## Affinity



SUMMER 2025

**OADBY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH** 

#### **Oadby Trinity Methodist Church**

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Cover photograph "Oadby Pond" courtesy of David Calow.

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#### **Summer Sunshine**

The welcome signs of summer are there for all to see;
The flowers in the garden, green leaves upon the tree.
The joyful sound of songbirds, the busy, buzzing bee;
I only have to look around.
The beauty there is free.
Time to relax and please myself,
'neath cloudless skies above;
And thank God for the sunny days,
His Summer gift with love.

#### **Margaret Cartwright**



[Photo: "Oadby Pond" courtesy of David Calow]

#### Manse garden picnic

Our annual Church picnic will be held in the Manse garden on Sunday July 6th following the all age worship service,

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.

Come and enjoy fun, sun, food and fellowship.

We will meet in the hall if the weather lets us down.



#### JUNE SERVICES

#### Sunday 1st -Easter 7

- 8.30 Rev Derek McLean Holy Communion
- 10.30 Service led by our all age Worship Team
- 6.00 Rev Kim Alexander -circuit service at Wigston Magna. [**Tea and cakes served at 5 pm**]

#### Sunday 8th -Pentecost

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean -Holy Communion
  - 6.00 Rev Derek McLean -online circuit service

#### Sunday 15th -Trinity Sunday

- 10.30 Howard Smith
  - 6.00 Rev Kim Alexander -online circuit service

#### Sunday 22nd –MHA Sunday

- 10.30 Emma Hurley –MHA Chaplain at Aigburth
  - 6.00 Deacon Sharon Dilley online circuit service

#### Sunday 29th

- **10.45** Conference Worship streamed [note time]
  - 6.00 Rev Christopher Andam -online circuit service

#### JULY SERVICES

#### Sunday 6th

- 8.30 Rev Andrew Farrington Holy Communion
- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean All age Worship
  - 6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington circuit service at Wigston Magna. [Tea and cakes served at 5 pm]

#### Sunday 13th

- 10.30 Rev Derek McLean
  - 6.00 Rev Derek McLean -online circuit servce

#### Sunday 20th -Action for Children Sunday

- 10.30 Service led by our Worship leaders
  - 6.00 Rev Ivan Bennett -online circuit service

#### Sunday 27th

- 10.30 Rev Kim Alexander –Holy Communion
  - 6.00 Rev Andrew Farrington -online circuit service

Midweek Worship @ 11.30 am on 1st & 3rd Wednesday every month. All welcome

Saturday prayers 10.30-11.00 am every week in Meeting room. . All welcome

#### **AUGUST SERVICES -BIBLE MONTH**

#### Sunday 3rd

- 8.30 Rev Derek McLean Holy Communion
- 10.30 Howard Smith
- 6.00 Rev Liam Dacre-Davis circuit service at Wigston Magna.

[Tea and cakes served at 5 pm]

#### Sunday 10th

10.30 Service led by our Worship leaders

#### Sunday 17th

10.30 Richard Cawthorn

#### Sunday 24th

10.30 Dr Miriam Stevenson

#### Sunday 31st

10.30 Circuit Welcome service for Rev Ian Hu at Wigston Magna Methodist Church

There will be no evening circuit online services during August.

#### Oadby Church Council Report for March 10<sup>th</sup> 2024

Amongst other 'Good News' at the start of our meeting we heard that Ashutosh has progressed in his training to be a Local Preacher and is now 'On Trial'. We look forward to following his progress as he seeks to follow his calling.

We considered the run up to Lent and Easter, noting the dates of the many opportunities to prepare ourselves for this special time of year and also noted that the General Church Meeting would soon be upon us at which it was hoped that new stewards could be found in order to continue our present pattern of worship. Council was asked to give this serious thought.

Frazer Robson was happy to report that Rachel Fairman has now settled in to the job of organising Zeph's finances and also pleased to let us know that a modest profit had been made in the year to August 2024. However the increase in the Living Wage and the increased NI costs will pose a challenge for the future.

As usual Council received a long list of the improvements made on our behalf to our premises by the Property Team and we thank them for their continuing hard work.

Derek explained at the end of the meeting that he intends to retire after the 2025/6 Connexional year has ended and we wish him and Chris well.

The next meeting will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> June in the church. All are welcome but only trustees may vote,

Stella Orbell, Church Council Secretary.



Heather Corlett: Editor

#### **Editorial**

Welcome to the Summer 2025 issue of Affinity., which covers the months of June, July and August. We have recently had a couple of weeks of hot sunny weather —and I am writing this in April! I hope the summer months bring more warm sunny days for

everyone to enjoy.

We shall be marking Bible Month during the month of August, and discovering more about John's Gospel.

The deadline for the Autumn 2025 edition of Affinity, which covers the months of September, October and November is **Sunday August 17th.** 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



Rev Derek McLean

#### Message from the Manse

#### Dear friends

We've had an exciting start to the calendar year with three new Members joining the church at our Covenant service in January, and another new Member baptised as an adult on Easter Day. Each of those occasions is

appropriate in its own way: Covenant is when we renew our commitment; Easter is the traditional day for Baptisms.

I am grateful that each of those new members has spoken about the way in which we've been a welcoming and inclusive community.

I'm also excited about the warmth of welcome which happens in so many other aspects of our Christian witness here. Of course, Zeph's is central to that, so too is the huge number of people who simply hire our rooms.

So many of the groups here benefit the Oadby community immensely. Too easily we take for granted the wonderful work of the Guide/Brownie/Rainbow leaders who have been here for many years. This is complemented by newer groups such as the Punjabi group and the team teaching computer skills to youngsters.

We've also been in the part of the year when we do our closest work with our friends in Churches Together in Oadby: a joint Lent Study, the joy of the Donkey Parade on Palm Sunday, a full church for our united service on Good Friday.

I'm always delighted, and privileged, to be there when one of our visitors simply pops into the church to pray.

There is much for us to do in Worship, Learning & Caring, Service, and Evangelism; but we build on strong foundations.

God bless you

Rev Derek

"Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem"

... and throughout Israel-Palestine

David Hardman

Methodist Liaison Office

in Jerusalem

7pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Trinity Methodist Church Oadby



Methodist Church Statement following the recent Supreme Court judgement regarding gender.

#### Statement

Following the Supreme Court's judgment, many may feel anxious, hurt, or unsettled. We need to be clear: nothing in this ruling diminishes our determination to be an inclusive church. The Methodist Church believes that all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, have a place in God's Church and trans people should always feel that they are welcome and loved.

It is important that we reassert this in the light of some of the coverage of the Supreme Court's ruling; this is not a matter of 'winners' or 'losers', and to portray it as such is at best unhelpful and at worst an attempt to justify prejudice and discrimination. The Court made its ruling on a matter of the interpretation of the law. It determined what the provisions of The Equalities Act mean by defining who may or may not participate in some single-sex activities or may use certain single-sex facilities, and who is and is not protected against discrimination on the grounds of sex (whilst noting that trans people are protected against discrimination because they are trans – and that has not changed).

Although the ruling is likely to present an issue in only a few places, the effect on those who feel excluded and uncertain is wider and deeper. Anyone in that position, and wanting pastoral support should contact the local minister or superintendent, District EDI Officer or Connexional Inclusion Team.

The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler

The Secretary of the Conference

#### <u>Prayer</u>

Holy God, you made us in love,

and each of us bear your image and likeness,

we are wonderfully restored and renewed by the work of your Spirit.

Help us to see and value the beauty of the gift of your diverse creation

and so treat one another with the same tenderness we receive from you.

May those who are frightened, uncertain or anxious

know your comfort and our support.

Amen

Revd Helen Cameron and Carolyn Godfrey

President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference



#### Save the date:

Revd Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman will visit Trinity Methodist Church Oadby on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Daniel and his wife Grace were recently the Methodist Church partners in Uganda.

Daniel will preach at our morning service and will talk to us afterwards over a Bring and Share lunch.

Come and hear about the joys of working with a growing church where a large majority of the worshippers are under thirty years of age. Hear too about the challenges of fulfilling God's calling in a place where there were significant tensions within and beyond the church.



#### **Some Unusual Lenten Symbols**

Visitors to the worship area at Trinity during Lent this year may well have been puzzled by the symbols adorning the Lent cross. In a departure from usual practice the items added week by week to form our Lenten tableau were inspired by the *Soul Food* resources produced by the Methodist Church: an initiative designed to provide "spiritual nourishment for Lent and beyond". Each Sunday's theme was closely linked to the appointed Psalm and Gospel and was illustrated by use of an appropriate object. Week by week these objects were placed on the cross as part of the opening liturgy.

- Lent 1: Soul Food: all the things that nourish us. (A brown paper food bag).
- Lent 2: Soul Shelter: nourished by a safe home for everyone. (An umbrella).
- Lent 3: Soul Rest: nourished by patience and slowness. (A pillow)
- Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday): Soul Repair: nourished by unconditional love and forgiveness. (A piece of fabric with a sewn-up hole).
- Lent 5: Soul Mates: nourished by companionship. (A friendship bracelet).
- Palm Sunday: Soul Songs: nourished by music from the heart.
   (A vinyl record).
- **Easter Day:** Soul Stories: so well nourished that we have to share it. **(An open story book).**

The opening liturgy provided for Easter Day made this joyful affirmation:

- Alleluia! Alleluia! This Is our story and our song....
- O Lord our God, our Lenten journey has ended, our Easter journey begun. Nourished by our journey, let us share and tell your living, loving stories.
- Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

#### **Howard Smith**

#### The 2025 Lent Cross with Soul Food symbols displayed



#### **ZEPH'S UPDATE**

As always, there are a range of interesting and inviting events planned for Zeph's over the next few weeks. Starting at 6.00 pm, they are:

30 May - Greek night

6 June – Fish Supper

13 June - Fine Dining Night

27 June - 80's Night

4 July – Fish Supper

11 July - Moroccan Night

25 July - European Night

1 August – Fish Supper

15 August – Cyprus Night

29 August – Italian Night

In addition to these events, please remember that Zeph's can provide excellent catering for special events such as birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, funerals, and children's parties. And if you need a cake for a special occasion, then Zeph's can help. Please contact Michael or any of the staff at Zeph's to find out more.

Now that summer weather has arrived, why not enjoy coffee and cake or lunch in the garden area at Zeph's? The lovely array of flowers makes for a wonderful experience in a great environment.

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.

#### **Frazer Robson**

#### **Chair of Board of Directors**



#### **Tissington**

A recent holiday in South Derbyshire took us to the beautiful village of Tissington near Ashbourne -

'One of the prettiest villages in this part of the Peaks..'

The week before, Derek had taken part in the funeral of Kate Dack. It took place in Tissington Parish Church where she had grown up and where some of the family still live. Kate was laid to rest in the church-yard along with the ashes of husband Mike and we were able to visit the grave and see her flowers still remarkably fresh in the Spring sunshine.

We walked around the village and came across the Methodist Chapel some way from the village centre. The Chapel was open and we spent time quietly in this cool restful place. We spotted this information about the Chapel which made us smile:

The Primitive Methodist Church in Tissington was built in 1866 on a gift of land from Mr George Johnson, not on the estate land which belonged to the FitzHerberts, who would not allow a Methodist Church to be built on their land. The original building was made of wood with a corrugated iron roof and was erected by the local blacksmith and his six sons, the Wright family. As the years went by, the building became more unstable and one local preacher recorded how the whole structure shook when a cow in the field outside rubbed itself on the corner of the building.

The present Chapel was built in 1901 and recently renovated.

We signed the visitors book, passed on greetings from Oadby Trinity and picked up the following prayer card which we share with you;

'As the quietness of this place surrounds you, so may God's peace

envelop your being. As the fields and hills nurture such life, so may you be sustained by God's love. Do not leave this place unchanged. Give your sadnesses and losses to God, and take hope and love with you. As you journey out, know that you have been in God's presence. And may he who announces himself through the beauty around you Hold you to him always. Amen'

#### **Diane & Vincent Price**



St Mary's Church, Tissington, Derbyshire.

#### A Very Good Friday.....

The church was packed on Good Friday, and because Chris and I were serving refreshments afterwards, we took the only remaining seats near the doors, in the children's area.

Ananya was doing a great job of amusing her little friend, but in between, kept writing notes and passing them to me. I thought they were so wonderful you might like to share them.

"God is very loving and caring". "You are the best, God". "Love can never lose". "Love is the best. Love always wins".

That's what Good Friday is all about! Thank you, Ananya.

#### **Submitted by Lesley Green**



#### ..... And a very Joyful Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday 2025, the joy and excitement at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church was palpable, and no-one was more excited than Rev Derek! For on Easter Sunday we had our very first adult baptism by immersion at Trinity. We do not have an in-built baptismal pool, so we borrowed a pool from St Paul's Church and the heater and the pump from the Baptist Church. The pool was a "birthing pool",; very apt as baptism is about new birth and new life in Christ. So it was very significant that this special event was to happen on Easter Day, when Jesus' resurrection from the grave brought us all the promise of new life in him.

We were celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the dead and we were witnessing the baptism of a new member of our Church who had come to faith in Christ since joining our congregation late in 2024. We shared in the Lord's Supper together and sang wonderful uplifting Easter hymns; - Christ the Lord is risen today", "See what a morning!" and "Thine be the glory". It really was the most joyful Easter Sunday service, and it is an occasion which continues to bring joy and happiness as people recall and talk about the events of that day.

#### **Heather Corlett**



[Photo courtesy of Dave Smith]

#### Hijab Butch Blues - A Memoir by Lamya H.

This is an autobiographical account about the experience of never quite belonging. Born in one country, brought up in a second, and living in a third (the US), nowhere is home. It is also a journey of self-discovery of what it means to be Muslim, to be Queer, and how to navigate the compatibility of those aspects of identity, in the face of a lived experience of Racism, Homophobia, and Islamophobia.

Each chapter is interspersed with a reflection about one of the major characters in the Quran. As Christians, these stories are almost – but not quite – familiar. In each of them, we will see two levels of unfamiliarity: first, the story in the Quran differs from the one in the Jewish/ Christian Bible, and second, the way in which the story is reimagined.

In Islam, it is Ishmael that Ibrahim is called to sacrifice, but the story of Hajar (Hagar) is otherwise familiar to Christians. Lamya H. recognises Hajar as a victim of an abusive relationship, someone who had no power to deny consent to impregnation by Ibrahim, loved by God/Allah as she is cast out, and a horrified bystander as Ibrahim seeks to slaughter her son. Modern Christian theology would support this re-reading, but it far from mainstream in Christianity or Islam.

Fewer of us will be familiar with the story of Asiyah, the abused wife of a Pharoah who is held up as a model of feminine patience and forbearance, and a model under which Muslim women are obliged to stay in marriages however violent and oppressive. Lamya H. reimagines a new ending in which Asiyah's breaks free of the marriage, then uses that interpretation to support those of her friends and relations fleeing husbands who violently exploit this dutiful submissiveness.

Ultimately, she finds acceptance in a new community which represents "family", and she also addresses the internalised phobias of a traumatic life journey. Whilst the book ends in a positive place, I cannot escape feeling fearful of the fragility of Lamya's life today: having no roots anywhere else, yet living in the US where Queer, Asian, and Muslim people are demonised, and rights of residency increasingly imperilled.

The book is an easy read, but deeply theological.

#### **Submitted by Rev Derek**

## We Are Not Numbers: The Voices of Gaza's Youth by Ahmed Alnaouq and Pam Bailey

Ahmed Alnaouq has spoken at Trinity as part of the Amos Trust tours. One of the strengths of Amos' work, is the way in which they inspire hope even in the face of desolate situations. The work of 'We Are Not Numbers' is one of those glimmers of hope.

This project enables young adults in Gaza to write short pieces about their lives. The book is a collection of these stories.

The selection is surprisingly varied: it is about normal life, hopes, and dreams for the future. Of aspirations for study, for work, and for family. However, each of the stories is inevitably set in the context of the restrictions that exist in Gaza. The stories are grouped by year from 2015, with the final chapter covering the period since October 2023. Each story is accompanied by a footnote telling us the whereabouts of the author at the date of publication.

For many people, the situation in Gaza divides neatly into the period before and after the Hamas atrocities of 7<sup>th</sup> October, but in these stories the divide is much less stark: conditions in Gaza were already dire long before that.

#### Oadby Trinity Methodist Church

#### Harborough Road LE2 4LA



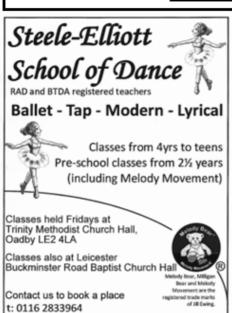
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### Advertising in Oadby Trinity Church

<u>Magazine</u>

We are sorry but we are not taking any new adverts in the church magazine.

If you wish to advertise your business, you can do so on the screen in Zephs Café.

The book can be read straight through, or else the reader can focus on an individual story. Either way, it will lead to a deeper understanding of this awful conflict.

#### **Rev Derek**



#### **BIBLE MONTH 2025: GOSPEL OF JOHN**

Bible Month is an annual initiative promoted jointly by The Methodist Church and Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (LWPT). Many churches choose to use these resources during June, but at Trinity this year we have decided that it will be more appropriate to celebrate Bible Month on the **first four Sundays in August.** (On the fifth Sunday in August there will be a Circuit Welcome Service at Wigston Magna).

The book chosen for Bible Month this year is **St John's Gospel.** In his introduction to the *Study Guide*, Professor David Ford describes the Fourth Gospel as "the Gospel of Superabundance... Jesus is full of grace and truth, and from his abundance, we have all received grace". The four services will cover the following themes:

Aug 3: Embracing God and all reality (John 1)

Aug 10: Signs, conversations & controversy (John 2-12)

Aug 17: Jesus' discipleship course (John 12-17)

Aug 24: 'The hour' and the resurrection (John 18-21).

Look out for free copies of the **30-Day Reading Guide:** this is designed to help us read through each chapter of John's Gospel and to "deepen our understanding of Jesus' purpose and the divine abundance he offers".

#### **Howard Smith**



#### **General Church Meeting 2025**

The General Church Meeting was held, as is our custom, café-style in Zeph's following the morning service on Sunday 4th May. 31 people were recorded as present with apologies received from four others who were unable to attend. This important meeting in the life of our Church is the occasion when church stewards are appointed for the ensuing year and representatives ('managing trustees') are elected to serve as members of the Church Council. Diane Price and Heather Corlett were re-elected as church stewards and they are to be joined by three newly elected stewards: Jane Calow, John Cooper and Lesley Green. Five other people were elected as members of a newly constituted 'Worship Support Team' to assist the stewards on Sunday mornings. They are John Aldridge, Jess Blyth, Dale Hunt, Phil Waterton and Janice Wilford. Heartfelt thanks were expressed to Barbara Bell on her retirement after seven years as a church steward (third time round!). Those elected and/ or re-elected as representatives to the Church Council were John Aldridge, Barbara Bell, Donald Candlin, Meenal Desai and Suzanne Kelly.

The meeting received and commended the booklet of reports from church organisations and activities concerning their work during the past year. (Copies are still available in the church foyer). Special thanks were expressed to the Property Team and to David Frost (our Church Treasurer) for their faithful and diligent work during the past year. Worship during Holy Week and on Easter Day this year had been particularly appreciated.

Noting that Revd Derek McLean has announced his intention to retire (or in Methodist parlance to "sit down") in August 2026, the meeting expressed warm appreciation of Derek's (and Chris's) continuing ministry at Trinity.

**Howard Smith** (on behalf of Stella Orbell who was unable to attend).



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Opening hours;; Mon-Sat 9.30-4.30



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