

Oadby Trinity, Great Glen and Houghton

Methodist Churches

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

The **Methodist Church** 

15th March 2021

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband.

John 4:16-18

Dear Friends,

There are sometimes pivotal moments. Times where a single event catches our imagination. It may yet be the that murder of Sarah Everard is such a moment.

The death of George Floyd triggered conversations about racism which were long overdue, but it wasn't entirely clear why that particular brutal murder, amongst so many, became such a rallying point for us to have conversations which should have happened long ago.

The public mourn with the family and friends of Sarah Everard. We acknowledge that the specific circumstances of her death are as unusual as they are shocking. Yet we must also acknowledge the extent to which they are part of a wider structure of fear which most women face, and which is itself built on the kind of prejudices many men hold.

Many of those prejudices have been reinforced by the Church through the ages, and we need to repent that some of those failings persist.

I often listen to the Radio 4 service on Sunday morning, and this week I was struck by the interpretation of the words from John 4 which I quote above. I suspect that most Christians automatically hear those words in the same way in which I've always heard them: this is an immoral woman who is alone because she is shunned by everyone as a result of her lifestyle. Yet, I was challenged. Surely, if we simply read the words without prejudice, this could just as easily be a woman who has had a tragic life. How many times has she been widowed? How many times has she been cast out by men who have power to exploit her? How fragile is her situation now when she lives with a man but does not have the limited protection which marriage affords?

I'm forced to reflect again about the ways my prejudices are contributing to this problem.

Jesus valued this woman regardless of her status in that society. He listened to her. He shared, uniquely with her, truths that we continue to proclaim today.

How do we become a place of safety and sanctuary? A people committed to fighting for justice?

God bless you all – and stay safe

Rev Derek

Trivia Question: Which building in Oadby has been on prime-time television in recent weeks?

A Methodist Way of Life

This continues to be the focus of our morning worship and our Circuit Bible Studies during Lent. I've attached the commitments card in .pdf format and there are more creative resources available on the Methodist website here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/life-and-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/>

Women in Methodism

The Methodist Church produced a short video to mark International Women's Day which featured an interview with Revd Dr Kathleen Richardson, the first woman to be a Chair of District and the first woman to be President of Conference. It can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpdlez6b0IY>

Easter Celebration CD

The Methodist Church has produced a CD for Easter. Our Pastoral Visitors have distributed most of these. We've got a few spare if you need them, or you can download it from here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/easter-celebration-cd-2021/>

Morning Worship continues online every week at **10:30am**.

Douglas Beoku-Betts, Biruntha Herose and Miriam Stevenson will lead the service on the 21st

Houghton will meet in person this Sunday (21st) and Graham Tennant will preach

Revd Derek McLean will lead the service on the 28th March

Sunday Evening Circuit Services every week **6pm**

Revd Fran Rhys will lead the service this week.

Returning to Church

Worship will remain predominantly online over the next few weeks, but we hope to resume projecting the worship onto the screen at Oadby and Glen for those who can't join online, and starting some in-person services. The provisional plans are as follows:

- Saturday Prayer Glen (Individual) – 10am to 11am resumed from 27th February
- Saturday Prayer Oadby (Led) – 10:15am to 10:45am resumes in-person from 27th March
- Services projected onto the screen to resume in both churches to include Good Friday 2nd April, and all Sundays commencing at Oadby on Palm Sunday and Glen on Easter Day
- In person services at Glen may hopefully resume with Communion on 12/4, and at Oadby with Communion on Maundy Thursday and 8:30am on Easter Day.
- Houghton has now resumed a weekly service at 2:30pm each Wednesday.

Answer to the trivia question: the BBC 2 TV series 'DNA Family Secrets' features a genetics expert from the University of Leicester, and many of the interviews are recorded in the university building opposite Aigburth MHA. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000sthc>