Affinity. Many, if not all of these records will have been gathered and archived by our Church Archivist, Eric Orbell, who sadly died recently. Joanna's article makes fascinating reading.

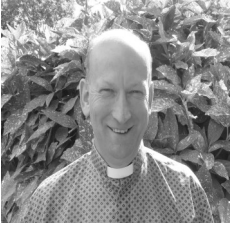
The deadline for the June /July issue of Affinity is **Sunday May 14th** All contributions to Heather Corlett [Editor], Email: [corletttheather910@gmail.com](mailto:corletttheather910@gmail.com)

**Please note change of email address.**

Articles need to be 250 words [1 page], 375 words [1 1/2 pages] and 500 words [2 pages]. **Please** try to keep articles as close as possible to these lengths.

**Heather Corlett [Editor]**

## Greetings from the Manse



Rev Derek McLean

Dear friends,

Lent is always a time of reflection.

This Lent, Oadby Methodists have been doing lots of reflection particularly around our next steps.

I've contributed a couple of articles to this edition of Affinity. The first relates to the developing work that we are doing in relation to the Vision and Mission of the church. The second relates to Diversity and Inclusion: how do we truly welcome and engage people?

Of course those two things are connected and related. Our Christian 'Calling' should prompt us to be Christ-like in our welcome to everybody and to particularly notice the marginalised and oppressed.

We have reflected in our Lent groups, and they have prompted a real wrestling with Scripture. We were initially challenged by a superficial reading of some of the Bible passages and encouraged to go much deeper in our relationship with God by more thoroughly understanding what God's word might be saying in today's contexts.

We have also celebrated 75 years in which Reverend Albert Mosley has been a minister in the Methodist Church. We welcomed the President of Conference, but undoubtedly it was Albert who is our inspiration. This was another occasion which prompted us to look back at our heritage as well as to look forward.

**Derek**

## **Vision**

The Oadby church has been looking at its vision in recent months.

We held two open meetings at which nearly forty members of the church gathered. Don't worry if you didn't manage to get there: there will be plenty of opportunities to join the conversation.

We started by understanding why it is important to step back and reflect.

We then concentrated on what we value about our life together. It was especially important to hear the insight from two people who have joined us relatively recently. They see us as we really are, rather than the myths we have developed over time. Several people spoke passionately about how much the Oadby Methodist church meant to them.

Many people reiterated the strapline which appears outside the building: 'A Church for All at the Heart of the Community.' We celebrated that we often do that well, but we recognised that at other times it is an aspirational statement: it is what we want to be.

We started the conversation about what our next steps should be. Are there things we should start doing? Are there things we can improve? Is it time to stop some things? Many valuable contributions were made, and we want to keep exploring.

Ultimately, Church Council will make any significant decisions: they are our governing body, our trustees.



However, we've got a steering group managing this project and we want to continue to hear everybody's voices, especially those whose voices have seldom been heard.

Your next opportunity to be involved will be on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Once again, the Saturday prayer meeting will take place at the earlier time of 10am so that we can then gather in the Worship area from 10:30 until 12:00 to continue prayerfully looking ahead.

Prayer is vitally important. We will have a prayer day in the Worship area on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April from 10am until 3pm (drop in any time) as we continue to seek God's guidance for the future.

### **Rev Derek**

### **Dates to Note**

1<sup>st</sup> April 10am Prayers, 10:30-12:00 Oadby Trinity Vision – Next Steps

15<sup>th</sup> April 10-3 Prayer Day for OTMC – Praying for our Vision and Mission

4<sup>th</sup> June Manse Picnic

## IN MEMORIAM

The Trinity In Memoriam book is now ready to be used.

It has been hand-made for us by a specialist company. It is cloth bound in navy blue material and the title, in a dignified typeface, has been neatly picked out in silver. It has been so designed that pages can easily be removed and re-inserted to keep dates in chronological order.

It has been ordered with a hundred pages, which might seem excessive, but the hope is that it can be retrospective.

Already one of our members has requested that the names of their parents could be included. Whilst they may have died some years ago, they were loyal and loved members of our Church and it's entirely appropriate that they should be honoured and remembered in this way.

It is the hope that the Memorial book should be used, not simply to acknowledge only those who, for example, left a gift or a legacy to Trinity, but to record the names of anyone who was a member of the Church whose family's wish them to be remembered in this way.

How will these names be gathered?

In order to faithfully and accurately record the names of those to be remembered, I would need their full names, their date of death and, if so desired, a line of scripture, or an appropriate dedicatory sentence. I will then do the calligraphy.

And how shall we use the Memorial book?

The thought is that it should be displayed in the Church foyer every Sunday so that worshippers may view it. I would prefer it not to be beneath a glass top, but rather to be available so that pages can be easily turned and viewed.

All this requires the approval of the Church Council, (which meets shortly) whose excellent initiative this is and with their consent the book and a sample page, will be displayed in the foyer.

Trinity's policy for many years has been that memorial plaques should not be displayed in the Church or Café. Whilst some may find this difficult, the Memorial book has been created to provide a dignified record of the names of those who made a contribution to the life of our Church and are now in Glory. I hope with all my heart, that it will fulfill this need.

**John Aldridge.**



# Leicester Circle Dance Group

At The Quaker Meeting House 16, Queen's Road, Leicester, LE2 1WP

Roughly 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays\* each month from 2.15 to 3.45pm

(\*Some differences because of Bank Holidays! See below)

£3 payable each session

Please address any queries to Marilyn Bowles [marilynruth1946@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynruth1946@hotmail.com) or text 07941 052 032

## What is Circle Dance?

Dancing in a circle is an ancient tradition common to many cultures for marking special occasions, strengthening community and encouraging togetherness.

Modern circle dance draws on the rich and diverse traditional dances of many countries, including the Balkans, Greece, Israel, Ukraine, and France. There is also a growing repertoire of new dances to classical music and contemporary songs.

Circle dances can be energetic and lively or gentle and reflective. The style and mood reflect the group and the interests of the teacher. The aim always is to experience the joy of dancing with others and to create a sense of well-being and community.

Anyone of any age or ability can circle dance. Each dance is taught, there is no audience, and everyone is welcome. So come on your own or with a friend (you do not need a partner) and join in ☺

Dates for April:

3 April

17 April

24 April



**WELCOME ON WEDNESDAY**

**Open to everyone**

**Spring programme 2023**

**2-3.30pm in the Worship area of Church.**

5th April: "A History of playing cards" -Speaker is Mike Lister

3rd May: Outing to Gates Garden Centre with afternoon tea.

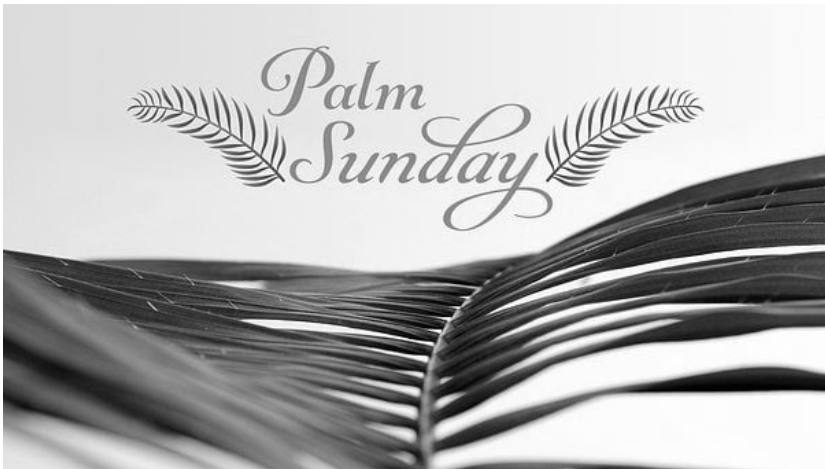
The WOW Charity for 2022/23 is the Guide Dogs Association



## **“Hosanna!”**

I was one in the crowd that saw Jesus ride by  
Felt my heart fill with joy as he came.  
I waited and hoped that I’d see his kind face;  
See him smile as I called out his name.  
My strong arms waved the palms  
And I shouted in praise “Hosanna” to welcome the King.  
I’m so glad that I stood watching Jesus ride by  
Adding voice to the praises they sing.

**Margaret Cartwright.**



## **May 8<sup>th</sup> : “The Big Help-Out”**

As part of the Coronation Celebrations, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday.

The King intends that this day *“will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local area”*

The Property Team invites you to join in the spirit of this day by coming to Trinity and work with us, carrying out work on our church front garden. Since the Covid lockdown, the garden has received very little maintenance and there is plenty of work to do to bring it back to its former glory. Some of the jobs we would like to see done are:

Cutting the front hedge, west side down and back to the level of the concrete gate post.

Emptying, cleaning out and restoring the ‘gas meter store’ where we store the lawnmower and garden tools.

Generally cutting back the shrubs on the east side.

Pruning some shrubs on the car park side, especially those that hang over the fence.

Scraping moss from between the block paving – we have a tool for this that doesn’t involve being on hands and knees.

(Possibly): remove glazing units from Creche and replace with wood panels (IB+DP)

We have some garden tools in the shed, but if you could bring along your secateurs, loppers and gardening gloves that would be most welcome.



We envisage starting about 10am and finishing about 2pm with suitable refreshment times.

Officially, Zeph's Café will be closed for the day, but I'm sure they would allow us to make drinks as we do on Sundays.

(alternatively, we have drink-making facilities in the Meeting Room). You would need to bring something to eat if you are working both morning and afternoon.

If you can come, please contact Ian Bell

([ian65barbara@outlook.com](mailto:ian65barbara@outlook.com)) or phone 01162715057 so that we can have an idea of our workforce.

Please help us make this a good day of work.

**Ian Bell**



## **EDI/JDS Training**

Church Council is asked to note that the Methodist Church has produced some training on EDI/ JDS (Equality Diversity and Inclusion/ Justice Dignity and Solidarity).

OTMC is a church committed to Inclusion and to ensuring that every aspect of our work reflects God's welcome to all. I hope that we will welcome this new training. Some of it will be new to us, other aspects will no doubt be familiar, but even there it will be helpful to be reminded of things we knew or to learn about evolving understandings.

People in Leadership roles such as Ministers, Local Preachers and Stewards will be expected to undertake this training. For other roles such as Worship Leaders, the training isn't yet mandatory, but we hope people will want to do it. I'd encourage every member of the OTMC Church Council to take this opportunity to learn to be more Christ-like as we serve others.

Training will be available online and face-to-face. Initially we will offer a number of sessions at various times and venues to ensure the maximum opportunities to take this up. This will be offered as a full day of training on a Saturday or as a set of three evenings.

After the initial roll out, we will work with neighbouring circuits to ensure that people continue to have opportunities to access regular opportunities for this.

## **JDS/EDI Training**

1<sup>st</sup> July 10-3 **Oadby** OR

17<sup>th</sup> June 10-3 **Blaby** OR

Series of three evenings, 21/6, 28/6, 5/7 **Birstall**

## **Worship Leader Review**

All Worship Leaders should have a review every three years, to encourage their development and to make sure that they are being equipped with the Training and Resources they need. The Church Council and Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting then ratify their continued appointment. It is recommended that each Worship Leader meets individually with the Minister and with another experienced person to support the review.

This review is overdue for each of our four Worship Leaders. It is reported to this meeting that we aim to address this before our June Church Council. Tricia Lockley has agreed to work with Derek to undertake the review.

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### **Deadlines for Affinity 2023/ 24**

June/July –Sunday May 14th

August September - Sunday July 16th

October/November –Sunday September 10th

December 23 /January 24 Sunday November 12th

February /March 2024 –Sunday January 14th 2024

April /May 2024 - Sunday March 17th

## Zeph's Café Update

Well Spring is here .... Or it should be! As always Zeph's has several good events planned by Michael, our café Manager and his staff. After the celebrations of our tenth Anniversary when we were visited by many old and new friends; [including Rev Dr Mark Cheetham, his wife Mariet and son Nathaniel, things have settled back into the familiar routine. Business has been brisk during the past couple of months—long may it last! The cold did not put people off, and indeed many have commented on how lovely and warm Zeph's is—especially the welcome they get from the staff and from those on the Hospitality Desk.

As you will know by now, the first Friday of each month is designated "Fish Fryday" when you can either "take away" a delicious meal to be eaten in your own home; pre-ordered and then collected between 5-5.30 pm [for the very reasonable sum of £7.95]. You can also choose to 'eat in' from 6 pm. The charge is £8.95 which does include bread and butter. Whichever option you choose you **do** need to book. So go ahead and enjoy! As Good Friday is on the 7th April, the Fish Fryday for that month only will be on 14th April and then will revert to the first Friday in May [5th].

Michael also has some special themed evenings planned for April and May. We close March with a Sixties evening on the 31st March. On 21st April there is a "Mexican" evening. On May 19th the theme and menu is a "Portuguese" evening, and, as always the café will feature decorations on the theme. However these evenings are extremely popular and numbers are limited to how many can be accommodated, so booking is essential. I know this as I have missed some of them due to my tardiness in booking.

Of course you do not have to attend each and every special evening. The meals which are served have rightly earned an enviable reputation not only in Oadby but also further afield as is

evidenced by those who come to eat there on a regular basis.. A full English breakfast is served from 9.30 am; and then later there are full lunches and snacks available. A cup of coffee or tea can be accompanied either by a delicious scone [fruit, cherry and cheese] which are baked daily on the premises; or a slice of home made cake of which there are several varieties on offer.

Do not take my word for it; come and try for yourself if you have not yet been to Zeph's. Or if you have, then a repeat visit is 'on the cards' As I have said previously—without your support and encouragement, the whole concept of our being there for the Community of Oadby will falter. We enjoy seeing the residents of our Borough and from elsewhere coming and relaxing in the wonderful atmosphere that is Zeph's—and that includes you!

**Barry Wilford [Zeph's Director]**



## ZEPH'S CAFE

**Do you have any free time? Do you have a background in financial packages or book-keeping?**

**If so, would you be interested in finding out more about the work behind the scenes dealing with invoices and accounts for Zeph's Café?**

**Contact Penny Lee on 07736 647837 for more details.**

**Thank you.**



## **Churches Together in Oadby (CTO)**

There continue to be good relations between the six churches which make up CTO.

The Pulpit Exchange in January was a success once again with our own minister privileged to preach for the Catholics and OTMC welcomed Rev Jon Tearne from St Peters.

We worshipped together on Ash Wednesday, we are sharing in a Lent Study together, and we will mark Good Friday together at St Peter's.

Increasingly our events have been more outwardly focussed, such as the Donkey Parade for Palm Sunday and a presence at events such as the Light Switch-On and Motor fest.

The CTO open meeting in January rejoiced in the activities which we share, but recognised that our commitment to more closer working is limited when we don't have volunteers to make up a Lay Reps group, and that only four of the six churches are now effectively represented at the minister's meeting. We also support each other's activities with several churches represented amongst Food Bank volunteers and effective signposting to activities like Warm Spaces. We've recently set up a dedicated CTO email address for sharing news stories in each other's notices.



## **Christians Aware - Sharing ways and Wisdoms**

Christians Aware is an interdenominational and international education and development charity. We work to promote 'justice and peace' between peoples of all faiths and cultures.

For our annual January conference in 2023, we met at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick, and centred our thoughts around the title "On healing wings" - health and healing worldwide. We were reminded of the words from Isaiah chapter 40: 29-31: "Those who look to the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on Eagles' wings" Throughout the long weekend we focussed on the understanding that eagles rely on using the air currents which are already around them, rather than flapping their wings. They lean into the wind and are able to soar.

Reflections were led by Subash Chellaiah who is lead Chaplain at Lincoln University.

Music throughout the weekend was led by Richard Hubbard, Music Development Officer for the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. He was accompanied by two very talented young people, a violinist and a singer who are both studying for a degree which combines theology and music.

The main lectures were zoomed worldwide. One lecture, "Eagles wings over Africa" was given by Mike Woolridge with his wife, Ruth who is a midwife. As soon as he spoke we recognised the voice of a former BBC radio overseas correspondent.

Another interesting talk taught us more about the contributions of other faith groups world wide and their influence on health.

Saturday afternoon was spent in a rich variety of seminar groups. It was difficult to choose one.



The closing Eucharist in the chapel was spiritually uplifting. We did indeed soar on Eagles wings! It was led by our current Chairman, Bishop John Perumbalath. During our time together it was announced that he will become the next Bishop of Liverpool.

As I write I am empathising with the words at the end of John's Gospel . There is so much more I could have written. It was a rich and varied programme and, equally important, were the conversations and the questions we shared.

More information available from Suzanne Kelly.

**Suzanne Kelly**



## **Records of Oadby Trinity**

A name from the past here, however, some of you may remember me, Joanne Spiers, from when I used to attend Oadby Trinity back in the 1990's and early 2000's before my family moved to Loughborough in 2004. My mother, Barbara Spiers, and sisters, Susan and Linda, also used to attend the Church.

I now work over in Wigston at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, where I have just completed a project of cataloguing 10 boxes worth of records from the Oadby Trinity Methodist Church. This basically means that I have listed the individual records in more detail making them easier to discover on the catalogue. These records date between 1807 and 1982 and include Sunday school registers, pulpit notices, newsletters, building plans, and much more.

The records start in 1807, with a copy of a plan of preachers for the Leicester Circuit. Moving on to the mid-late 1800s, membership books and Sunday school registers show the early members of the church, and give an example of how the church was a part of family life, with parents attending services and their children attending Sunday school.

An account book covering 1898 to 1921 proved an interesting find, as this included a list of provisions for treats. It looks as if they had a treat of sandwiches, tea, iced buns and plum cake. There must have been a few people eating with 10 loaves of bread being bought for the 1915 treat and this still not being enough for the amount of people attending!

The minute books and pulpit notices show how during the World War Two years, the Sunday school rooms were taken over by the military reducing the capacity for carrying out activities in the church.

However, sticking with the idea of a church family, donations were taken to send gifts to the soldiers who had once been a part of the Sunday school.

The other records that have featured heavily across the 10 boxes, is that of building records. These include correspondence between the church and building contractors for the church to be built in the 1930s, and plans for alterations in the 1970s and 1980s. A rather nice photo is also included showing the laying of the first stones of the new church building in the 1930s.

An index of these 10 boxes is now available on the online catalogue which can be accessed through the Record Office website (reference number for these records is De3108), and the majority of the items are available to view in person at the Record Office.

As well as these 10 boxes, the Record Office also has various other records from Trinity, including photograph albums of the church family dating between 1990 and 2007, photographs of the church choir from the 1930s, and the book *The Methodists of Oadby*.

**Submitted by Joanna Spiers—former member at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church.**

## **Are you 'woke'?**

I've been listening to the BBC series about what it means to be 'woke'.

The word originates in the United States and derives from the need for Black people to be alert to violence and lynching. It became a call to action where people were encouraged to speak up for their rights rather than simply having oppression forced upon them.

It then became a word used more widely by those people who want to support the disadvantaged. It was a badge of honour. More recently it has become an insult and frequently used as an abusive term just as 'Politically Correct' became the subject of complaint and mockery.

To me, the word 'woke' corresponds roughly to the word 'Christian': if we aren't alert to the needs of those around us then we need to reconsider our Christian calling.

I make no apology for speaking out on issues of injustice. I recognise that may sometimes lead to mockery, especially when I get it wrong, which is a particular risk when I speak from a place of privilege.

I suspect that if Jesus were around today and once again highlighted the needs of 'widows and orphans' there are some in our society who would mock the Gospel good news as being the woke message of the liberal elite.

In each of my three churches here, we've done a lot of work in relation to Inclusion and Diversity. Soon we will be doing more.

The Methodist Church is launching new training resources which will enable us to become more alert to Equality Diversity and Inclusion.

People in Leadership roles such as Ministers, Local Preachers and Stewards will be expected to undertake this training. For other roles such as Worship Leaders, the training isn't yet mandatory, but we hope people will want to do it. I encourage every member of our Church Councils and many others within our churches to take this opportunity to learn to be more Christ-like as we serve others.

**Rev Derek**

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### **Looking ahead—a date for the diary**

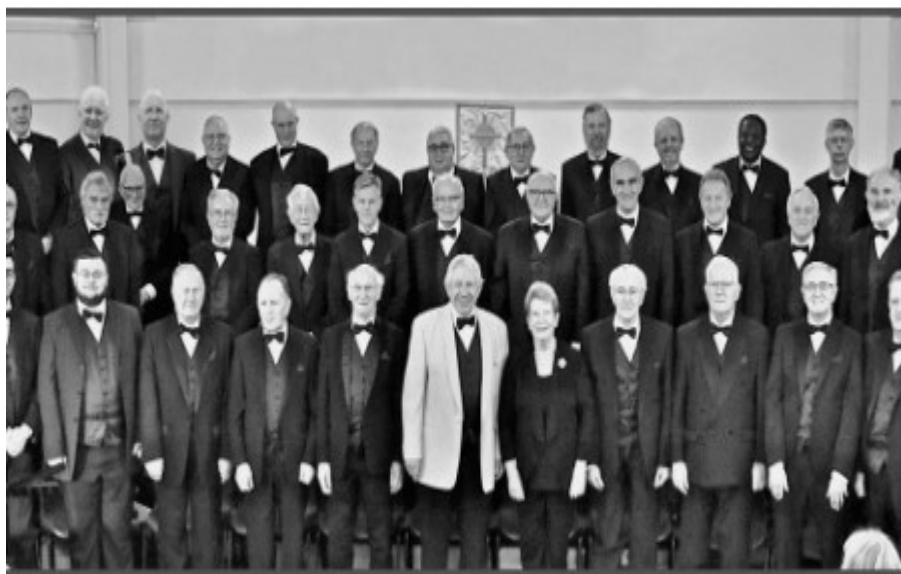
There will be a welcome service at Wigston Magna Methodist Church on the evening of Sunday 27th August to welcome Revs Frances Ballantyne and Helen White to our circuit.

## **Concert by Wigston and District Male Voice Choir**

Saturday 13th May 7.30-9.00 pm at South Wigston Methodist Church.

Tickets £6 available in advance or on the door. Payment via cash, cheque or BACS.

Contact 0116 2812625 or [mail@swmchurch.org.uk](mailto:mail@swmchurch.org.uk). All proceeds to supporting church funds.



## **Oadby Baptist Church 125 years Anniversary**

Our friends at Oadby Baptist Church have recently celebrated 125 years of ministry in Oadby. That is an impressive achievement; over a century of bringing the Gospel of Christ to the people of Oadby, and leading people to faith in Jesus. Many lives will have been transformed and renewed through the faithful preaching and worship in that church. We give thanks for this faithful Christian witness, and pray that Rev Tom Cox and his congregation will continue to inspire and support all who attend the church, seeking to know Jesus Christ as Lord.



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