

# Affinity



SPRING 2025

**OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH**

## **Oadby Trinity Methodist Church**

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### **Office holders**

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Cover photograph "Spring rainbow" courtesy of David Calow.

## THE POWER OF LOVE

The love of power is so very much in evidence in our world today, giving rise to conflict , aggression and discrimination in so many nations. We pray that the love of power will be overcome by the power of love—God’s love; for it is only then that this fractured, hurting world of ours will begin to know real peace; the peace of God which passes all understanding.

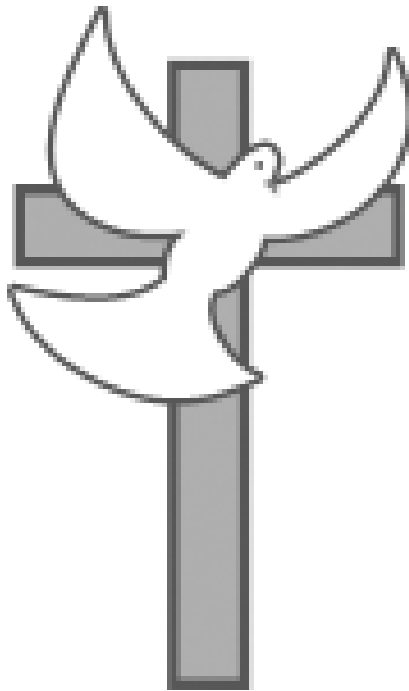


Submitted by Heather Corlett

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## MARCH SERVICES

### Sunday 2nd

- 8.30 Rev Derek McLean-Holy Communion
- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean - all age Worship
- 6.00 Rev Christopher Andam [online circuit service]

### Sunday 9th –Lent 1

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean-Holy Communion
- 6.00 Rev Derek McLean [online Circuit service]

### Sunday 16th –Lent 2

- 10.30 Howard Smith
- 6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington [online circuit service]

### Sunday 23rd –Lent 3

- 10.30 Richard Cawthorn
- 6.00 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis [online circuit service]

### Sunday 30th –Lent 4/Mothering Sunday

- 10.30 Deacon Sharon Dilley
- 6.00 Deacon Sharon Dilley [online circuit service]

Ash Wednesday service –Wednesday 5th March at 7.00 pm at Trinity

Midweek Worship -1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month @ 11.30am

Saturday prayers weekly in Meeting Room, 10.30-11.00 am

## APRIL SERVICES

### **Sunday 6th –Lent 5**

8.30 Rev Andrew Farrington -Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our all age Worship team

6.00 Rev Kim Alexander [online Circuit service]

### **Sunday 13th –Palm Sunday**

10.30 Michael Mays

**3.00 pm** Donkey procession from St Peter's Church

6.00 Rev Ivan Bennett [on line circuit service]

### **Sunday 20th -Easter Sunday**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean-Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Derek McLean [on line Circuit service-Love Feast]

### **Sunday 27th -Easter 2**

10.30 Service led by our Worship leaders

6.00 Dr Miriam Stevenson [on line circuit service]

### **Holy Week**

Monday & Tuesday @ 6.30pm Services of reflection at Trinity  
[see page 13 for details]

Maundy Thursday@ 7,30 pm at St Peter's [CTO service]

Good Friday@ 10am at Trinity. Rev Derek McLean & Worship  
Team [CTO service]

## MAY SERVICES

Sunday 4th

8.30 Rev Derek McLean - Holy Communion

10.30 Rev Derek McLean -all-age Worship

6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington [online circuit service]

Sunday 11th

10.30 Rev Derek McLean - Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Derek McLean [online circuit service]

Sunday 18th

10.30 Jo Kay

6.00 Rev Christopher Andam [online circuit service]

Sunday 25th

10.30 Dr Miriam Stevenson

6.00 Rev Kim Alexander [online circuit service]

### **Special Circuit service –29th May**

On Thursday 29th May @ 7.30 pm, there will be a circuit service at Christchurch to mark Ascension Day. The service will include the Holy Communion and the Blessing of the Easter offering, as well as the launch of Thy Kingdom Come.



## **A TRIBUTE TO TRINITY**

Sixty years ago in January 1965, we moved to Oadby from our first home in Alkington, North Manchester. We came with our two young children; Ruth aged 3 years, and David aged 1 year. This was our first time in Leicester [for Don's new job] and, in line with local estimates, we imagined we might be here for 2-3 years! We were fortunate enough to have as immediate neighbours in Bourton Crescent, Pauline and Gerald Gardiner at no. 3 and Anne and Arthur West at no. 7. Having been life-long Methodists, we were also very pleased to discover Trinity Methodist Church here in Oadby. We were very soon welcomed into this lively and friendly church. a few days we had a visit from the Minister, Rev Chris Hughes-Smith. We were still in the process of unpacking dozens of boxes; but he came in and sat down, perfectly relaxed, so we relaxed too. We felt we truly belonged to the church.

As time went by we were blessed by having another baby, Fiona, who was baptised at Trinity on January 21st 1968. Our children grew up with the Junior Church, choir, Brownies and Guides, Cubs and Scouts, and our grandchildren have been able to join in some of these activities. Trinity holds such a special place in our hearts and minds. We have known and loved so many wonderful people here. We feel privileged to have had such a succession of ministers to share their Christian faith, knowledge and understanding with us all. We have taken part in many of the huge events through which God has guided Trinity over the years. We are no longer able to join in physically in so much of this valuable work, but we join in with everything by prayer. God bless Trinity in every way.

**Marion and Don Candlin**



Heather Corlett: Editor

## Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2025 issue of Affinity., which covers the months of March, April and May

We have had a long cold winter but the evenings are getting lighter, and there are bulbs beginning to show themselves. Spring is not far off, and New life is promised.

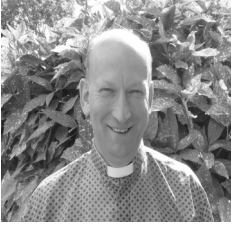
We look forward to celebrating Easter in April and then Pentecost in May; two festivals which are central to our faith and which bring us the promise of Resurrection life and the Power of Jesus Holy Spirit which enables us to continue his work here on earth.

The deadline for the Summer 2025 edition of Affinity , which covers the months of June, July and August, is **Sunday May 11th**. All contributions to Heather Corlett [Editor], Please use the same email as for the weekly notices 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]**

**Email: [notices@oadbymethodist.org.uk](mailto:notices@oadbymethodist.org.uk)**



Rev Derek McLean

## Message from the Manse

I write this having just ‘attended’ an online service from a Methodist Church in the United States. Those who attended my WOW talk “The Mighty Mississippi” will know which church.

The minister introduced the prayers by saying that “many people are struggling with Hope right now”. She spoke of the recurrent message throughout Scripture of the way in which rulers and kingdoms of this world come and go, yet through it all, God is on the throne.

We turn to God, we offer our prayers, and we declare that we have known God’s sustaining love, and in that knowledge, we can trust that God is with us.

I was grateful for her prayers and for her message of assurance.

In days, weeks, and months ahead, it seems likely that we will have new opportunities to speak of God’s love for us. To speak of the God who is willing to give up the power and glory of the heavenly realm, and to be present with us in weakness.

To read again the Beatitudes in Matthew’s Gospel, or the Nazareth Manifesto in Luke, or the way in which that care for the stranger, the isolated, or the persecuted, is itself built on the foundations of the Jewish Scriptures. To pray for those in need and to humbly walk with them.

If you are in a season of sadness, know that God's loving embrace holds you tight. If you are in a season of joy, know that God is with you. God bless you

**Rev Derek**

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### **Churches Together in Oadby Lent Course**

In 2025 we will once again have a Churches Together Lent Course.

This year, we are going to be using the resource, "Sunshine and Showers: The Bible's beautiful strangeness". This material is produced by the Methodist Church.

It aims to give us a fresh appreciation of the Bible, and greater confidence and reassurance in how we learn from it. As we journey together, we will learn of the variety of ways in which we each read the Bible.

Six sessions will run in Zeph's café at 7:30pm on the Wednesday evenings from 12<sup>th</sup> March to 16<sup>th</sup> April.

There will be a daytime session in the Barnabas centre, St Paul's Church at 2pm on the same six Wednesdays

## Holy Week services

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> CTO Donkey Parade

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Traditional 'Stations of the Cross' in church

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm 'Stations of the Cross' in images from Jerusalem today

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30am Midweek Service

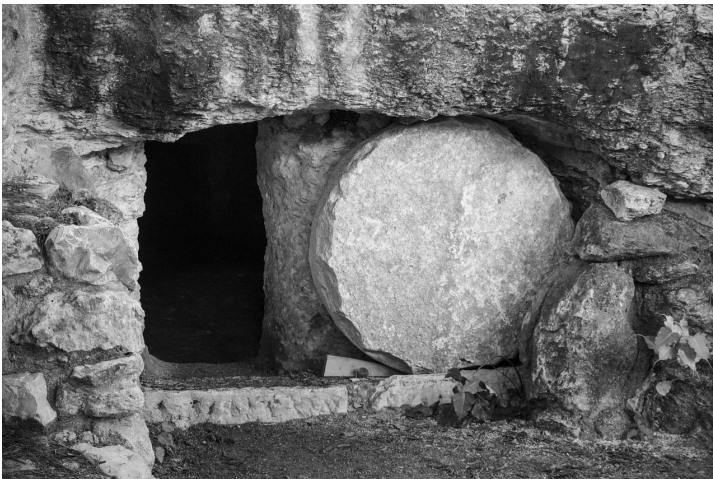
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm Lent Bible Study Course Final session in Zeph's

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Communion at St Peter's Church

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 10am CTO Good Friday Service in Trinity Methodist

(TBC) Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 8pm Easter Fire at Great Glen MC

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Easter Communion Celebration



## **Holy Week Thoughts—Were you there?**

### **Palm Sunday**

Did you stand in the crowd and see Jesus ride by?

Did your heart beat with joy as he came?

Had you waited and hoped that you'd see his kind face.

See his smile as you called out his name?

Did your arms wave the palms; did your voice shout out praise.

Alleluia to welcome the King?

Did you stand in the crowd and see Jesus ride by,

Add your voice to the praises they sing?

### **Good Friday**

Did you stand at the Cross on that sad Friday morn?

Did your voice sound angry and loud?

Did you shout "Crucify" and choose Jesus to die?

Did you stand at the Cross with the crowd?

The crucified Jesus hangs there on the Cross, a sacrifice for all to view.

Did you stand at the Cross and not realise that Jesus had died for you?

### **Margaret Cartwright**

## **Welcome to Trinity**

We recently received this message from somebody who had just started worshipping with us at Trinity:

“I am genuinely happy to have met you and the wonderful members of your welcoming church. From the moment I entered, I felt an immediate connection to the church and its community. Thank you for creating such a warm and friendly atmosphere.”

We are grateful for such a positive response.

We also acknowledge that we don't always get it right. If you've had a great experience of being welcomed here, we'd like to hear about it. However, if you haven't, we are even more keen to hear your views, so we can do better.

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### **Bring & Share lunch and Church Picnic**

Two dates for your diary: May 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July.

We had a good turnout for the Bring & Share lunch after church on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. A highlight was the number of people who stayed and enjoyed games after lunch.

We will do this once again on 4<sup>th</sup> May. It will be a busy day with an 8:30 Communion, 10:30 All Age Worship, and our General Church Meeting in Zeph's after the service, but that seemed to be a particularly good reason to stay and share lunch together.

In addition, our annual picnic in the manse garden will follow the All-Age service on 6<sup>th</sup> July. (We will meet in the Hall if wet.)

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.

## ZEPH'S UPDATE

I'm pleased to be able to report that our new financial assistant, Rachel Fairman, started in January and has settled in well. She has a wealth of experience in carrying out financial management tasks and is a great addition to the Zeph's team. So, a very warm welcome to Rachel. We are though still looking for a new Zeph's Director so if anyone is interested then please let me know.

Zeph's continues to be busy which is excellent given the challenging financial times we are living in. As always, my thanks to Michael Whitmore, the staff and volunteers for the great work which they all do.

Can I also remind you that on 21 March, there will be another quiz run by Dave Smith to raise funds for this year's Church Charity – The Leprosy Mission. As before, this will be a meal at Zeph's at 6.00 pm followed by the quiz at 7.30 pm. Please book at Zeph's. For those just wanting to come for the quiz, tickets are available from Lesley Green, David Smith and me. The cost of the meal and quiz is £14.50. The cost for just the quiz is £4.

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

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

14 March – Great British Night (£15.95)

21 March – Meal and Quiz (£14.50)

28 March – American Diner Night (£15.95)

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

11 April – Italian Evening (£15.95)



25 April – Malta Night (£15.95)

With any of the events, please book early to avoid disappointment.

**Frazer Robson**

**Chair of Board of Directors**



## **Oadby Church Council Report for 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

The Winter meeting of the Trustees was attended by 16 members and we learnt that the church membership now stands at 86 people.

Our meetings always begin by the sharing of Good News and on this occasion we were happy to hear about the children decorating the Christmas tree and the forthcoming Crib Festival. Especially good news was that donations had been pouring in for the Food Bank and this bodes well for a more enjoyable festive season for our customers. Vincent was also thanked for his exceptional work in securing a good number of new bookings for our rooms.

The wide use of our premises also figured in the report which Howard Smith has compiled regarding the activities which take place on our premises week by week. The huge range of community involvement was spelled out for us in the report together with information regarding every aspect of our Worship and Fellowship in this place. This report was destined for the scrutiny of the Charity Commissioners and they must surely be impressed although of course there is always more to do.

David Frost was thanked for all his hard work on the accounts for 2023/24 which were accepted, and especially for his tireless efforts in finding the best possible prices for our gas and electrical costs.

Rev Kim Alexander closed the meeting with prayer. We shall meet again on March 10<sup>th</sup> when all are welcome but only Trustees may vote.

**Stella Orbell, Church Council Secretary**

## The Story of Nard

*“Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon, a man who had suffered from a dreaded skin disease. While Jesus was eating, a woman came in with an alabaster jar full of a very expensive perfume made of pure nard (Mark 14: 3-9)*

Although we are now in Year C, I started this study in Year B, the year of Mark’s Gospel; the account in Luke has a very different slant.

All four Gospels tell a similar story but differ in detail. The host of the house is ‘Simon the leper in two accounts and ‘Lazarus’ in John’ telling. A Lazar House used to care for people suffering from leprosy, so there seems to be some common ground here.

In Luke’s account, the host is Simon the Pharisee.

The woman is unnamed in three Gospels, but John’s account names her as Mary, sister of Matha. The perfume is poured on Jesus’ head in Matthew and Mark, but on his feet in Luke and John.

The contents of the jar, described as ‘alabaster’ in Matthew, Mark and Luke, is “pure nard” while Matthew has it as “a fragrant oil” and Luke says it was “Myrrh.” Three gospels – Matthew, Mark, John - refer to its financial value.

Nard also appears in the Song of Solomon [1:12, 4: 13-14] with the king likening the fragrance of his beloved to an enclosed garden with ‘henna and nard, nard and saffron.’

So, what is ‘Nard’? Where does it come from, and how does it become an oil or an ointment?

Nard is derived from a plant. Older references [1,2,3] name it as *Nardostachys Jatamansi*, a plant of the Honeysuckle family. More recent work describes it as belonging to the Valerian family [7]

The plant most likely to be the source of the perfume referred to as nard in the Bible is now named *Valeriana jatamansi* (VJ) also known as Indian Valerian. It grows at high altitudes – 10,000-17,000ft - in moist places on steep slopes in Nepal, , Bhutan and other parts of

the Himalayas. Both species of Jatamansi produce therapeutically important essential oils from their underground tissues. The essential oils from *Nardostachys jatasmansi* (NJ) have various curative properties whereas V.J oils are aromatic, having a sweet odour with sedative effects. It was commonly used to anoint the body at burial.

The uses of NJ are numerous, ranging from antidepressant via antibiotic and antifungal, anticancer to lowering blood sugar. Both species are widely used in traditional medicine. As a result, they are now endangered through over-harvesting. Because the roots or rhizomes contain the active principles, the only way to get to them is by digging up the entire plant.

The rhizomes are crushed and distilled, yielding an intensely aromatic viscous oil.

The journey from the Himalayas to the Middle East is not described in the Bible, but the '*Silk Road*' exhibition at the British Museum, offers some insight to the two-way trade in materials, cultures and faiths between China and the west.

The use of alabaster jars may be explained by the scarcity of the contents. Alabaster was widely available in the ancient world, and it was easily carved to make containers. An alabaster jar was found in the tomb of Tutankhamun (1,323 BC).

#### Acknowledgements and references

I am indebted to the staff of the library of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for locating references for material including plants of the Bible

[1]Duke's *Handbook of Medicinal Plants of the Bible*

[2]Moldenke, H & A –*Plants of the Bible*

[3]Hanbury, D & Flückiger, F –*Pharmacographia*

[4]Zohary, M– *Plants of the Bible*

[5]Trease and Evans,-Wallis –*Textbooks of Pharmacognosy*

[6]Dafni and Böck, *Journal of Ethnobiology* 2019, 15:57

[7]Kaur, et. Al. *Nardostachys jatamansi*: an invaluable and constantly dwindling resource of the Himalayas; *South African J of Botan* 2020.

[8]Other Wikipedia and internet sources.

**Ian Bell**



Nardostachys Jatamansi flowers.

## **Methodist Women in Britain –Easter offering 2025**

As our thinking begins to turn from winter to the spring and the Easter season, I am writing to you about this year's Easter Offering.

The tradition of an annual collection for world missions goes back to at least the 1880s – although, of course, British Methodists have been involved in overseas work since the time of Wesley himself.

This collection is now made every Easter, through the Easter Offering which goes directly to the World Mission Fund. This supports the different activities of the Methodist Church's Global Relations team, from sending out Mission Partners to supporting local church projects. You can find out more about Methodist Global Relationships work here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/support-the-church/give/about-our-funds/world-mission-fund/>

Methodist Publishing produces the resources for the Easter Offering – these include collection envelopes (there is also a facility for online giving) and an Easter Offering Dedication Service. This has often been held as a circuit service but can equally take the place of a regular Sunday church service – particularly handy if there are Local Arrangements on the Plan in the post-Easter period.

Since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, fundraising for the global work has been a special interest of women's groups in the church. Because of this, Methodist Women in Britain gives strong support to the Easter Offering– volunteers develop the theme and write all the resources. They liaise with the Global Relationships team so that the service is more than a 'fund-raiser'. It also raises

awareness of the world church, enabling congregations to hear up-to-date stories from sisters and brothers around the globe.

Every year, the Easter Offering raises approximately one tenth of the income of the World Mission Fund for the Methodist Church. This alone shows its importance. Within your circuit you may have an active MWiB group that is willing to take the lead on this, but it is not an 'MWiB thing'. We would encourage you to participate in this vital aspect of our justice seeking mission.

With kindest regards

**Leonora Wassell**

**Maggie Woods**

**Co Chairs**

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### **Preaching the Gospel**

There has been extensive coverage of the sermon which Episcopal Bishop, Mariann Budde, gave at the Washington National Cathedral on the day of President Trump's inauguration.

These were her closing remarks:

"Let me make one final plea, Mr. President. Millions have put their trust in you, and as you told the nation yesterday, you have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now. There are gay, lesbian, and transgender children in Democratic, Republican, and independent families, some who fear for their lives. The people who pick our crops and clean our office buildings, who labor in poultry farms and meat-packing plants, who wash the dishes after

we eat in restaurants and work the night shifts in hospitals, they may not be citizens or have the proper documentation, but the vast majority of immigrants are not criminals. They pay taxes and are good neighbors. They are faithful members of our churches and mosques, synagogues, gurdwara, and temples.

I ask you to have mercy, Mr. President, on those in our communities whose children fear their parents will be taken away, and that you help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here. Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger, for we were all once strangers in this land. May God grant us the strength and courage to honor the dignity of every human being, to speak the truth to one another in love, and walk humbly with each other and our God, for the good of all people, the good of all people in this nation and the world. Amen.”

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### **Book Review: The Transgender Issue by Shon Faye**

As the Minister of a church committed to Inclusion, I need to educate myself about how we do that well, so I was drawn to this book. Faye’s title is itself a deliberately ironic introduction to its theme. The “Issue” which she addresses, is the way in which media coverage of all things trans is reduced to a small range of topics which grab lurid headlines: access to toilets, trans women in sport, puberty blockers for children, and trans women prisoners as a threat to other women. She makes a powerful case that the real transgender issue, is the inability to have any sensible debate about the actual issues which trans people face.

Most acutely, trans people are routinely portrayed in the media as being potential perpetrators of violence when overwhelmingly the real “issue” is the extent to which they are the victims. Ironically, that is especially true in toilets, in schools, and in prisons.



Faye makes clear that there are trans people in every section of society, irrespective of the culture, wealth or ethnic background. They then face discrimination in the form of family rejection, discrimination in employment, inadequate support from the NHS, and wider society. It is logically inevitable that trans people are disproportionately disadvantaged economically.

She covers a wide range of issues. With my MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged) hat on, I was particularly interested to read about the needs of elderly trans people in care settings. We may not agree with Faye's conclusions about health care, prison policy, or other topics, but we can learn by engaging with her arguments.

Faye gives a detailed analysis of the sometimes hostile interaction between trans people and those who are LGB (without the T) as well as with feminists. Frequently, that hostility has been nurtured by those seeking to sustain the oppression that harms all these groups.

This is a fast-moving topic. Things have moved on since Faye's book was published in 2021. In some incremental ways things have continued to improve: the underlying trend is that trans people are more visible and that inherently leads to a normalising our understanding. In other ways, things are undoubtedly worse. The culture wars have intensified, British trans health provision has got worse not better, and I started writing this on the day that Donald Trump wrote into law the absurd claim that trans people don't exist.

When I read the Gospels, I see many stories of Jesus seeking out the outcasts and the stigmatised in his own society, welcoming them, valuing them, and celebrating their gifts. We can't be Christ-like if we don't do the same. I recommend this book, and you are welcome to borrow it.—**Rev Derek**

## Intercultural Ministry

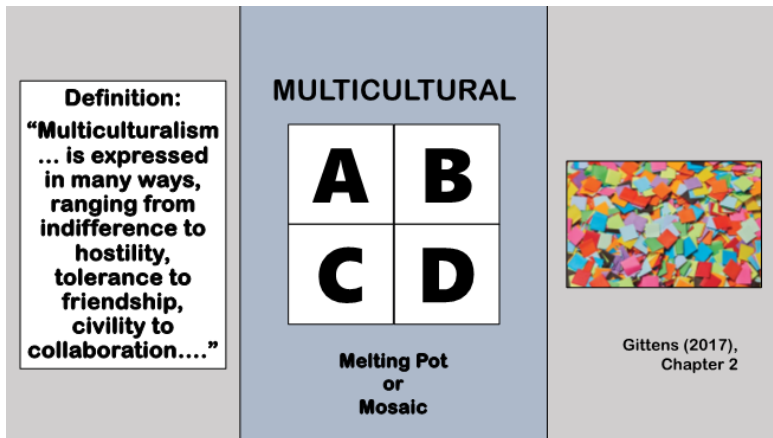
My name is Jan Barlow. I'm a born and bred Scouser (from Liverpool) and became a Christian at the age of 29 after joining an Alpha Course. That was in 1999, and since then the Lord has led me on a very varied journey, via China, Nepal, Norway, Hertfordshire, to Leicester and the Church of England.

I have lived in many varied multicultural communities along the way, so when I saw a job advertised for an 'Intercultural Pioneer Minister' at St Paul's Church in Oadby I was intrigued and decided to apply – and here I am!

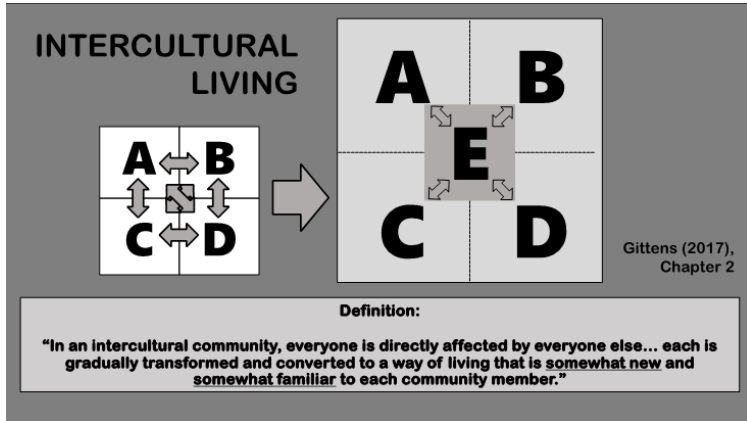
So, what is an Intercultural Pioneer Minister? It sounds very grand but basically it is helping to facilitate the very multicultural population of St Paul's Church and Oadby to become more intercultural.

So, what's the difference?

I think it's best explained in the following 2 diagrams:



Multicultural living is when we many different cultural backgrounds live together – but don't necessarily interact with each other. They may live in peace or in conflict. It is a situational thing – different cultures live around each other.



Intercultural living is when everyone is committed to living together in community and intentionally working toward a 'new' culture (shown as E in the diagram). Everyone's culture is represented in some way, but no individual culture dominates – this takes work by everyone in that community. In an intercultural community everyone should feel both a sense of familiarity and a sense of discomfort as a new way of living is formed.

I hope that makes sense!

There is no guidebook to this as every community committing to intercultural living will be a different mix of different cultures. And every time someone new joins that community the culture (E) should change again as that person is absorbed into the community.

It is both delicate and exciting to work towards a truly intercultural community!

At St Paul's there is a multicultural community within the church who are working hard at their intercultural community. Several things are working very well:

- Worship songs in different languages
- People encouraged to say the Lord's Prayer in their own 'heart' language
- Bring and share lunches – with a variety of different foods
- People of different cultural backgrounds on PCC

To name but a few things.

St Paul's is surrounded by a very multicultural neighbourhood, so we are thinking of how we can continue to reach out to our neighbours:

- Little Angels – our Mums and tots' group
- Friday Night Youth and Tribe on Sundays – for young people in the area
- Youth worker holding lunch clubs in schools in the neighbourhood
- Bible Marathon Reading – with the Bible read in different languages
- Neighbourhood fun days – encouraging people to cook and bring their favourite foods, having a diverse range of music

Mainly, it is about welcoming and representing different cultures in our gathering and worship. Not being afraid to ask questions and not assuming what we know from our own understanding. Having people from different cultures making decisions and forming ideas and not being afraid of change.

I hope that helps a little towards understanding intercultural living and ministry. Do feel free to get in touch to ask any questions:

**Jan Barlow –Intercultural Pioneer Minister at St Paul’s Church, Oadby.**

jan.barlow@stpaulsoadby.org

*[A big thank-you to Jan for sharing with us her role and her experiences in intercultural pioneer ministry. It is always interesting and stimulating to hear of the different ways in which Christians in our churches are helping people to come to faith in Christ –Ed]*

## 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.

### Spring Programme

March 12th: Marilyn Bowles - "Beautiful Gardens"

April 9th: Neil Crutchley - "Leicester Firsts"

May 1th: Outing –venue to be decided

### Summer meeting:

June 11th: AGM-Looking over the year.

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### *My Methodist History*

That's the intriguing title of a website which aims to tell the story of the people called Methodists. Launched in 2012 as part of a community archive network supported by the Methodist Church, the site is developed and edited by volunteers. Three 'sister websites' cover the three main strands of Methodism which came together in 1932. They are 'My Wesleyan Methodists', 'My Primitive Methodists' and 'My United Methodists'. The Methodists of Oadby originally belonged to the Wesleyan Methodist Association which by 1907 had joined with other smaller groups to form the United Methodists which nevertheless remained the smallest of the three groups which came together at the time of Methodist Union to form the Methodist Church. It is worth exploring the '*My United Methodists*' website. Under "Leicestershire there

are three entries for Oadby, one of which has photographs of our present buildings. There are also entries for Birstall and for two churches which have now closed: Harrison Road in Belgrave and St Paul's in Melbourne Road, Highfields. These three together with Oadby formed the St Paul's United Methodist Circuit until 1943 when it was disbanded and Oadby became part of the Clarendon Park (ex-Wesleyan) Circuit, while Birstall was added to the Claremont Street (ex-Primitive) Circuit. Since 2017 we have been in the same Circuit as Birstall once again!

**Howard Smith**

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### **Ministers Monthly Letter**

Many of you will be aware that I produce a monthly newsletter with a reflection and a summary of the events over the month ahead.

Some are posted, others hand delivered, and a few are marked up for collection by specific individuals. We give away a few more in the Welcome Packs, others are collected from the table in the vestibule: please help yourself, and pass them on to people who may be interested.

A very substantial majority of them are distributed by email; my distribution list is over a hundred emails. Sadly, with the challenges of spam filters and emails failing to get through, I never know how many of those are reaching you. If you aren't getting those updates and would like to receive them, please let me know. I can either add you to the list, or try to work out why they aren't getting through.

Rev Derek ([derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk](mailto:derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk))

## **The Fourth Wise Man—by Ed Ostrom**

Tradition cites three Magi visited the Christ child  
On that first Christmas so serene, peaceful and mild.  
But from the annals of old another story is told,  
Of a fourth wise man so courageous, loving and bold.

Artaban was his name, wisest of the wise.  
Studying the sparkling stars he came to surmise,  
In Judea the birth of a king so sublime,  
Coming to a world so desperate at that time.

To purchase three precious jewels he sold everything,  
To have valuable gifts to give to the new born king.  
Missing his rendezvous with the three other magi,  
He journeyed across a cruel desert under a starry sky.

Where he went in Judea he looked for the new born king,  
But his search became a frustrating, futile thing.  
Bringing a deep sense of inner sorrow to his mind,  
Throughout the country the new born king he could not find.



In passing years he spent his jewels helping others in need;  
Compassionate, he gave of himself in word and deed.  
His jewels were gone, he was empty, lost forlorn.  
He had nothing to give to him that as a king was born.

Now an old man, Artaban came to Jerusalem again.  
On his face, and in his heart, emptiness and pain.;  
All his life had been a failure, looking for the king;  
Hopelessness was the only song his heart could sing..

He found the king being crucified outside the wall.  
Going to see the king, the walls on Artaban did fall.  
As he lay dying, he looked up into Jesus' faced,  
And felt the joy of the Lord's redeeming embrace.

Artaban said, "O King I've nothing to give to you,  
I had three precious stones, but now they are gone too.  
But Jesus said to him, " You have given them to me,  
For you gave them on to others so they might go free"

This is the beautiful tale of the other wise man,  
Who in compassion and mercy for others, took a stand.  
In doing so he gave his gifts to the king,  
Which in the mind of the Lord, was a most precious thing.

**Submitted by Gillian Austen**

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### **Message from the Outreach Team**

#### **Fundraising for the Leprosy Mission – the £24 Cure Challenge!**

Ten-year-old Nasiru from Nigeria has been diagnosed with leprosy. His fingers have started clawing into his hands, and he has stopped going to school.

It costs just £24 to cure someone of leprosy, and our “Cure Challenge” asks you to raise £24, using your talents.

Have you got a baking, crafting, gardening, babysitting, tech, DIY or other skill or talent, which you could use to raise £24 in order to cure someone?

Or, there being 24 hours in a day, could you be sponsored to do (or not do) something for 24 hours?

Do let us know if you feel you can join in our challenge. (We are Lesley, Tricia, Suzanne and Frazer).

You can put any cash raised (or any donations) into the Sunday coffee money, or give a cheque to our church treasurer David Frost, ensuring he knows it is for The Leprosy Mission. If you

prefer to donate directly to The Leprosy Mission online, please let the team know how much you have raised, so we may keep a running total.

We will be supporting The Leprosy Mission until the Church Charity changes at the October Church council meeting, so you have plenty of time!

Perhaps you would rather use your brain power? Tickets for the wonderful **Quiz** on 21<sup>st</sup> March, devised by our quizmaster Dave Smith, are available from Lesley, Frazer and Dave. To enjoy a meal as well as the quiz, please buy your tickets from Zeph's.

Quiz only tickets are £4. Tickets for the quiz and meal are £14.50.

### **Christian Aid week Soup Lunch**

We are reinstating the fundraising (and tasty) Christian Aid week soup lunch on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 12.00 until 13.30. The simple soup, bread and cheese lunch will be held in our church hall. Though it is no longer a Churches Together event, we have liaised with Great Glen church so that their lunch does not clash with ours, and you may attend both if you wish!

If you can provide soup, or assist on the day, **between 11.40 until 14.00**, to help set up tables and serve, please let me know. All donations will go to Christian Aid. Thank you!

**Lesley Green**

**Oadby Trinity Methodist Church**

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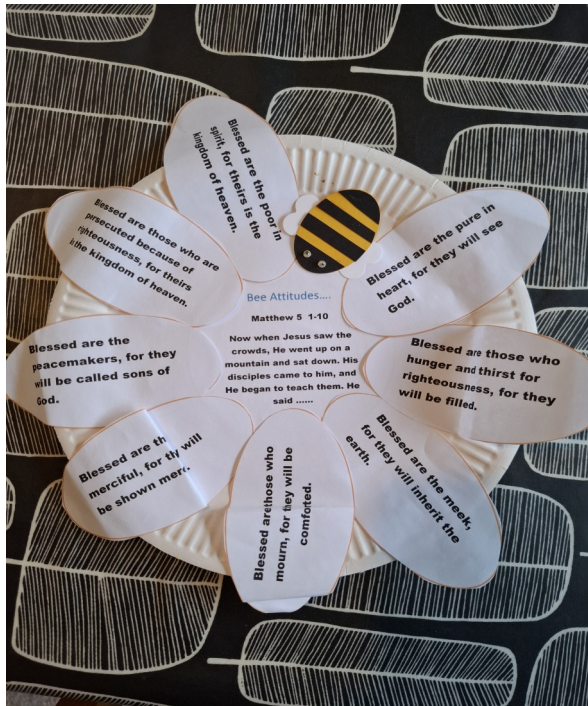
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## The Beatitudes—the modern version

At a recent service at Oadby our preacher preached on the “Blessings and Woes” in Luke’s Gospel, and used the Bolz-Weber Beatitudes –Beatitudes for our modern world as a framework for her prayers of intercession. If you wish to read about them in more detail, the website link is <https://www.holyinsf.org/sermons/my-yoke-is-easy-and-my-burden-is-light-mmgcg-c6hh9-rb38d-2w6sf>.

The children in our Junior Church created their own version of these Beatitudes based on the illustration below.



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