

# Affinity



Summer 2024

**OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH**

## **Oadby Trinity Methodist Church**

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

Website: [www.oadbymethodist.org.uk](http://www.oadbymethodist.org.uk)

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**Zeph's Café** 01162717575 <https://www.zephscafe.co.uk>

Guides/Brownies/Rainbows: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Rainbows: Sue Newman 07597 119817

[Oadby2rainbows@hotmail.com](mailto:Oadby2rainbows@hotmail.com)

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### **Office holders**

**Minister :** Rev Derek McLean

**Senior Steward:** Diane Price

**Safeguarding Officer:** Michael Elliott. [078834 952263]

Cover photograph courtesy of Michael Elliott.

## **Oadby Church Picnic**

**7<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

### **Save the date...**

Picnic to take place in the manse garden following All Age morning worship at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church.

Come, bring and share food.

No need to sign up, 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.

Teas & coffees will be provided. Feel free to bring soft drinks to share.

Garden games available

(We will meet in the Hall if wet.)

**Chris & Derek McLean**



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## **General Church Meeting 2024 at Trinity**

The General Church Meeting was held café-style in *Zeph's* following the morning service on Sunday 14th April. There were 32 people present with apologies received from four others who were unable to attend. This important meeting in the life of our Church is the occasion when church stewards are appointed for the ensuing year and representatives ('managing trustees') are elected to serve as members of the Church Council. Barbara Bell, Heather Corlett and Diane Price were re-elected as church stewards. (Diane had agreed to assume the role of Senior Steward in place of Barbara). The following existing representatives were re-elected to the Church Council: John Aldridge, Donald Candlin, Helen Cooper, Meenal Desai, Suzanne Kelly, Christine McLean and Stella Orbell. Graham Austen will continue to serve as a Managing Trustee, in future as a representative of the Worship Team. It was noted that a new Church Council Secretary is required to take over from Howard Smith from September 1st, when he will have completed seven years in this role.

The meeting received and commended the booklet of reports from church organisations and activities concerning their work during the past year. (Copies are still available in the church office). A time of silence and prayer was observed in memory of five members (Norman Bevan, Dorothy Bradley, Alan Haddon, Cynthia Harding and Barry Wilford) and one former member (Carol Jennings) who had died during the past year. Thanks were expressed to both Derek and Chris for their continuing ministry amongst us. The date for next year's meeting was agreed: Sunday 4th May 2025, following the morning service.

***Howard Smith (Retiring! Church Council Secretary)***

## **JUNE SERVICES [Bible Month]**

### **Sunday 2nd**

8.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our all age Worship Team

6.00 Service at Wigston Magna

### **Sunday 9th**

10.30 Service led by Tricia Lockley and Graham Austen

**3.00** Webcast leaving service for Rev Canon Helen Cameron [**note time**]

### **Sunday 16th**

10.30 Service led by our Worship leaders

6.00 Rev Helen White Online Circuit service

### **Sunday 23rd**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis Online Circuit service

### **Sunday 30th –Conference Sunday**

10.30 Conference Worship

6.00 Rev Ivan Bennett Online Circuit service

## Bible Month

During June, our morning worship will be based on the Methodist Church's Bible Month resources, which focus on Genesis this year.

We are encouraged to read the relevant chapters of Genesis each week to prepare for the services.

2<sup>nd</sup> June (8:30 Communion and 10:30 All Age) Genesis 1-11 –  
God in relationship with humanity

9<sup>th</sup> June Genesis 12-25 – Abraham – God's Blessing

16<sup>th</sup> June Genesis 26-36 – Jacob – God with us in our struggles

23<sup>rd</sup> June Genesis 37-50 – Joseph – God keeping us safe

## **JULY SERVICES**

### **Sunday 7th**

- 8.30 Rev Derek McLean -Holy Communion
- 10.30 Service led by our All age Worship Team
- 6.00 Service at Wigston Magna

### **Sunday 14th**

- 10.30 Rev Kate Cook –Holy Communion
- 6.00 Rev Paula Hunt Online Circuit service

### **Sunday 21st**

- 10.30 Service led by our Worship leaders
- 6.00 Farewell service at Birstall for Paula Hunt & Helen White

### **Sunday 28th**

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean -Baptism of Samuel Kwame Fynn
- 6.00 **No evening Circuit service**

Midweek Worship @ 11.30 am —1st &3rd Wednesday every month in Worship area

Every Saturday Prayers @10.15-10.45 am in Meeting room with various leaders



## **AUGUST SERVICES**

### **Sunday 4th**

8.30 Rev Derek McLean -Holy Communion

10.30 Jo Kay & Douglas Beoku-Betts

6.00 Service at Wigston Magna

### **Sunday 11th**

10.30 Richard Gill

6.00 Deacon Sharon Dilley Online Circuit service

### **Sunday 18th**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean—Baptism of Ellie Robson

6.00 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis [Online Circuit service

### **Sunday 25th**

10.30 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis –Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Ivan Bennett [online Circuit service]

Midweek Worship @ 11.30 am —1st &3rd Wednesday every month in Worship area

Every Saturday Prayers @10.15-10.45 am in Meeting room with various leaders



Heather Corlett: Editor

## Editorial

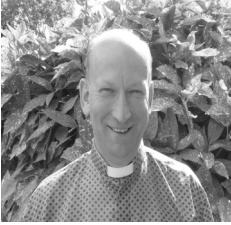
Welcome to the Summer 2024 issue of Affinity., which covers the months of June, July and August. It is a summer of welcomes and farewells as we see some of our Presbyters moving on to new appointments, and also welcome newcomers to join our circuit.

The deadline for the Autumn edition of Affinity , which covers the months of September, October and November2024, is **Sunday August 11th 2024**. All contributions to Heather Corlett [Editor], Email: [notices@oadbymethodist.org.uk](mailto:notices@oadbymethodist.org.uk)

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,

Sometimes it is secular television which prompts theological reflection.

That happened when I watched the programme 'Better off dead?' on BBC1. This was Liz Carr's documentary about Assisted Dying. Many of us recognise Liz as Clarissa, the forensic examiner in 'Silent Witness'. However, she is as active as a disability rights campaigner as she is as an actor.

Realistically we should acknowledge that the case for Assisted Dying is being made forcefully. Stars such as Esther Rantzen speak from personal experience about the need to allow people to escape from unbearable suffering. We've seen this being legalised in an increasing number of territories, with the Isle of Man becoming the latest addition to that list.

This isn't an easy subject. We know that pain isn't always successfully managed in the end stages of life. Many of us have seen suffering where death comes as a release, a relief. That was fully acknowledged in this programme. It is also ironic when Christians who believe in life after death become the ones least willing to allow death to happen.

However, Liz Carr's reporting about the Canadian MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) programme should make us pause and think. She spoke to someone whose mother had been allowed to die, where a mental health intervention might have been successful, and her own doctor who knew her well had opposed referral to MAID. A man outlined how he had been accepted on the programme, but who had been driven to it by poverty

rather than his health issues. He is alive due to the financial generosity of strangers.

Carr's disabled friends spoke powerfully of the way in which they are already regarded as having lives less worth living. She spoke of the way in which vulnerable people had been least well protected during COVID.

We know what excellent work is done at hospices such as Loros, we know that good treatment can transform some mental health conditions. We know that these services are already desperately stretched and recognise the risk that Assisted Dying will become a cheaper option. We may not agree with Carr's conclusions. We may think that her campaign is futile and that this will happen anyway.

However, I think her underlying argument is a powerful theological one. We are all of value. God loves every one of us. God encourages us to take particular care of the weakest and most vulnerable. This issue will not go away and calls for our prayers.

(Do get in touch if you want to talk this through with me.)

God bless you all – and God loves every one of you.

**Rev Derek**

## **Diary Dates**

9/6 3pm Leaving Service for Helen Cameron (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Oxford and online)

10/6 7:30pm Church Council

29/6 Methodist Conference: Helen Cameron installed as Methodist President (Royal Armouries, Leeds)

7/7 (lunch time) Church Picnic

21/7 Leaving service for Paula Hunt and Helen White (6pm at Birstall)

28/7 Baptism of Samuel Kwame Fynn

3/8 2:30pm Welcome Service for Sonia Hicks (Park Avenue Methodist Church, Northampton and online)

18/8 Baptism of Ellie Robson

1/9 10:45am Welcome service for Andrew Farrington, Kim Alexander, and Christopher Andam. (At Bishop St)

3/11 Memorial – Service for those bereaved

## **Come to 3Generate!**

A message from the children and young people of Uppingham Road Methodist Church.

3Generate was a great way to socialise with other Methodists from all over the country. It was a brilliant experience because there were all types of worship from singing and dancing to quiet prayer. There were so many ways to connect with God.

We think that more people should come to 3Generate because:

- You can interact with the youth president who represents young people.
- You experience different forms of worship.
- You meet new people and make friends.
- It's fun!

## **A message from the Outreach Team**

We are still raising money for our church charity “Unique” which looks after families whose child has a rare chromosomal disorder. Thank you for all your contributions!

As a final fundraiser for Unique, we thought a sponsored walk round Uplands Park would be a good idea, on the afternoon of Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Although we are encouraging families with children to get involved, this could be for any age, as Uplands Park has a path all the way round it, so is accessible for mobility scooters as well as pushchairs, etc. There is also a car park adjacent to the park.

Keep a look out on the notices for arrangements to be finalised, but please save the date!

At the October Church Council, we will elect a new church charity. Our next choice should be an international charity, if we carry on rotating between local, national, and international.

Please let us know if you have an international charity in mind, to whom you think our contributions would make a difference.

The Outreach Team will then make a shortlist of your suggestions (and usually a recommendation, after careful consideration) for Church Council to vote on.

The team is: Suzanne Kelly, Tricia Lockley, Frazer Robson and Lesley Green. You can let any of us have your suggestions.

Thank you so much for your support, whether by donations at coffee time, buying cards from the hospitality desk, or at special fundraising events.

**The Outreach Team**

## Summer Sunshine

There are welcome signs of Summer in everything I see,

The flowers in the garden, new leaves upon the tree.

The joyful sound of songbirds, the buzz of busy bee,

These lovely signs of Summer mean all the world to me.

A time for relaxation at home or by the sea;

Enjoy the flowers and sunny hours, the beauty there is free.

Enjoy ice creams and picnics 'neath cloudless skies of blue;

And thank God for the sunny days, His Summer gift to you.





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## ZEPH'S UPDATE

I'm pleased to be able to report that Michael Elliott will be the new Company Secretary for Zeph's from 1 September. Michael has been a regular volunteer at Zeph's for quite some time, so he has a very good understanding of how the café operates and will be well placed to be our Company Secretary. Until 1 September, Graham Austen will continue as our temporary Company Secretary. We are very grateful to both of them for their contributions to the running of Zeph's.

I can also report that one of our staff, Mel Labbett, has very kindly taken over the role of looking after the garden at Zeph's. Mel is an accomplished and enthusiastic gardener, and we are very pleased that she has taken on this role previously carried out by Barry Wilford. Thank you, Mel.

Zeph's events continue to be well supported and those organised for Friday nights (all at 6 pm) in the next few weeks are:

17 May – Pie Night (£15.50)

24 May – Cyprus Night (£15.50)

7 June – Fish Supper (£9.75 with £8.75 for a takeaway)

14 June – American Diner Night (£15.50)

28 June – Italian Night (£15.50)

5 July – Fish Supper (£9.75 with £8.75 for a takeaway)

We have a Midsummer Afternoon Tea arranged for the afternoon of Thursday 25 July at a price of £13.95 per person. Zeph's is also now selling delicious shakes, smoothies and frappuccino's to enjoy during the summer.

As always, with any of the events, please book early to avoid disappointment.

**Frazer Robson**

**Chair of Board of Directors**



## **Review of the Jennings vs Alzheimer's documentary**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 BBC 2 broadcast a documentary that has been a long time in the making; and which portrayed the emotional roller coaster journey of the Jennings family- the first family in the world to be diagnosed with hereditary early onset Alzheimer's disease, which is caused by a rare gene mutation.

In the 1980's Carol Jennings saw her father, aunt and uncle develop Alzheimer's disease when they were in their 50's. It caused her to question whether there was a hereditary factor involved; and if so, were she and her children at risk of developing the disease? So Carol wrote a letter to the Alzheimer's disease research team at University College, London, to let them know of her family's situation and expressed her own willingness to be actively involved in the search for the gene mutation which was destroying the lives of her family members, and which would also destroy her own life as she knew it. It was poignant to hear Carol's cheerful voice from 1993 saying how she wanted to be actively involved in the search to identify the crucial gene mutation.

Carol, her husband Stuart and their two adult children, John and Emily, are well known to the Church family here at Trinity. Stuart was our Minister from 1997-2006. Carol was always a lively and vivacious lady with plenty of enthusiasm and energy for everything she did. Yet over three decades as the Alzheimer's disease advanced relentlessly, she became bed-ridden, unable to speak or walk, and requiring 24 hour care, which was largely provided by her husband Stuart.

The gene mutation which causes early onset Alzheimer's causes an abnormal quantity of an Amyloid protein within the brain to destroy healthy brain tissue. During the documentary, we see its

effects graphically in the dark areas growing larger within Carol's brain. Her son John saw these too, and his emotional response was palpable. This was his Mother. This was what his brain might look like if he has inherited the gene mutation. It was a frightening glimpse into an even more frightening future. A blood test will determine whether or not John and Emily are at risk of developing the condition. Their heart breaking dilemma is the decision whether or not to have the test, [Both John and Emily have a fifty percent chance of having the mutated gene], and how their decision will affect their loved ones; John's husband, and Emily's husband and daughter. To have such discussions is difficult enough, but to have them in the glare of national TV must have been so very painful for them. At the time of the broadcast neither John nor Emily had made their decision about the test.

Carol's long battle with Alzheimer's ended when she died peacefully at home on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024, surrounded by her family. We continue to hold Stuart, Emily and John in our prayers, as they grieve for a much loved wife and mother, and we give thanks for her legacy of hope for all who suffer the devastation of early onset Alzheimer's disease.

**Heather Corlett**

## **PARADOX CELEBRATES 30 YEARS**

Paradox, the drama group at Oadby Baptist Church is celebrating being 30 years old this year and is holding a drama workshop on Saturday 8th June 10-11.30 am for anyone who wishes to try their hand at acting. There will also be an opportunity to learn a sketch to be performed at the evening service the following day. Places are free but must be booked. Phone 01162710811 or email [office@oadbybaptistchurch](mailto:office@oadbybaptistchurch).

Also on 8th June Paradox are staging a show with some of the sketches they have performed over past 30 years. Show starts at 7pm. Doors open at 6.30 pm Tickets £5. Purchase on line at [www.oadbybaptistchurch/paradox](http://www.oadbybaptistchurch/paradox) or via church office [office@oadbybaptist.church](mailto:office@oadbybaptist.church) . Phone number as above. Anyone attending the morning workshop can claim a free ticket!.

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To check the prices that we charge for hiring rooms in our church please either contact via email; [bookings@oadbymethodist.org.uk](mailto:bookings@oadbymethodist.org.uk), or come into the church where we have a leaflet stating the prices that we charge for various rooms including hourly rate.

We do have a Safeguarding Policy to protect children and vulnerable adults that we expect you to adhere to and uphold.

If you wish to advertise your business in our magazine our rates are £42 for a quarter page advert, £72 for a half page and £144 for a whole page. We have 6 issues a year and our distribution covers houses in Oadby, Wigston, Knighton, Great Glen and Houghton on the Hill.

**Please contact Anne Dodge; Telephone 0116 271 6638**

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**Autumn / Spring term dates:**

First half term: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024 inclusively

Second half term: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 inclusively

Half term closures: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Class times at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church:**

**lit buds** (3-7 years of age): 10.00am to 11.00am

**big buds** (8 - 12 years of age): 11.00am to 12.00pm

**teen buds** (13 - 18 years of age): 12.00pm to 1.00pm

**Contact Blossom Yoga**

For further information about Blossom Yoga, contact Jacinda on tel: 07739 507960 or  
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