

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Friends

*I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' (Psalm 122:1 NRSVA)*

We are on our way back!

Our journey is careful and it is tentative, but bit-by-bit we are returning to the house of the Lord.

People flocked to Jesus because they were in need. Often the need which people had identified was physical rather than spiritual. That kind of hunger is still with us. The Food Bank is seeing a slight further increase in demand, but it is progressively helping younger clients, particularly those whose furlough has come to an end but who have no job at the end of the furlough. Today we have been separately visited by Borough & City Councillors seeking to promote this work, and by the 'African Network' bringing a huge delivery.

As I write, Zeph's has completed three days of trading. We owe a huge debt to Penny, and most especially to Michael for the immense effort to get us to this point. Thank you. Turnover has been helped by the new government scheme. It has been helped too because we've welcomed back old friends. If you are venturing forth why not give it a try.

We've agreed next steps to getting external hires underway. We will need social distancing and thorough cleaning to become ways of life, but the building is beginning to emerge from hibernation.

Most importantly, our new way of worship is starting to take shape. Those of you physically unable to get to church will not be abandoned: we are moving to mixed-mode worship. We will still be on zoom and frequently our preachers and readers will be remote too. Joyously, it means that we can also welcome those without the technology to zoom with us: they can be in church in person. A few of us will be in the building to trial the technology this week, but we aim to be properly up and running from the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

We also want to gather for prayer. We are aiming to have our Saturday morning prayer group meeting from the beginning of September.

The Psalm which I quote above is described as a "Psalm of Ascents" or perhaps a "Pilgrim Song" and this verse speaks about going to the house of the Lord. However, the Psalm is intended to be sung after the worshipper has already visited the Temple. It is about using the time of worship to refresh us and inspire us to take Good News to others. Let's make sure that we do so.

God bless you all – and stay safe.

Rev Derek

**Welcome Service** There will be a Circuit Welcome Service on the evening of **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September**. Rev Debra Chidakwa-Akue joins the Circuit to serve Christchurch and Nativity. We will also be welcoming Rev Kate Cook who has just moved to Oadby – it has been lovely to welcome Kate to our worship in recent weeks. Please get this date in your diary.

### **Online Worship**

We continue to worship Sunday by Sunday, gathering electronically but worshipping in our own homes. People are joining the worship on a variety of technology and it is good to see so many involved.

Please let me know if you would like to join, and I can send you a link, and also talk you through setting this up. Email for information: [derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk](mailto:derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk)

Don't forget that it is possible to phone in, even if you haven't got a computer.

### **Prayer Pointers this week**

Please hold in prayer those who have recently been bereaved.

We have had two deaths of Church Members. Funeral arrangements will be announced once they've been finalised.

Please hold in prayer those involved in education.

- We pray for all students who received their A Level results this week. We rejoice with those who have obtained the results which they hoped for, and we pray comfort for those who have been disappointed.
- We pray for students awaiting GCSE results.
- Lord, this has been an extremely traumatic year, particularly for students in transition years. Guide us as we seek to surround them with love and care.
- We pray for all teachers and other workers in schools supporting these pupils
- We pray for staff in university admission departments, particularly at DMU and the University of Leicester.
- We pray for politicians and those responsible for the granting of exam grades.

### **Finance** Thank you.

In normal circumstances we would be immensely disappointed to report that we are likely to make a loss of £6,700 for the financial year ending on 31<sup>st</sup> August. In these extraordinary times we have lost nearly six months lettings; we have lost much of the regular income that comes in the offertory plate week-by-week. Some of you have responded by increasing your regular giving. Others have made one-off donations. For those of you who have been able to do so: thank you.

If you are able to help and have not yet done so, please consider supporting us further, either through regular or one-off giving.

... BUT never forget, there are some of you who are much worse off in these circumstances. If that is you, please ignore this appeal, or better still, consider giving less money to the church for a season.

### **Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit**

The Circuit is seeking to help all of our local churches to continue their Mission and Service to local communities and their worshipping presence, glorifying God in different parts of the city and surrounding area. Please pray for those who are facing difficult decisions and for the circuit team evaluating the choices being made. Following a generous donation, the circuit has set up a fund to enable it to offer support to help those churches in their Mission. If you want to support this in addition to the brilliant way you are supporting our own local church, please let me know.