

# Affinity



*Wishing all our readers a joyful and blessed Christmas, and  
a Happy, healthy and peaceful New Year in 2025*

Winter 2024

**OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH**

## **Oadby Trinity Methodist Church**

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Cover photograph "2023 Peace Christmas tree" courtesy of Diane Price.

## Prayer of the Peacemaker

God of Justice and Peace

Make us peacemakers

Give us courage to bear witness to uncomfortable truths'

Help us when our eyes want to look away from destruction and death.

Give us courage to speak where there is silence,

To name complicity, injustice and poverty.

Make us dissatisfied by shrugging off "the complicated",

Keep us curious to listen and understand.

Help us hold together Palestinian and Israeli,

As we stand in solidarity against oppressors.

Plant in us persistence in seeking a just peace.

Let us not grow weary in our petition and our prayer.

Give strength and wisdom to all who strive for peace,

On both sides of checkpoints and blockade.

God of Justice and Peace,

Make us peacemakers. AMEN

**Submitted by Diane Price.**

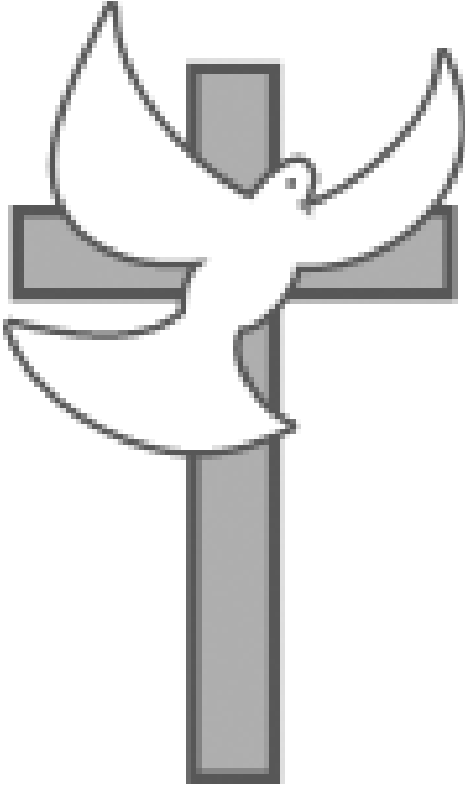
[Source: Christian Aid website]



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## DECEMBER SERVICES

### **Sunday 1st –Advent Sunday**

- 8.30 Rev Andrew Farrington –Holy Communion
- 10.30 Dr Miriam Stevenson
- 6.00 Deacon Sharon Dilley [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 8th –Advent 2**

- 10.30 Service led by our Worship leaders
- 6.00 Dr Miriam Stevenson [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 15th –Advent 3**

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean-Nativity service
- 6.00 Rev Derek McLean [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 22nd –Advent 4**

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion
- 6.30 Rev Derek McLean –Carol service

### **Sunday 29th –Christmas 1**

- 10.30 Heather Corlett –joint service at Houghton
- 6.00 Rev Kim Alexander [online circuit service]

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

Saturday prayers weekly in Meeting Room, 10.30-11.00 am

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024**

### **Houghton on the Hill Methodist Chapel**

Tuesday 24th December [Christmas Eve] Carol Service at 6.00pm led by Rev Andrew Farrington

### **Great Glen Methodist chapel**

Christmas Eve at 8.00pm –Candlelit Christmas Communion Service led by Rev Andrew Farrington.

### **Wigston Magna**

11.15pm Communion on Christmas Eve

### **Christmas Day at Oadby**

10.00 am Christmas service led by Rev Derek McLean



## **JANUARY SERVICES**

### **Sunday 5th –Christmas 2**

8.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our all-age Worship Team

6.00 **No online service this evening**

### **Sunday 12th**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Covenant Service & Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington [on line circuit Covenant service]

### **Sunday 19th –Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

10.30 CTO Pulpit exchange

6.30 Churches Together service for Christian unity @ United Reformed Church, Rosemead Drive.

### **Sunday 26th**

10.30 Rev Tom Wilson

6.00 Rev Kate Cook [online circuit service]

### **Please note that there will be no midweek service on Wednesday 1st January**

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

Saturday prayers weekly in Meeting Room, 10.30-11.00 am



## **FEBRUARY SERVICES**

### **Sunday 2nd**

8.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

10.30 Service led by our all-age Worship Team

6.00 Deacon Sharon Dilley [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 9th**

10.30 Rev Derek McLean –Holy Communion

6.00 Rev Kim Alexander [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 16th**

10.30 Jo Kay

6.00 Rev Ivan Bennett [online circuit service]

### **Sunday 23rd - Racial Justice Sunday**

10.30 Moleen Chikumba

6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington [online circuit service]



Heather Corlett: Editor

## Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2024 issue of Affinity., which covers the months of December 2024 and January and February 2025

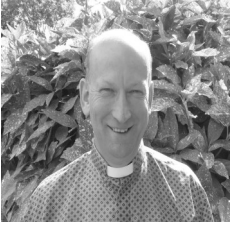
During the week beginning 15th December we have our “Crib Festival” here at Trinity. [opening times can be found in this issue of Affinity]. Come and see the different styles of cribs, and think about our Lord Jesus who was laid in a rough wooden manger as his first bed.

Our Nativity service is on Sunday 15th December at 10.30 am and our Carol Service is on 22nd December at 6.30 pm. Do come along and celebrate the coming of our Saviour Jesus into this world of ours.

The deadline for the Spring 2025 edition of Affinity , which covers the months of March, April and May 2025 is **Sunday February 9th 2025**. 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]**



## Message from the Manse

In November, we had three significant events in quick succession.

Revd Kate Cook led our service in which we supported those who have been bereaved.

Rev Derek McLean     The service has a particular focus on those whose loved ones have died in the last year, but a significant element of it is the support it gives to those who have been bereaved far longer. The following Sunday we marked Remembrance – another poignant occasion.

On the third Sunday, we rededicated the work of our Pastoral Visitors. They commit to “pray regularly for those in their care”, and to “share in their joys”, but they are often most visible when they “give comfort and support in time of sorrow and need.”

A season of loss leads naturally into the Advent Season which reminds us of our need for God’s presence in our lives. During Advent, we will be using the Methodist resources based on the theme “Hush the Noise”. (I encourage you to sign up for the daily updates.)

Taken together, that feels like a very long build up to the joys of Christmas: to the celebration of God’s presence with us in the form of our Messiah, Jesus.

In some traditions, the celebration must not begin until the Christmas Eve Communion has celebrated the birth of the Christ-child, but by then we will have enjoyed the Nativity Service, the Carol Service, a Crib Festival, Santa’s breakfast in Zeph’s, and many other ways we share the Christmas story.

In a world of literal and metaphorical darkness, we will rejoice in the presence of Jesus, the light of the world.

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 on the Wednesday evenings from 12<sup>th</sup> March to 16<sup>th</sup> April. We expect there to also be daytime sessions – details of these to follow.

**Rev Derek**

## **Oadby Church Council Report October 2024**

Council was pleased to welcome Rev Kim Alexander to her first meeting as visiting presbyter and some time was spent in sharing Good News which included the Welcome Service for Kim, Andrew and Christopher at Bishop Street.. Since the last meeting church families with children had met at the manse for a lively discussion on Communion.

We were pleased to acknowledge the enhancement of our services by new church lighting and improved technology and remembered with affection Barry Jones, church electrician for a number of years, who sadly died shortly after completing the work for us.

Council received reports from Junior Church and the Worship group and noted that the Circuit evening service is now to be hosted by Trinity. The Zoom link can be obtained from Derek, Michael or Diane. Following the Steward's Report it was made clear that new stewards would need to be found before the next Annual Church Meeting or the number of services we can run would have to be curtailed for lack of staff!

The Outreach team recommended that the church charity for this year should be The Leprosy Mission and this was agreed. We noted with pleasure that, thanks to so much hard work, a surplus had been made by Zeph's cafe. Breakfast with Santa will take place on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are all asked to note that the church will be open for a Crib Festival from 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> December, so bring along family and friends to enjoy this.

Some time was spent on digesting information kindly supplied by Vincent regarding the huge number of Property Maintenance tasks completed and the contents of the Quinquennial Inspection Report which runs to 74 pages. Thankfully only approx. £8,000 worth of work is needed in the coming year. An expression of thanks was sent to Barbara and Ian, Vincent and Diane, following their sterling efforts to

remove 8" of water in in the cellar when the boiler failed due to flooding.

Our next meeting will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> December. All are welcome but only Trustees may vote.

**Stella Orbell**

**Church Council Secretary**

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### **BIG WELCOME**

Well over 200 worshippers from the Leicester Trinity Circuit, gathered in Bishop Street Methodist Church in Leicester City centre on September 1<sup>st</sup> for a service of welcome and celebration.

The newly appointed Chair of the Northampton District Rev Dr Sonia Hicks, welcomed the new Circuit Superintendent Rev Andrew Farrington and the Revs Kim Alexander, Christopher Andam and Ivan Bennett.

Mr Bennett is taking on additional responsibilities within the Circuit which have extended the scope of his ministry.

Mr Andam, in addition to being a Presbyter in the Circuit, is also appointed as the co-ordinator of the Ghanaian Fellowship within the Methodist Church in Britain.

In recognition of this appointment 30 members of the Ghanaian Choir led the joyful singing during the worship.

The Old Testament lesson was read by Pedzisai Katsande (representing the Circuit Leadership Team) and the Epistle by Deacon Sharon Dille (Representing the Circuit staff). The Gospel was read by a member of the Ghanaian Choir, Godfried Gyan-Addo.

Dr Hicks preached a challenging and inspirational sermon on the theme of the Good News. She encouraged the congregation to "see the world through the eyes of God" and "not to be afraid." A recurring theme was "actions speak louder than words." "We've forgotten how

to fly” she asserted and asked the question: “Which would you prefer: cages or wings?”

A collection which raised £1,125.00, will be shared between the local MHA home “Aigburth” and “All we Can.”

The service, conceived and conducted by Rev Liam Dacre-Davis, concluded with the singing of “Great is thy faithfulness.” It was a wonderful start to a new and hopeful era for the Leicester Trinity Circuit.

**John Aldridge**

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### **Idea for sharing something of our faith**

At the Worship Committee we discussed the ways that we share our faith with others in our congregation. We have few opportunities to do this. After discussing this the committee came up with the following suggestion. The following idea will be explained to those leading our Sunday worship to see if they are happy with the suggestion.

The suggestion is that any member of the congregation choose a hymn that is significant for them, The Hymn is sung as the second hymn in the service. They can then tell why this hymn was chosen, or ask someone to do this for them.

It is hoped to begin this practice at the beginning of 2025. If you have any comments, or are willing to be involved could you please contact Tricia Lockley

**Tricia Lockley**

## ZEPH'S UPDATE

In the run up to Christmas, Zeph's again has a great selection of events organised. Please do your best to support them and book well in advance to avoid disappointment. The events are:

Friday 6 December - Fish Supper (£9.75)

25 November to 21 December, Mondays to Saturdays, 12 to 2.30 pm - Christmas Fayre Lunch (2 courses for £15.95. 3 courses for £19.95)

Friday 13 and Friday 20 December at 6.00pm - Christmas Fayre Evening Event (£19.95)

Thursday 19 December, 3 to 5.00pm - Christmas Afternoon Tea (£16.95)

Monday 23 December, 9.00am - Breakfast with Santa (£10.95)

And more events are organised for January:

3 January - Fish Supper

10 January - ABBA Night and a chance to wear your finest ABBA clothes!

24 January - Portuguese Night

Another quiz is being organised with Dave Smith to raise funds for this year's Church Charity – The Leprosy Mission. This is planned for February. You can combine this with a meal at Zeph's or simply participate in the quiz. Further details to follow on this.

Zeph's continues to be busy and continues to operate as a vibrant community café. Since our last update, work on the automatically opening doors has been completed. Our thanks to the Oadby Village Hall Fund and the Methodist Church Circuit Fund for their financial



support which helped to make this happen. The garden, looked after by Mel Labbett, remains in excellent shape and did in fact feature in an article in the Methodist Recorder during the summer. It's always good to get national recognition!

We are currently looking for someone to help out with the financial management of the Café. Training will be provided, advice and support will always be available and the work can be carried out to fit with the time you may have available. If you are interested, then please get in touch with Michael or with me.

My thanks to Michael, our staff and volunteers for all they have done for Zeph's over the year. Thanks also to the Zeph's Directors for their hard work and, of course, a very big thank you to all our customers who continue to support us so well.

My very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

**Frazer Robson, Chair of Board of Directors**



## A day at Greenbelt 2024

I went to Greenbelt at Boughton House for a day in August. Some will have attended primarily for the music, others for comedy or drama, but this was my sample of the programme:

Beth Singler spoke about being human in an AI age. Her role is frequently misunderstood both because people don't understand AI, and because she works with science and religion which many regard as mutually exclusive. She reflected on the nature of religion and the extent to which AI creates something equivalent. I especially liked the anecdote about a theology professor who was talking about the ethics of AI. His presentation included AI generated graphics. In effect, those graphics were digitally stolen from the creator of the original artwork. She described the irony of someone speaking about AI ethics whilst illustrating it with stolen artwork.

Darren McGarvey spoke about trauma. Part of that drew on his own traumatic experience. However, his talk reflected the need to protect those who talk from their own lived experience, the way in which we overgeneralize from that experience, and the way in which talking is a good first step but our culture [especially Social Media] is then very poor at processing trauma.

Steve Chalke primarily spoke about getting social projects engaged with the communities which they actually serve. Nevertheless, I was mainly interested when he was talking about the new Youth Offenders institution which his Oasis organisation is finally able to open. Their ethos is that these offenders need love. Their punishment is to be confined, but the conditions need to educate, reform, and surround with love. He joked about how easy it will be to demonstrate the project is a success. He is benchmarked against other Youth Offenders institutions which have appalling reoffending rates: he can hardly do worse.

Joshua Virisami was speaking about his new book, “A world without racism.” After the book’s completion riots had taken place across the country. He reflected on the difference between the treatment of Black rioters a decade earlier and that of White rioters today, where there was a much greater recognition of their grievances. He was asked whether he was optimistic that the Labour government would be a force for change. He reminded us that Kier Starmer was Director of Public Prosecutions when Black rioters were treated so savagely.

Luke Harding is the Guardian’s Ukraine correspondent. He has long been banned from Russia. He spoke powerfully of his experiences there and his fears for further Russian expansionism.

I briefly visited the Amos talk about the ecological occupation of Palestine, but I needed to grab some food before joining the Playhouse queue.

The play was entitled “Apples in Winter”, and it was a monologue by the mother of someone about to be executed in the US. It was a poignant exploration of parenthood reflecting on how she and society could have ensured that the story turned out differently.

I finished the day in the Hope and Anchor, the Methodist alcohol-free bar. The speaker was due to have been Daoud Nassar from the Tent of Nations near Bethlehem. Daoud had been unable to travel due to increased Settler encroachment on his farm. Instead, David Hardman, our Methodist rep in Jerusalem gave us an update. He spoke of his experiences in Gaza and the subsequent suffering of those who he met there.

A busy and tiring day, but plenty of inspiration.

**Rev Derek**

## December 1<sup>st</sup> - World AIDS Day

### **What is World AIDS Day?**

World AIDS Day is a global movement to unite people in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Since 1988 communities have stood together on World AIDS Day to show solidarity against the stigma of HIV and to remember those who have lost their lives.

### **Why is World AIDS Day important?**

In the UK over 105,000 people are living with HIV.

Globally an estimated 38 million people are living with the virus.

More than 35 million people have died from HIV or Aids related illnesses over the last 40 years, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

Medical advances in the UK mean those living with HIV can have a long, healthy life. We now have the tools to stop HIV transmissions for good.

But HIV continues to be highly stigmatised and misunderstood. At National AIDS Trust, the UK's HIV rights charity, we are contacted frequently by people experiencing discrimination because of HIV, including in work, education, housing and even in healthcare.

World AIDS Day shines a light on people's experiences of living with HIV today, as well as celebrating the resilience, strength and diversity of communities most affected.

It is a moment to inspire the leadership to create a future where HIV doesn't stand in the way of anyone's life.

(Information taken from the **National AIDS Trust** website where you

can learn more.)

I invite you to remember in your prayers the work of the Trust and all those affected by HIV.

**Diane Price**



## **Crib Festival – Christmas 2024**

There will be a crib festival in the worship area between Sunday 15th and Friday 20th December. 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.

### **Opening times for the Crib festival are as follows:**

Sunday 15th: 2-4 pm,

Monday 16th: 10-4

Tuesday 17th: 10-4

Wednesday: 18th 6-8 pm

Thursday 19th 10-4pm

Friday 20th: 10-2pm



## **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.

### **Winter Programme**

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

January 8th Dinner with Friends [New Year meal]

February 12th - Rev Derek McLean speaks about “The Mighty Mississippi”

### **And for a foretaste of the Spring programme....**

On March 12th, Marilyn Bowles from Aigburth MHA Residential home will talk about “Beautiful Gardens



## CHRISTMAS PRAISE

Sing the songs of Christmas praise,  
Hear the people sing the old familiar carols,  
Of Shepherds and of Kings.

Of Mary and her journey to Bethlehem that night.  
Their search for room where they could rest, but no room was in  
sight.

Only a poor cattle shed this couple could afford,  
But it became the birthplace of our dear beloved Lord.  
And Mary wrapped her babe with cloth and laid him in the hay.  
So, sing the songs of Christmas praise that Christ is born today.

**Margaret Cartwright.**

## ***The Gospel according to Luke***

*Year C of our three year lectionary cycle begins on Advent Sunday this year (1st December). For the next 12 months until the Sunday before Advent (23rd November 2025) **Luke** will be the 'controlling' gospel.*

**Date:** c75-85AD. Luke is later than Mark; his gospel seems to post-date the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD but was apparently well-known by 96AD as it was cited by Clement of Rome in his writings.

**Authorship:** Luke was a Gentile with strong Jewish sympathies. He was deeply versed in the Old Testament, and was an educated man and a skilled writer. By tradition he was a doctor. (Note: Luke omits Mark's disparaging comment (Mk 5.26) about a woman who had spent a great deal of money on medical treatment without a cure!. (Lk 8.42ff). Luke was also the author of the book of the *Acts of the Apostles* and companion of Paul on his missionary journeys.

**Mark's Gospel:** Luke makes use of about half of the material in the earlier gospel but Luke's version is abbreviated, polished and corrected.

**'Q':** Luke has about 242 verses of material which is non-Markan but used in common with Matthew.

**'L':** Mark and 'Q' together account for only about half of Luke's Gospel. Material which is peculiar to Luke includes the birth narrative (1.5-2.40), the boy Jesus in Jerusalem (2.41-52), the two crucified criminals (23.39-43), and the walk to Emmaus (24.13-35). Only Luke has the parables of the Good Samaritan (10.30-37) and the Prodigal Son (15.11.32).

### **The themes and special interests of the Gospel:**

**1. The divine plan:** Luke's emphasis is on God's fulfilment of his promises. GB Caird in his commentary on this Gospel regards one of

its main themes as *"the working out of a drama of world redemption in which... the plot has been determined by God"*. Jesus as the 'Son of God' shows obedience to the divine will and purpose. (See especially 9.51 & 22.42).

**2 The rescue of the outcast:** Jesus' mission is to seek and save 'the lost' (19.10). Luke's is a gospel for the outsider and under-privileged. This is shown in the Magnificat (1.46-55), the humble circumstances of Jesus' birth (2.1-20), and his 'manifesto' at Nazareth (4.14-20). Luke portrays Jesus as *"the friend and champion of the sick, the poor, the penitent, the outcast, and of women, Samaritans and Gentiles"*. (Caird).

**3. The prominence of women:** The gospel begins with Elizabeth and Mary; the birth narrative is told from the point of view of Mary (unlike Matthew's Gospel which makes Joseph central). Many of the parables in this gospel feature women; women are prominent at the Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus and in the Resurrection accounts.

**4. The importance of prayer:** Jesus is mentioned as being "at prayer" more frequently than in other gospels. *"At every crisis in his career - at the baptism, in the midst of the Galilean ministry, before the appointment of the twelve, at Caesarea Philippi, on the mountain of transfiguration, in Gethsemane - we are shown Jesus on his knees, putting himself under the authority of his father's will"* (Caird). He teaches the disciples to pray (11.1-4) and three parables illustrate the need for persistence and humility in prayer (11.5-13; 18.1-8; 18.9-14).

**5. The use of material of appeal to a Gentile readership:** *"There is nothing in the gospel that a Gentile could not grasp and understand"* (Barclay). Luke omits Jewish names, has relatively few direct quotations from the Old Testament, uses Roman dates and traces the ancestry of Jesus back to Adam. The gospel gives special emphasis to Gentiles (2.10; 10.25-37; 17.11-19).

In his second volume (*Acts*) Luke deals with the way in which the Apostles took the Gospel to the Gentile world.

**6 The emphasis on "joy":** Four great songs of praise are peculiar to Luke: *Magnificat, Benedictus, Gloria in Excelsis, Nunc Dimittis*. (1.46-55; 1.68-79; 2.14; 2.29-32). *"The note of joy is sustained throughout the Gospel, where every miracle is greeted with joy and praise."* (Clare Richards). The Gospel ends with *"great joy"* (24.52): this theme is carried over into *Acts*.

**7 The work of the Holy Spirit:** There are numerous references to *"the Spirit."* (e.g. 1.15,42,67; 2.26-27; 3.21-22; 4.1,14,18). The Gospel ends with the disciples waiting to be *"clothed with power from on high."* (24.49). In *Acts* Luke goes on to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

**Howard Smith**

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## **The Leprosy Mission – our new church charity**

Our church charity for 2024-25 is the Leprosy Mission. We must admit, when we received this nomination, we were surprised. Surely leprosy was a thing of the past?

We could not have been more wrong. One new diagnosis of leprosy is made every two minutes. 200,000 people every year contract it. There is great stigma to having the disease in many countries. The Leprosy Mission suffers from the mistaken belief that the disease no longer causes big problems.

The charity fights transmission of the disease, disability and discrimination. It carries out research and training and encourages early diagnosis in the countries most affected.

As well as treatment and amelioration of the effects of physical disability, the charity empowers sufferers to fight against discrimination, funding self-help groups. Their “Champions for Leprosy”, are people who have contracted the illness and who have often been shunned, divorced, or evicted because of it. Their campaigns are having an effect: for example, India has now repealed the Lepers Act, and individual Indian states are gradually repealing acts that discriminate against people affected by leprosy.

The charity is a Christian organisation which works with local partners and people of all faiths and none. Most of its work is in ten countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka.

The UK charity register states The Leprosy Mission’s latest available annual income as £6.5 million, but lists its expenditure at over £7 million. Donations and legacies have seriously decreased since 2021, by almost 50%. So, its valuable work is threatened.

We discovered that it only costs the Leprosy Mission £24 to treat someone with leprosy. That means the amount we normally raise during the year with Sunday coffee and events, could be extremely important for so many leprosy sufferers. Please support our efforts this year.

Learn more at [www.leprosymission.org.uk](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk)

Lesley Green on behalf of the Outreach team

## **Events in Houghton Methodist Chapel in December**

An invitation to our friends at Oadby trinity to join us for some special things marking the Christmas season. It is always a very busy time of the year for everyone but you may welcome a little break from the busy-ness to join us for one of these events.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm sees the Christmas season start with a flourish with our annual Advent carol service when the advent hymns and carols are given an airing before getting overshadowed by all the Christmas favourites. Join us for a good hearty sing and listen to words about the advent story leading us into the Christmas season. Refreshments will be served afterwards and perhaps the first mince pie of the season?

On 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm the regular Talk in the Chapel will take a trip down Leicester's Memory Lane and visit the city centre as it was in the middle decades of the last century. See the old shops, cinemas, theatres, cafes, churches and chapels in the days before the bulldozer appeared and many old landmarks disappeared.

Former Leicester Mercury writer and local historian, Neil Crutchley will guide us through a visual kaleidoscope of images taken in 1940s, 50, 60, and 70s.

Christmas Eve at 6.00pm will see the traditional carol service in a specially decorated Chapel with favourite carols, hymns and readings to mark the start of Christmas before the preparation of dinner, lasty minute present wrapping and tree decorating takes over.

You will be most welcome at any, or all, of these events.

**Mary Moore**

## **Grierson Best Science Documentary Awards**

Earlier this year many of us watched the “Jennings vs Alzheimer’s” documentary which featured Carol and Stuart Jennings and their children, Emily and John, who are the first family in the world to be diagnosed with hereditary early onset Alzheimer’s disease. Carol inherited the gene from her grandfather and two other relatives who developed dementia in their early 50’s. She contacted a research team in London who were looking into the cause of Alzheimer’s and took an active part in the research; all the time knowing that it would not benefit her, but that it may benefit their children Emily and John who each have a 50/50 chance of inheriting the rogue gene.

The documentary was poignant and sad as it was broadcast following Carol’s death in March earlier this year, ending her long battle with Alzheimer’s disease. However, on a positive note, the research team were able to identify drugs which may slow down the development of the early onset disease. It isn’t a cure but it is a step in the right direction.

This documentary was subsequently nominated for the prestigious Grierson Best Science documentary Award. The awards ceremony was held a couple of weeks ago, and it won the award.

Stuart Jennings was present at the ceremony and was invited up on stage with the production team as well as the scientists involved in the research as the award was presented. It was a proud moment for them all and a wonderful tribute to Carol who selflessly made such a significant contribution to the research programme., knowing that she would never benefit from the results.

**Heather Corlett**

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## **Bring and Share Lunch**

Date for your diary: there will be a Bring and Share lunch in the Hall after the All Age Worship service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

There will be lots of games to play and an opportunity to share and chat together.



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