

# Affinity



Autumn 2024

**OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH**

## **Oadby Trinity Methodist Church**

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

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Cover photograph courtesy of Michael Elliott.



# The Methodist Church

## A BIG DAY FOR LEICESTER METHODISTS

Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup> is a big day for Methodists in the Leicester area.

On this day, uniquely, many Methodist congregations in Leicester will gather in Bishop Street Methodist Church situated in Town Hall Square in Leicester to welcome four new ministers. Worship will begin at 10.45am.

These four new ministers include Rev Andrew Farrington who will become the Superintendent of the Leicester Trinity Circuit: having oversight of all 18 Methodist churches.

Rev Kim Alexander and Rev Christopher Andam will be joining us from South Africa and Ghana, respectively, while Rev Ivan Bennett's role as an Authorised Minister will be changing to include many more responsibilities.

The incoming Chair of the Northampton District, Rev Dr Sonia Hicks, will be preaching and welcoming each minister through a series of promises. The gathered congregation will be led in singing by the Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship Choir.

The service is open to all, whether Methodists or not; all are welcome.

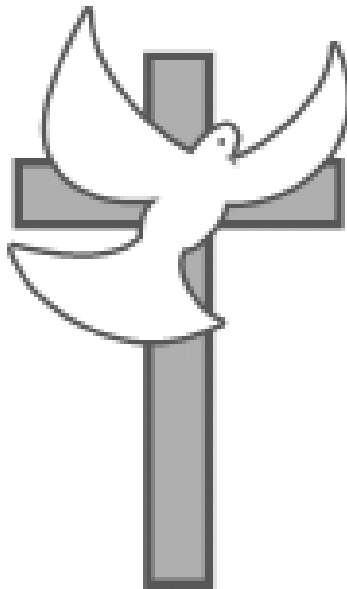
Further information may be obtained from the Rev Derek McLean, Tel: 0116 2712404.

**John Aldridge**

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## SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 1st

10.45 Circuit Welcome service at Bishop Street

6.00 James Blackhall [online circuit service]

Sunday 8th

8.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our All age Worship Team

6.00 Rev Derek McLean [online circuit service]

Sunday 15th –MHA Sunday

10.30 Emma Hurley– MHA Aigburth Chaplain

6.00 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis [online circuit service]

Sunday 22nd

10.30 Howard Smith

6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington [online circuit service]

Sunday 29th

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 @10.30– 11.00 am in Meeting room with various  
leaders

## OCTOBER SERVICES

Sunday 6th – Harvest Festival

8.30 Rev Derek McLean -Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our All age Worship Team

6.00 Rev Kim Alexander [online circuit service]

Sunday 13th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Baptism

6.00 Rev Kate Cook [online circuit service]

Sunday 20th

10.30 Oscar Fortune

6.00 Rev Christopher Andam [online circuit service]

Sunday 27th

10.30 Service led by our Worship Leaders

6.00 Rev Andrew Farringdon [online circuit service]

## **NOVEMBER SERVICES**

### **Sunday 3rd**

- 8.30 Rev Andrew Farrington - Holy Communion
- 10.30 Service led by our All age Worship Team
- 3.00 Rev Kate Cook –Memorial Service
- 6.00 Deacon Sharon Dilley [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 10th –Remembrance Sunday**

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Remembrance Service
- 3.00 Remembrance Service at St Peter’s Church [CTiO]
- 6.00 Rev Ivan Bennett [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 17th**

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion & Recommissioning of Pastoral Visitors.
- 6.00 Rev Kim Alexander [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 24th –Sunday before Advent**

- 10.30 John Aldridge
- 6.00 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis [online circuit service]



## **A Prayer following the recent unrest**

God of love,

We pray for your Spirit of peace to move in our communities,  
that those who are targets of hate might be safe  
and that people of good will might work together in love and re-  
spect.

We pray for your Spirit of healing,  
that those who grieve, might be comforted  
and those who are injured might be made well.

We pray for your Spirit of hope,  
that those who despair might see a way ahead  
and those who live in fear might find sanctuary and freedom.  
Soften the hearts of those motivated by hate  
and help us all to love our neighbours as those made in your im-  
age.

In Christ's name. Amen

[Source: Methodist Church website]





Heather Corlett: Editor

## Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn 2024 issue of Affinity., which covers the months of September, October and November .

In September we look forward to welcoming our three new ministers to the circuit in a special service, which Derek has reported on with great enthusiasm in anticipation of it having taken place!

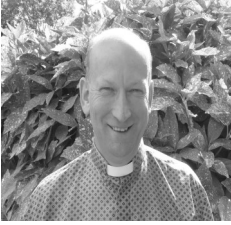
As I write this the terrible attacks in Southport, where three little girls were brutally killed, and many more were injured, are still very much on our minds, as are the hate-filled riots that have been taking place throughout our country; targeting individuals and places of worship. In this issue of Affinity is the prayer offered by the Methodist Church in the wake of this unrest and violence; seeking peace and calm in our communities and the softening of hearts filled with hate.

The deadline for the Winter edition of Affinity , which covers the months of December2024, and January and February 2025 is **Sunday November 10th 2024.** All contributions to Heather Corlett [Editor], Please use Email: [notices@oadbymethodist.org.uk](mailto:notices@oadbymethodist.org.uk) , and state that your contribution is for Affinity.

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,

We've heard it said that timing is everything.

I am writing this during the Olympics, and we've seen some spectacularly good – and

bad – timing. That means that I am writing before the Welcome Service for our new ministers on 1<sup>st</sup> September, but most of you will not read this edition of Affinity until after that event has happened.

I am confident that I will be able to write that the singing was wonderful; it was a joy to see Bishop Street packed with friends from all over the circuit; Revd Dr Sonia Hicks – our new District Chair – preached with joy and enthusiasm; the choir from the Ghanaian Fellowship lifted our spirits with their singing; it was great to recognise Ivan's new wider circuit responsibilities; and we celebrated with Andrew, Christopher and Kim as they and their families were welcomed to this joyous vibrant city.

If you do read this before the service: do come along and make it happen.

If you read it after the service: come and hear our joy, and how we were inspired.

I write with confidence: the last time we had a combined circuit morning service at Bishop St, some approached the idea with caution, but everyone left uplifted. At the beginning of August, some of us travelled to Northampton to welcome Revd Sonia, and to experience her infectious enthusiasm.

Perhaps the timing is right after all.

The very nature of our Christian discipleship is to approach worship with expectation and joy, to be confident that we gather to meet with Jesus. This is Christian Hope. It is these grand occasions which build our spirits to go with similar expectation even when know that there will only be “two or three” gathered in Jesus’ name.

God bless you all.

**Rev Derek**

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### **Autumn Beauty**

The lime tree wears her Autumn gown, no longer wearing green.  
She now wears gold and shades of red, her Autumn beauty seen.  
But as the leaves fall sadly down, her skeleton will show,  
And she must rest until the Spring tells her new leaves to grow.  
Her beauty will be seen again as tender leaves unfold,  
And she again will wear the green, her Spring dress to behold.

**Margaret Cartwright**

## TRINITY'S MEMORIAL BOOK.

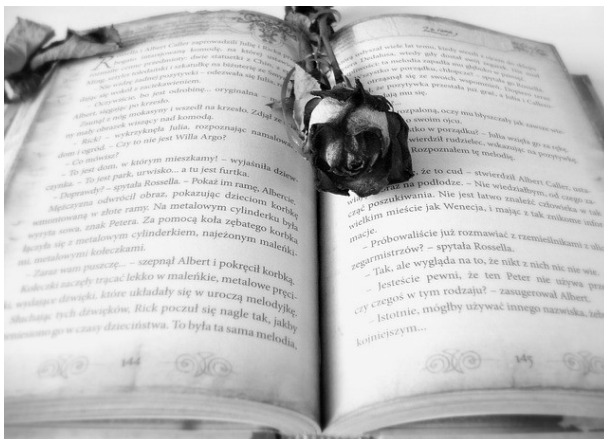
This is a gentle reminder that Trinity has a Memorial book, in which are recorded the names of those Trinity members and adherents who have sadly died.

The book records their details, together with any gifts, or donations, or any special service they have given to the Church. It is on display on “special” Sundays in the Church foyer.

If you wish to have an entry on behalf of a loved one, please email me the details ([john.p.aldridge@btinternet.com](mailto:john.p.aldridge@btinternet.com)), or if this doesn't work for you a handwritten note will suffice.

The format for each entry is: Full name, date of birth and death followed by any comment, quote (Biblical or otherwise) you may wish to include. I'm ready to advise if that would be helpful.

### John Aldridge



## Talk in Houghton Chapel 18<sup>th</sup> September

The first Talk in the Chapel of 2023-25 will be held on 18 September and will be a talk by Nick Bailey a Broadcaster whose voice that launched Classic FM when the station opened on the 7th September 1992. The following year he was awarded a Sony Gold award for the best Breakfast Show, and in 1996 his Classic Romance show was voted Programme of the Year. During 25 years with the station, Nick became the only person to have presented every programme. Nick Bailey left Classic FM on its 25th anniversary in 2017 and continues to pursue an active broadcasting career. Over a long career he has had an astonishingly varied life pursuing his love of radio and travel. His life has encompassed broadcasting in a range of radio jobs around the world, and he has also done walks for charity, having trekked the Inca trail twice and walked the Great Wall of China. The talk begins at 7.30 and admission is £5. Our friends from Oadby Trinity will be most welcome!

Dates for your diary for future events will be as follows:

October 23<sup>rd</sup> Yvonne Bloor, Guitar Recital

November 20<sup>th</sup> Dr Miriam Stevenson, Art historian

December 18<sup>th</sup> Neil Crutchley, Local Historian, recalls Mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century in Leicester

**Mary Moore**

**Leicester Theological Society. All meetings 7.30pm at the Frassati Centre.**

October 11<sup>th</sup>: Public Theology, Public Faith, Public Building: Exploring the public nature of Cathedral, Revd Karen Rooms

November 8<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Accompaniment of LGBT+ Catholics (Newman Ecumenical Lecture), George White

December 13<sup>th</sup> Religion and Art, Revd Gwyn Davies

January 10<sup>th</sup> Cultivating wild spaces: a storying pilgrimage around the world on the theme of Theodicy, Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly

February 14<sup>th</sup> Amos - A Hebrew Poet for the Modern World, Dr Angela Jagger

March 14<sup>th</sup> The Reliability of the New Testament (Montgomery Trust Lecture) Revd Dr Ian Paul



## Leaving Service for Rev Paula Hunt

Members of the circuit churches gathered at Birstall Methodist Church on 21<sup>st</sup> July to worship God together and to say our farewell to Revd Paula Hunt as our Superintendent Minister. We also gave thanks for the ministry of Revd Helen White and Revd Kate Cook.

Sadly, Paula and Helen couldn't join us in the building, but the congregation gathered outside Paula and Helen (and Patch's) manse as we sang, "To God be the glory."





Launde Abbey

June 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

Dear friends in the Northampton District,

I wanted to thank you for all the encouragement, love and support that you have given to me while I have been your Chair of District for the last 7 years. It has been an immense privilege and great joy and I am very glad I was able to serve you in this way. I will miss you.

My Farewell Service was simply perfect and I am so grateful to all those who worked hard to make it so. My family are still smiling over the song sung by the Superintendents Choir.

Thank you for the many, many gifts I was given. I will carry you with me every day I am President of the Conference as I carry the laptop bag you gifted me at my last Synod. The Jackie Morris Bluebell print is simply beautiful and it is now hanging over my desk in my study at home. I see it every day and that keeps you all in my thoughts and prayers.

The vouchers were completely unexpected – it's not often I am left speechless but on this occasion I was.

Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity. I do assure you that,

“ I won't forget my old District, when I sit in Wesley's Chair” .  
Please keep me in your prayers.

Every blessing, as ever

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

## **A Song of Tribute to Revd Canon Helen D. Cameron**

Tune: WHAT A FRIEND

Words by Andrew T. Murphy, April 2024

What a Chair we have in Helen;  
what a joy beyond compare!  
Seven years she's led with wisdom;  
always gracious, always there.  
Are you struggling for an answer?  
Are you pulling out your hair?  
Has your Circuit turned to chaos?  
Take it to the District Chair.

See her glowing heart for mission;  
Yes, we have this love to share!  
And her fervent thirst for justice,  
standing true and firm and fair.  
Here's a Chair that can't be sat on –  
try to move her if you dare!  
Think you know *C.P.D.* better?  
No, you haven't got a prayer.

Reverend, Canon, Moderator –  
you've got titles everywhere! –  
you stepped up to help our nation  
mourn a queen and crown her heir.  
Yet, to us you're simply Helen,  
so we thank you for your care.  
Please remember your old District  
when you sit on Wesley's Chair.

## TRINITY IS A BUSY PLACE!

We have such a busy building at Trinity! Seven days a week our premises are buzzing: The Café, the immaculately maintained building and a pro-active Bookings Manager, ensure that we are being precisely what we claim to be: A Church for All at the Heart of the community.

Vincent Price is the co-ordinator of room bookings at Trinity and what a remarkable job he does for us. He has pointed out that our bookings generally fall into three categories:

Firstly **Parties**: Trinity is very popular for children's parties, though recently one celebration was for someone's 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday party. We have also hosted pre and post-wedding events recently. These, and many others, are significant celebrations in the lives of those who come to us. The National Trust also use us for parties and entertainment from time to time.

Secondly: What Vincent describes as: **Creatives**. A Rock Choir, Oadby Community Choir and Close Harmony Choir, are regular users plus, on occasions, the Leicester Philharmonic Choir. Leicester Music have used us for a string tuition group, as have the Bardi Orchestra (in which David Calow is closely and effectively involved). Dance classes - classical and Indian – are regular users, together with the Cosmic Theatre School, working with children of varying ages.

Thirdly Vincent identifies **Supportive** activities: the well-used Food bank is an essential one, linked to Helping Hands the advice body. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council regularly use our premises as an appointment hub, having recently renewed their contract.

A Bowel Cancer Support Group comes to us occasionally, as do Care Skills UK, a Healthcare Safety Training Provider and – in a most encouraging development – Age UK Leicestershire Mental Health Services will be using us from September to provide a Mental Health

Forum. This is an area where there is so much current need and we are delighted to make a contribution to that work, as a Church, by hosting this service.

Our much valued Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are of course regular and most welcome users.

All these various activities, with more besides, ultimately done to the glory of God, bring the community into our Church buildings and are a massive piece of outreach: Who but God alone, knows what influence these contacts may have.

Another important benefit is that these bookings create a useful revenue flow for our Church.

All this only happens because of the patient, detailed, caring work which Vincent consistently carries out.

The last word is with Lisa who is head of Mental Services for the Leicestershire and Rutland Mental Health Authority who wrote: "You really have created a wonderfully welcoming and peaceful place for the community and you should be proud of that as it isn't easily achieved."

**John Aldridge.**

(I wrote this article at the request of the Church Council, but the credit for gathering the content is entirely Vincent's)

## **Crib Festival – Christmas 2024**

There will be a crib festival in the worship area between Sunday 15th and Friday 20th December. Exact dates will be confirmed when we have co-ordinated this with other bookings, and confirmed who is available to staff it.

If you've not experienced this before, it is simply a display of a variety of Christmas cribs in various styles. They will be displayed around the church and will be accompanied by appropriate text to stimulate thoughts, prayers and reflection.

We are appealing for suitable cribs to display. Please let Rev Derek know of any suitable contributions. However, please note that it is inadvisable to offer anything especially valuable: we intend the event to be stewarded whenever it is open, but we cannot rule out loss or breakages

We are also looking for volunteers to act as Stewards, to unlock and to welcome people. We anticipate coordinating that with the Welcome Desk. If you can offer a few hours, please let Stella Orbell know.

Help setting up and help with publicity would also be much appreciated.

**Rev Derek**



## **WELCOME ON WEDNESDAY**

### **OPEN TO EVERYONE!**

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Worship area, 2.00 –3.30 pm £2 per meeting.

### **AUTUMN PROGRAMME**

September 11th: “My life as a Tiller Girl” - Margaret Hudson

October 9th: “How to recognise scams”- Local Police

November 13th: “We love Cheese” - Ian Rogerson

***Here is a taster for the Winter programme....***

December 11th: “Christmas Greetings” - music from David Calow and friends.

***And for an insight into the group called WOW, please read on....***

Our attractive programmes are now available for everyone to pick up and browse through the itinerary of meetings from September 2024- June 2025.

WOW meetings are held at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church. Meetings are open to everyone .We as a committee welcome our new leader, Carole Reading. Together we have compiled an interesting programme. [see above]. Our meetings are interesting and varied, and we offer the opportunity to enjoy a social and friendly group.

**Margaret Cartwright [WOW Committee member]**

**MHA Aigburth Residential Care Home**

**21 Manor Road, Oadby LE2 2LL**

**Aigburth's Annual AUCTION**

**Auctioneer: Michael Mays, Arts & Antiques Surveyor**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

**3 - 4.30pm**

***Viewing of lots: Friday 4 October 10am - 4pm***

***Ornaments, glassware, mirrors, preserves,  
pictures, cakes, small items of furniture, china.....***

**FREE Admission**

**Refreshments**

**All proceeds in aid of sturdy outdoor furniture for our Aigburth  
garden to benefit our residents and visitors**

**Any queries or for e-mailed copies of the draft catalogue to**

**[marilynruith1946@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynruith1946@hotmail.com) 😊**

# **MHA AIGBURTH RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME**

**21 Manor Road, Oadby LE2 2LL**

**Are having a**

**COFFEE MORNING AND ART IN THE GARDEN EXHIBITION**

**On Saturday 21st September, 10.30 am– 12.00 noon**

**Watercolours painted in MHA Aigburth gardens for sale!**

**Cake stall, paperback book stall, Tombola, the £1 stall.**

**Free admission. Garden tours, weather permitting**

**In aid of Aigburth Amenity and Gardening Funds**





## Football Quiz

The All-Age Service in July was based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-31: the church is one body with many parts. Timed to coincide with the Euro 24 football tournament, the service included a quiz. The questions all related to teams which have played in the (men's) Premier League.

1. The founders of Aston Villa were all members of which organisation?
2. Bolton Wanderers were originally the football team of Christ Church (the Anglican parish church). What was the building first used for?
3. Both Everton and Liverpool football clubs trace their origin to a church called St Domingos. What was the origin of St Domingos in 1868?
4. An easy one if you know your football grounds... which church was Southampton originally associated with?
5. Of all the men's Premier League football clubs originally founded with a connection to a church, what is unique about Manchester City?
6. What will Michael Elliott, particularly like about the origin story of QPR?
7. How many (men's) clubs who have played in the Premier League can trace their origins to their church founders?
- ...8. and for Tricia Lockley's benefit: what was the original name of Wolverhampton Wanderers?

(Answered derived from the book 'Thank God for Football' by Peter Lupson.)

There was also a tie-break Question: What is the nickname of non-league Chesham United, and why?

[Answers can be found on p. 32 of this issue of Affinity]

## **Have you worked in the Textile Trade?**

Are you retired now and looking a better lifestyle, but concerned about rising costs of living?

Perhaps you are ready to enjoy the benefits of community living, but you are not sure who to contact?

Consider the Framework Knitters cottages in Oadby. Purpose built and maintained for like-minded people.



Small and friendly, village style set around an attractive green, with a Community Hall; the 26 cottages promote independent living both for couples and single people. Your comfort is supported by a close group community with planned activities, social and good neighbourliness.

Applicants should have been working in-or associated with the Knitting, Hosiery and Allied Trade.

If you are interested please contact the Home Administrator on 0116 2712171, or email: [homesadmin@frameworkknitters.co.uk](mailto:homesadmin@frameworkknitters.co.uk)

[www.frameworkknitters.co.uk](http://www.frameworkknitters.co.uk)

## **Summer Prayer Update from the University Chaplaincy**

“The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.”

Psalm 126 v3

At a recent Chaplains’ meeting we looked back on the academic year and found much to celebrate – the Chaplaincy Lecture, work with international students, supporting University staff, an online Bereavement Course, working ecumenically and partnering with other teams and organisations. Unity in Diversity as the Kingdom of God grows!

We ask your ongoing prayers for:

- Greater fruitfulness from the Chaplaincy Lecture.
- Our 1:1 conversations with students to bear fruit in future years and generations.
- Students staying in Leicester or arriving here over the summer needing support.
- Staff wellbeing, particularly those engaging with the ‘Bereavement Journey.’
- God’s wisdom as we seek to recruit more chaplains from across the diversity of churches in Leicester and to work appropriately with representatives of other faith groups the University is enlisting as Faith Advisors, while maintaining our status as a Christian organisation.
- Partnerships with key University staff, Friends International, Navigators, the Christian Union and local churches.
- Working well together as we plan for Welcome in the Autumn.

**Rev Liam Dacre -Davis - Methodist Chaplain to the University of Leicester**

## **Memorial Service – 3pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024**

In recent years, we have invited those who have been bereaved to a Memorial Service on the Sunday afternoon closest to All Souls Day.

The service will once again be held this year on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Where the funeral has taken place within the last year, and if it has been held either here at Trinity or taken by Revd Derek, personal letters of invitation will be sent.

However, this service has proved helpful for many people who have been bereaved longer ago than that – in some instances, it has proved a place where we've been able to grieve for those who have died many years ago.

It also provides an opportunity to reflect where a loved one's funeral took place many miles away, or at a time or place which meant we couldn't attend.

Please come along if you need a space to grieve, invite others who you know who might appreciate this opportunity, or simply come along and support others in a time of need.

There will be the opportunity to light candles, and there will be refreshments afterwards, so it may be helpful to let the church stewards know you plan to attend, but booking is not essential, please just turn up and bring whatever friends and support that you need.

This year the service will be conducted by Revd Kate Cook.

## ZEPH'S UPDATE

Alongside this article is a photograph of the garden at Zeph's taken by Dave Smith. Throughout the summer it has been a fantastic array of colour which I know Zeph's customers have all enjoyed. As we reported last time, the garden is now being looked after by Mel Labbett who has done an amazing job. Our thanks to Mel for all her hard work.

We are still on course for Michael Elliott to take over as the new Company Secretary for Zeph's from 1 September. Graham Austen will then relinquish his role as our temporary Company Secretary. Thank you, Graham, for all you have done for Zeph's in this capacity.

As some of you will know, the automatically opening doors at the entrance to Zeph's have recently broken down a couple of times. As they are as old as Zeph's, we have been advised that they need to be replaced. This is a very expensive thing to do but I am pleased to say that we are receiving some financial help from the Oadby Village Hall Fund and the Methodist Church Circuit Fund to help us to do this. Our sincere thanks to both organisations for their support. Work to replace the doors should be starting soon.

Other recent changes have seen the introduction of a stand alone drinks cabinet which not only provides for a much better display of drinks but also for more open and more inviting counter space. Alongside the drinks are the ice creams which are proving to be very popular.

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

23 August – Greek Night (£15.95)

6 September – Fish Supper (£9.75 with £8.75 for a takeaway)

13 September – Brazilian Night (£15.95)

27 September – Movie Night (£15.95)

4 October – Fish Supper (£9.75 with £8.75 for a takeaway)

11 October – Spanish Night (£15.95)

18 October – European Night (£15.95)

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

**Frazer Robson**

**Chair of Board of Directors**





[I reckon Mel's hard work merits more than just one photograph in the magazine. - Ed]

## Answers to the Football Quiz

1. The (Wesleyan) Methodist Church. Specifically, Villa Cross Wesleyan Chapel in Handsworth
2. A Methodist Chapel
3. It was formed from the merger of three churches in the Methodist New Connexion, merging due to dwindling congregations
4. St Mary's
5. It was founded by a woman (Anna Connell, the rector's daughter)
6. It has connections with the Boys Brigade
7. 12: Aston Villa, Barnsley, Birmingham, Bolton, Everton, Liverpool, Fulham, Manchester City, QPR, Southampton, Swindon, and Spurs.
8. St Luke's

Chesham United are known as the Generals: they were originally the team related to the General Baptists, (as opposed to the Strict or Strict and Particular Baptists).





## **Football is the game.**

The Minister swapped his cassock for an England football strip! He did so to lead a topical All-age service on the theme of the European Football Championships currently taking place in Germany.

The worship area at Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby, featured a goal, several footballs and strings of flags representing each of the National teams who originally qualified for the tournament.

The initial hymn of praise was, with bespoke words, sung to the theme tune of the BBC's popular "Match of the Day" programme.

The theme of teamwork soon became evident and two gifted Worship Leaders, Diane Price and Lesley Green, who with the Minister Rev Derek McLean, had devised the service, each chose teams, naming those who held particular appointments in the Church and the way they worked together as a team. They likened this to Jesus choosing his team of Disciples.

Cleverly, everyone in the congregation of 60 plus had a mention in one way or the other!

The Bible focus was on Corinthians 12 ("The body is made up of many parts"), and elsewhere within the Worship Centre, young people made "bodies" to demonstrate the worship theme.

The Minister, in his address spoke of the many football clubs in the UK which had been established by Churches, fulfilling an urgent social need at the time. An impressive example of the Church at work in the community.

The service concluded with further bespoke words to the "Match of the Day" tune.

**John Aldridge.**

## **From Fish & Chip jumpers to sub-Saharan Africa via walking sticks, crutches, surgical and medical supplies, bedding and duvets**

It all started with a request from Mary Gill at a MWIB (Methodist Women in Britain) meeting for knitted Fish & Chip jumpers which would be collected and sent out to a maternity hospital in Africa. (They were so named because often mothers came to the hospital to give birth, but had no baby clothes and so the new born infants were wrapped in newspaper, a la fish and chips!) Being an enthusiastic knitter I set to work and also enlisted help from the Women's Institute I attend at Kibworth. They are noted for their community craft work – see the current display in the garden at Kibworth library and also look out for the knitted poppies in Kibworth and Smeeton parish churches in time for Remembrance Sunday. I managed to amass two black bin bags of jumpers and rather than burden Mary with them, I asked where I should take them and she told me: InterCare at Syston.

The depot at Syston were delighted to receive jumpers and invited me to look around their depot where they were preparing the next container which would be sent to Malawi. Their main work is to send surplus medical and surgical aid to help units in Sierra Leone, Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania; the jumpers would be used as soft packaging around items. I was so impressed that I started to ask around whether friends and relatives had any surplus equipment which was available to donate, and the next time I went to Syston I took bags containing walking sticks, crutches, sealed sterile medical and surgical equipment, clean bedding and polyester duvets, in addition to knitted baby items.

So, the challenge is – do you have any such items which are taking up valuable space at home and you would like to donate? If so, I would be happy to either pick them up if you have bulky items (within a

sensible travelling distance from the centre of Oadby), or leave them for my attention at the hospitality desk in the church foyer. InterCare's wish list also includes any mobility aids which can be folded flat, eg walkers and wheelchairs. If you would like to knit Fish & Chip jumpers (extremely simple pattern, one piece garment in DK) please contact me for a pattern.

**Gillian Austen**

**07977415388/gausten1@outlook.com**



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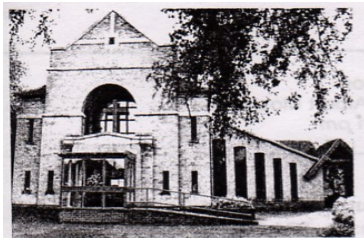
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